

PHI 3882 Philosophy in Literature, Fall 2011, Syllabus

Class Time: Monday and Wednesday, 4:00-5:15

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Murphy, bmurphy@fsu.edu, 317-0367 ext. 230, Office A

Web-site: <http://mailer.fsu.edu/~bmurphy/>

Office Hours: Mon and Wed: 2:30-4pm. Tues and Thurs: 4-5:30pm.

Prerequisites: None. The course is suitable for all students, from the first semester of university study onwards.

Students with disabilities: Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should; (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:
Student Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students Department
+00(850) 644-9566 (voice),+00 (850) 644-8504 (TDD)
SDRC@admin.fsu.edu

Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites, but please note that this is intended for students in their junior or senior year.

Course Description:

An exploration of how metaphysical and moral ideas function within the structure of selected novels.

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, you should have written at least two fascinating papers examining how two pieces of literature that we discuss illustrate some philosophical problems about which you have something coherent to say. The course should blow your mind and provide you with the content of erudite conversation for years to come.

Grading:

Quizzes: 20% (Based on best four out of six)

Class discussion: 20%

Papers: 60% (Best two)

94+ A

90+ A-

86+ B+

82+ B

78+ B-

74+ C+

70+ C

66+ C-

64+ D+

60+ D

56+ D

The quizzes are intended to test whether you have completed the assigned reading. They should be short and painless. There will be no make-up quizzes: allowing you to drop your two lowest grades should be sufficient. Each paper will receive a mark on 30: the best two will count towards the 60% for papers, with one exception: if you plagiarize, you will receive 0/30, **and this will be counted towards the final grade, however well you do on other papers.** For detailed guidelines concerning papers, see the course web-site.

Set Texts:

George Orwell: *1984*

Umberto Eco (trans. William Weaver): *The Name of the Rose*

Fyodor Dostoyevsky (trans. Richard Peavar and Larissa Volokhonsky): *The Brothers Karamazov*

Schedule: (alterations will be published on the web-site)

For each day, I have shown what material you should have read *by that date*. Each quiz includes material studied for the class on that day.

29th August: Course Introduction

31st August: *1984* Part 1

5th September: *1984* Part 2

7th September: *1984* Part 3

12th September: **Quiz 1** on *1984*, discussion

14th September: First Paper preparation day

19th September: **Paper 1 due**, introduction to *The Name of the Rose*

21st September: *The Name of the Rose*, Preface and Prologue, Day 1

26th September: *The Name of the Rose*, Day 2

28th September: *The Name of the Rose*, Day 3 **Quiz 2**

3rd October: *The Name of the Rose*, Day 4

5th October: *The Name of the Rose*, Day 5

10th October: *The Name of the Rose*, Days 6 and 7

12th October: *The Name of the Rose*: final discussion **Quiz 3**

14th October: Last day to withdraw without special permission

17th October: **Paper 2 Due** Introduction to *The Brothers Karamazov*

19th October: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 1

24th October: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 2

26th October: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 3

31st October: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 4

2nd November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 5: **Quiz 4**

7th November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 6: **Paper 3 Due**

9th November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 7

14th November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 8

16th November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 9

21st November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 10

23rd November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 11

28th November: Holiday

30th November: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 12 **Quiz 5**

5th December: *The Brothers Karamazov* Final Discussion

7th December **Paper 4 Due, Quiz 6 – bonus comprehensive quiz**

There will be no final examination for this class

Policies: So, you want to receive an F? Just ignore the following rules.

I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences: if you miss a class or arrive late, I assume it is for a good reason and ask for no explanation. If you have compelling reasons for missing more than one third of the course, then you should drop the class. You are permitted 6 absences: this means that you can miss 3 weeks of class without any automatic penalty. This is a generous allowance of absences that you should use wisely. Once you miss more than this, you *automatically* lose 1 point for every absence. **If you miss 9 classes, you automatically fail.** If you are late, or leave the class early, that counts as half an absence.

At the start of the class, I will close the door and then call roll. If you arrive when the door is closed, please wait patiently and quietly. Do not disturb the class. After 30 minutes, I will open the door, giving a chance for latecomers to enter and early-leavers to depart – in each case, receiving a half-credit for attendance.

Clocks on this campus are unreliable: I set my watch by the computer in my office – this is the same time as is displayed on computers in classrooms and in the library. (Administrative computers, e.g. in the Student Affairs Office are on a different server, although the time-difference is only a few seconds.)

Remember, you should always aim to be the classroom before the lesson begins. By the time I call roll, you should be sat at your desk waiting.

Cell phones must be switched off in class. You will be penalized for breaking this rule. Food is prohibited, but you may quietly imbibe non-alcoholic drinks.

Late Work: Work must be handed in during class on the date given. If you know that you will be unable to make a class, you may arrange for a friend to deliver the work to me, but the responsibility is yours. I will only consider grading late work in exceptional cases (e.g. serious illness, with a doctor's note). If I consider it appropriate, I will penalize late work. Unless you have a very good reason for presenting the work late, it will receive an F.

Highlights/Lowlights: To help all students in the class produce better papers, I intend to select the best and worst pieces of work that are submitted on the web-site along with my comments. These extracts will be presented anonymously. Please indicate on every paper you submit whether you are willing for parts of it to be used in this way. “Y” indicates “Yes”, “N” indicates “No”.

THERE IS A FATE WORSE THAN F!

If you deliberately violate the Academic Honor Code, you are trying to get more credit for your work than you deserve by deceiving your instructor. I do not tell my students lies, and it makes me angry when students try to deceive me. Furthermore, you are attempting to gain an unfair advantage over honest students. Taking steps to deal with plagiarism takes up a lot of my time, and slows down the whole process of grading. So, please read the following instructions and follow them carefully.

If you are using *any* words taken directly from any book, or web-site, or CD-ROM, they must be enclosed in inverted commas - “...”, or else clearly indicated by an indented margin and change of format:

As with this piece of text, which clearly stands apart from the rest of this paragraph. This is how a quotation from another source should appear in your paper when printed, unless it is just a “couple of words” that you want to mention.

You must state from which book they were taken, preferably including a page number. The reference must be given in the text, when the quotation is used, so that I can see when grading your paper exactly what is your work and what is taken from another source.

Use either footnotes¹, or (parentheses). It is *not* sufficient to list sources at the end of the paper, although you should also do this.

¹ This is a footnote. It would state the exact source of the quotation. If you are using Word, you can Insert footnotes and they will automatically be numbered. Footnotes are numbered consecutively throughout the paper. If you refer twice to the same book, you do not repeat the same number.

Even if you are not quoting directly, there should still be a clear acknowledgement of your sources: this is known as paraphrasing – you explain someone else’s ideas in your own words. By giving a footnote, you give credit to the person whose information you are using. You also advertise to the professor that you have been reading about the subject.

If you have any doubts about meeting these requirements, contact me as soon as possible. Further notes are available on my web-site.

Papers must be written by you in English. If you write it in Spanish, you must translate it yourself: you are being graded, in part on your ability to communicate effectively in English. You are allowed to have help with “proof-reading” - i.e. you may ask someone to read what you have written in English and point out any mistakes. You must acknowledge your gratitude to your proof-reader at the start of the paper.

Plagiarism also includes the use of illicit material in closed book quizzes and final examinations. If I discover that you are guilty of plagiarism, you will receive an F for the piece of work in question, and it will be counted towards your final grade. As required by p.73 of the General Bulletin, I will inform the Vice-Rector in writing, and this will remain on your file. Repeated offenses may result in your being expelled from the university. If I discover a second offence, you will receive an F for the entire course.

I have read and understood the syllabus for PHI3882, Fall 2011. If I fail to follow the instructions given here, particularly those which relate to violations of the Academic Honor Code, I accept responsibility.

Signed:

Name (print):

