RS485: *The Brothers Karamazov* (1 cr)  
Fall, 2004, Certain Mondays from September 13-Nov. 15, 6-7:15  
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Perhaps the greatest novel ever written. Certainly the best and last thing Dostoevsky ever wrote. A deeply religious novel not exhausted by religion: History, politics, philosophy and the musings of a great thinker trouble these 1000 pages.

We'll read the novel, of course. We'll also read biography, letters, diaries and tangential works that will contextualize the novel in Russian history and in the trajectory of Dostoevsky's own career. Expect 1/3 the work of a usual seminar.

**Mechanics:**  
We'll be reading the book fairly slowly: about 100 pages per class, which should take you about two hours. Each class will also have short additional reading assignment. Some of the additional readings will be quite complex. Figure on spending about three-four hours on preparation for each class. **Do not fall behind.**

**Texts:**  
- *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, Richard Pevear & Larissa Volokhonsky (Translators) ([click on this link to buy the book](#)). **You must buy exactly THIS EDITION.**  
- A packet of additional photocopies, purchasable from the Russian Studies Program (it should cost around $5)

**Evaluation:**  
Will be discussed during the first class.

**Class Rules:**  
1. **Attendance is mandatory for all classes.** Since this course meets only weekly, absences will **significantly** lower your final grade (see above).  
2. **You will contribute insightful, creative, and well considered observations.**  
3. No complaining about anything.
Schedule of Readings, Discussion, Papers:

Due for this class:
Read “From the Author,” Book I & II
Read “The Notebooks” for chapters I & II (reader)

Week 2, 9/20: Discussion.
Due for this class:
Read Books III & IV
Read “Russia” by N. Berdyaev (reader)
Start reading “Dostoevsky and the Legend of the Grand Inquisitor” by V. Rozanov (reader)

Week 3, 9/27 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Book V
Read “The Grand Inquisitor: Christ & Antichrist” by N. Berdyaev (reader)
Keep reading “Dostoevsky and the Legend of the Grand Inquisitor” by V. Rozanov (reader)

Week 4, 10/4 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Books VI & VII
Finish reading “Dostoevsky and the Legend of the Grand Inquisitor” by V. Rozanov (reader)

Week 5, 10/18 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Book VIII
Read “Dostoevsky’s Polyphonic Novel” by M. M. Bakhtin (tough going here. No complaining.)

Week 6, 10/21 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Book IX & X
Read Selections from Diary of a Writer (children)

Week 7, 11/1 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Book XI
Read “Evil” and “Love” by N. Berdyaev (reader)

Week 8, 11/8 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read Book XII
Read Selections from Diary of a Writer (Kairova & Kroneberg Case)

Week 9, 11/15 Discussion. Student presentations.
Due for this class:
Read the Epilogue
Read “The Gift of Prophecy” by Leo Shestov (reader)
Read “Tragic and Comic Visions in The Brothers Karamazov” by J. C. Oates (reader)