

IDH 2930: Dostoevsky's *Devils*
Class Number: 29627
Term: Spring 2024
Location: Little 117
Time: Tuesday, 5th period (11:45 a.m. – 12:35 p.m.)

Dr. Aaron Alexander Zubia
Assistant Professor of Humanities
University of Florida
azubia@ufl.edu

Office: CSE E576
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description:

On November 21, 1869, the nihilist leader of an anarchist movement, Sergei Nechaev, murdered a young student. Dostoevsky wrote a novel, *Devils*, based on this event. In this gripping, humorous, and terrifying work, Dostoevsky writes with keen insight about the revolutionary spirit. He explores its philosophical, psychological, and historical causes. And he wrestles with the question: “What is man capable of?” In this course, we will engage in a close reading of *Devils* and discuss what the narrative reveals about human nature, morality, God, and society.

Readings:

The book below is required for *immediate purchase*. This specific version is required.

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Devils*, trans. Constance Garnett (Wordsworth Classics, 2005)

Course Requirements:

Reading Responses

Each student must write three **reading responses**. Each reading response is not to exceed one double-spaced page (12pt, Times New Roman). Reading responses are due at 8 p.m. the night before class. Each reading response is worth 40 points. Reading responses for the semester are worth a total of 120 points (or 30% of your course grade).

Questions

Each student must submit **one question** based on the week's reading to the professor at the beginning of each class. Each question is worth 5 points. Questions for the semester are worth a total of 60 points (or 15% of your course grade).

Examination

The **final examination**, which will be given on the last day of class, will consist of multiple-choice questions and a short essay. Questions on the final examination will be derived from the text and from lectures. The final exam is worth 180 points (45% of your course grade).

Attendance and Participation

Each student is expected to be present and active in class. This means that each student should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Attendance and participation will be worth 40 points (10% of your course grade).

Grading:

376-400 points:	A
360-375 points:	A-
348-359 points:	B+
336-347 points:	B
320-335 points:	B-
308-319 points:	C+
296-307 points:	C
280-295 points:	C-
268-279 points:	D+
252-267 points:	D
240-251 points:	D-
0-239 points:	F

Course Schedule:

January 9:	Introductory Lecture
January 16:	Dostoevsky, <i>Devils</i> , pp. 3-75 [Students 1, 2, and 3 submit one-page reading response]
January 23:	Dostoevsky, <i>Devils</i> , pp. 76-151 [Students 4, 5, and 6 submit one-page reading response]
January 30:	Dostoevsky, <i>Devils</i> , pp. 152-200 [Students 7, 8, and 9 submit one-page reading response]
February 6:	Dostoevsky, <i>Devils</i> , pp. 201-272 [Students 10, 11, and 12 submit one-page reading response]

- February 13: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 273-308
[Students 13, 14, and 15 submit one-page reading response]
- February 20: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 309-376
[Students 1, 2, and 3 submit one-page reading response]
- February 27: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 377-400
[Students 4, 5, and 6 submit one-page reading response]
- March 5: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 401-448
[Students 7, 8, and 9 submit one-page reading response]
- March 12: No Class (Spring Break)
- March 19: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 449-482
[Students 10, 11, and 12 submit one-page reading response]
- March 26: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 483-539
[Students 13, 14, and 15 submit one-page reading response]
- April 2: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 540-584
- April 9: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 585-647
- April 16: Dostoevsky, *Devils*, pp. 648-700
[All students submit final one-page reading response. The prompt:
*what do you think Dostoevsky wants the reader to take away from
this novel?*]
- April 23: In-Class Final Examination

...

Attendance Policy

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Students Requiring Accommodation

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

UF Evaluations Process

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

University Honesty Process

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/> , 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

The Writing Studio

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/> or in 2215 Turlington Hall for one-on-one consultations and workshops.

In-Class Recordings

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third-party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

