**ENG 4932 Honors Seminar (3 credits)**

**“Out of Gogol’s Overcoat”**

FAU Boca Campus, Fall 2016

WF, 11-12:20 AH 204

Dr. Ulin

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**Course Description:**

This required course for the honors sequence is open to all majors and is designed to build upon your coursework in the major, your close reading and literary research skills, and your knowledge of literary criticism and theory. The course will guide you toward designing your own research project in order to prepare you for writing a thesis in the Spring. As such, this course will introduce you to the 52 permanent on-site collections within FAU Special Collections and how they can serve as the basis for discovery and research in the major.  We will visit our campus collections as a class and you will conduct additional research as individuals. At the end of the semester, your research skills will be well-suited to engaging in library and archival research in the field of literary studies and prepared for Honors Research in the Spring.

Our seminar is organized around the idea of intertextuality. A quote long (and variously) attributed to Dostoevsky, “We all came out of Gogol’s ‘Overcoat,’” forms the basis for this seminar, which will examine three major works of Russian fiction paired with contemporary American authors returning to those texts: Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina* and Nilo Cruz’s *Anna in the Tropics*; Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Notes from Underground* and Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*; Nikolai Gogol’s “The Overcoat” and JhumpaLahiri’s*The Namesake*. Throughout the semester, you will be encouraged to think about each text in its own right as well as alongside its antecedent; to view the intersections between 19th century Russia and a 1929 cigar factory in Florida, an Indian American boy coming of age in the U.S. and the Russian author who is his namesake, Dostoevsky’s anti-hero and Ralph Ellison’s unnamed protagonist. Through leading class discussion and writing papers on two of our three sets of texts, you will be prepared for the challenges posed and opportunities offered by longer research projects involving multiple texts.

In keeping with the seminar format, the class will be primarily discussion-based. Whether as a seminar leader or a participant, you will need to come to class each meeting prepared to engage with your classmates in discussion about the day’s reading. You should be prepared to read beyond the parameters of the syllabus and you are encouraged to bring in outside research that reflects your own critical interests. Particularly for seminars, informed discussion and enthusiastic participation are primary elements and you are expected to be both an attentive listener and an active participant. Physically attending a seminar is of far less importance than making a contribution while there. **Five missed classes will result in automatic failure of the course, regardless of other graded work.**

**Catalog Description:**

Honors Seminar (ENG 4932). Honors Seminar is required for honors students but open to those interested in more advanced literary study. This course allows students to synthesize the literary knowledge and critical skills gained in the English major. The seminar is more intensive and interactive than the Department’s other courses and will be organized in ways that anticipate graduate-level courses. The topics of the seminar change from year to year. This course will be offered once a year in the fall.

**Course Texts (Required Editions):**

Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*. Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition ISBN 0-14-200027-2

Nilo Cruz, *Anna in the Tropics*. Theatre Communications Group ISBN: 1-55936-232-4

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*. Vintage Classics ISBN 9780679734529

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man*. Vintage International ISBN 0679732764

Nikolay Gogol, *The Diary of a Madman, The Government Inspector and Other Stories*. Penguin Classics

ISBN 9780140449075

JhumpaLahiri, *The Namesake*. Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Company ISBN 9780618485222

**Schedule of Meetings and Required Readings (subject to change):**

**August 24 –**Introductions.What do we mean byintertextuality? Excerpt from Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49*.

**August 26**–Cruz, *Anna in the Tropics*

**Aug 31**–Four essays on intertextuality (Kristeva, Word, Dialogue and the Novel,” Barthes, “Theory of the Text,” Barthes, “The Work and the Text,” Eliot, “Tradition and Individual Talent”). What forms does intertextuality take? What functions does it serve? What effects does it have? Discussion Leader sign ups.

**Sept 2**– Gogol, “The Overcoat” (140-172)

**Sept 7**– “The Overcoat” and Introduction. [Discussion Leader ]

**Sept 9–** Lahiri, *The Namesake* (Chapters 1-6) [Intro to MLA International Bibliography/Library Catalogue/ILL: What has been written about American writers rewriting the Russians?]

**Sept 14***The Namesake* (Chapters 7-12) [Discussion Leader ].

**Sept 16**–**Lahiri/GogolSource Analysis due by class time**. Read selections from *The Craft of Research*: “From Topics to Questions,” “Using Sources,” and “Making a Claim and Supporting It” and from *The Norton Introduction to Literature*: “The Research Essay” (Blackboard).

**Sept 21 –** Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, Part I (1-41). **Paper 1 (6-8 pages) due via**

**Blackboard by 11:59 pm.**

**Sept 23***Notes from Underground*Part II (42-end)[Discussion Leader]. Blackboard selection on St.

Petersburg as Literary Space.

**Sept 28**Ellison Introduction, Prologue and Chapter One ofEllison’s *Invisible Man*. Blackboard selections on Harlem Renaissance as a Literary Space, Ellison’s “The Novel as a Function of American Democracy” and “Harlem is Nowhere” and selections from *Conversations with Ralph Ellison*. [Discussion Leader]

In class: Where and how does literary criticism happen? <http://call-for-papers.sas.upenn.edu/>. Current trends in the field.

**Sept 30**- Read *IM* through 195 (end of Chapter 9)

**Oct 5:** *IM* -295 [Discussion Leader ]

Oct 7: No class – Hurricane Matthew.

**[10/10 - Author Research Skills Worksheet due via Blackboard by 11:59 pm]**

**[10/12 – Optional Revision of Paper One due by 11:59 pm via Blackboard]**

**Oct 12 –** *IM*295-422.

**Oct 14 –** *IM*422-571 [Discussion Leader]

**Oct 19 –** *IM*Epilogue.

**Oct 21 –Meet at Special Collections (Library, 2nd Floor Suite) forintroduction to archival research.**

**Oct 26 –** *AK* 1-237 [DL]

**Oct 28***AK* II (237-353) [DL]

**October 30: Special Collections/Jaffe Center Worksheet due by 11:59 pm via Blackboard.**

**Nov 2 –***AK*353-437 [DL]

**Nov 4 –** *AK*437-551 [DL]

**Nov 9 –***AK*551-671 [DL ]

**Nov 11 –** No class, Veteran’s Day. **November 13: 500 word Research Abstract, Completed Proposal Worksheet and 5 source Annotated Bibliography due by 11:59 pm via Blackboard**.

**Nov 16 –***AK*671-819 [DL]

**Nov 18 –** *Anna in the Tropics*.

**Nov 23 – 10-12 page Research Paper Due on one of our last 2 pairings.**

**Nov 25** – Thanksgiving break, no class meeting

**Nov 30** –**Proposal presentations** with Dr. Spry.

**Dec 2**- **Proposal presentations** with Dr. Spry.

**Dec7** – Scheduled Reading Day

**Dec 14** –Final Exam

**Short Assignments:**

In keeping with the seminar format of the course, *Discussion Leaders* will be responsible for facilitating our discussion of the assigned readings for the first half hour to forty-five minutes of class. You should be prepared with five discussion questions, critical approaches, and/or passages to examine as a class.

Based on class discussions, occasional *Theme exercises*will be assigned and are designed to help you understand the Russian works we will be reading and to frame our discussions of the American works that borrow from the Russians. The theme exercises will be one-half to one page single spaced and give you the opportunity to discuss a major theme of the Russian work. In theme exercises you are expected to use quotes and adhere to MLA style guidelines as in all written work for the course.

**Longer Assignments:**

*Seminar Papers*: This course will require two papers that both treat a pair of texts. You will be expected to develop your own topic emerging from our in-class discussions and questions generated by discussion leaders. The papers will treat an intersection (of theme, image, trope, characterization, issue) between the Russian text and the American revision of the text (i.e. how does the insertion of the race question in Ellison’s *Invisible Man* change Dostoevsky’s text? In what ways does Nilo Cruz reframe issues of sexuality and marital fidelity in *Anna in the Tropics*?). You should seek to be creative in your topics and to draw on your interests in other disciplines to think through topics of interest to you. These can range from the treatment of religion, fashion, existentialism, feminism, to politics, the parent-child relationship, and narrative form. We will attend to many of these intersections in class, and the longer papers will give you an opportunity to treat them at greater length.

*Project Proposal*: As this class looks toward Honors Research and the writing of a 20-40 page thesis, you will also use this semester to develop and design a research proposal and an annotated bibliography with that aim in mind.

**Grade Distribution:**

30%- Attendance and Participation.

Attendance: Students with perfect attendance will receive an A in this category. Each absence will drop the score by one letter grade.**Note: Five absences will result in automatic failure of the course regardless of other recorded grades.** Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

Participation: Regular text-based contributions to class discussions which indicate a close reading of the materials will score an A in this category. Occasional contributions will earn a B, minimal or non-text based contributions will earn a C, rare/no class participation D, etc.

20%: Seminar Paper 1 (6-8 pages in dialogue with 1 primary and 1 secondary source)

30%: Seminar Paper 2 (8-10 pages), Annotated Bibliography (5 sources)

20%: 5 page Project Proposal with 5 source Annotated Bibliography, presentation of your project

**Grade Scale**

Florida Atlantic University follows a plus/minus (+/-) grading system. Numeric values for this course are as follow:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D | F |
| 93-100 | 90-92 | 87-89 | 83-86 | 80-82 | 77-79 | 73-76 | 70-72 | 60-69 | 0-59 |

**University Attendance Policy:**

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student’s responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student’s final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

**Disability policy statement**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodation due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU’s campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. <http://www.fau.edu/sas/>

**Code of Academic Integrity Policy Statement**

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see University Regulation 4.001 (<http://www.fau.edu/regulations/chapter4/Reg_4.001_5-26-10_FINAL.pdf>). If your college has particular policies relating to cheating and plagiarism, state so here or provide a link to the full policy—but be sure the college policy does not conflict with the University Regulation