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ENLT 421.01: Topics in Critical Theory - Bakhtin

Stewart Justman
University of Montana - Missoula, stewart.justman@umontana.edu

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Readings

The course explores Bakhtin's fertile distinction between the epic and the novel by investigating a great epic (the *Odyssey*) and the last and greatest work, *The Brothers Karamazov*, by the critic's favorite novelist. After reading "Epic and Novel" in *The Dialogic Imagination*, we will devote approximately half the term to Homer and half to Dostoevsky. The reading of *The Brothers Karamazov* will be divided by weeks as follows:


Attendance

Three cuts are allowed, after which I will deduct a grade from a paper.

Papers

A paper of no less than 1500 words is due on **Oct. 24 and Dec. 12**. The first paper should concern some matter of interest in the *Odyssey*, the second Dostoevsky's handling of some comparable matter in *BK*. In all cases be sure to have a thesis, defend it, quote accurately and judiciously, and show mastery of the principles of composition.

Exam

Essays.

Stewart Justman
Professor of English
LA 156
x5793