

Fall 9-1-2003

## ENLT 421.01: Topics in Critical Theory - Bakhtin

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ENLT 421: Bakhtin  
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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:

1. Books 1 and 2.
2. Books 3 and 4.
3. Book 5.
4. Books 6 and 7.
5. Books 8 and 9.
6. Books 10 and 11.
7. Book 12 and Epilogue.

*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.

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