ENLT 120.01: Introduction to Critical Interpretation

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Readings

The course is devoted to two works—the Odyssey and Dostoevsky’s The Brothers Karamazov (the original novel and perhaps the greatest modern novel, or, alternatively, a romance and an anti-romance). We will read and discuss the Odyssey book by book, with special emphasis on a few books, including 1, 5, and 19. The reading of The Brothers Karamazov will be divided as follows:


Approximately half the term will be devoted to each of our two works. Beyond that, we will just have to see how the reading schedule works itself out.

I urge the class to read ahead if possible, and then re-read each work on our schedule.

Attendance

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

Papers

A paper of no less than 1000 words is due on Sept. 26, Oct. 31, and Dec. 14. The first two papers should concern the Odyssey, the third The Brothers Karamazov. In accordance with UM’s “W” policies, the first paper (and the first paper only) will be returned with suggestions for revision. In order to earn “W” credit, students must of course show mastery of the elements of composition.

On composition matters Hacker’s Pocket Manual of Style is reliable.

Exam

A final exam covering both works will be given. Essays.

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