Spring 2013
Title: The Devil In Russian Literature

Course:	REE 385
Instructor:	Keith Livers
Time:	TTH: 2:00-3:30
	Place**:** Ben. 1.106
Office hours:	W: 2:00 – 5:00 (Calhoun 5)
E-mail:	Kalivers@austin.utexas.edu

This course will examine Russian literature's extensive reflection on the nature and place of evil in human existence. After looking at a few key texts from the medieval period, we will move on to the most important 19th and 20th century authors and texts that use the Devil as a point of departure in their exploration of the darker corners of the human spirit. Among these are Gogol's Dikanka and Petersburg Stories, Dead Souls, Dostoevsky's Demons, Sologub's Petty Demon, Bulgakov's Master and Margarita and Viktor Pelevin's Homo Zapiens.

Format: Lecture/Discussion
ALL READINGS IN ENGLISH.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular attendance and participation.
2. Completion of required readings by date assigned (consult syllabus).
3. Course Work/ Course Credit:

   1 presentations (15 minutes); 15- 20 page research paper.

WEEK ONE:

T: *INTRO*

Th: Old Russian Literature**:** *Savva Grudtsyn, Frol Skobeev;* "Russian Demonism And The Orthodox Tradition," Simon Franklin [coursepack].

WEEK TWO:

T: Gogol: "St. John's Eve/Вечер накануне Ивана Купалы," "Christmas Eve/Ночь перед Рождеством," "The Bewitched Place/Заколдованное место;" "The Russian Folk Devil and His Literary Reflections," Faith Wizgell [book chapter, coursepack].

Th: "Vii/Вий"

WEEK THREE:

T: Gogol: "Vii/Вий"

RECOMMENDED: "From Eye to Word," pp. 182-189, Robert A. Maguire [book chapter, *Exploring Gogol*, Stanford University Press]

Th: "Nevsky Prospekt/Невский проспект"

WEEK FOUR:

T: Gogol: "Nevsky Prospekt/Невский проспект"

RECOMMENDED: "Some Sources of Place," Robert A. Maguire [book chapter, *Exploring Gogol*, Stanford University Press]

RECOMMENDED: "The Devil is in the Detail: Demonic Features of Gogol's Petersburg," Julian Graffy [in coursepack]

RECOMMENDED: "The Irony of Style: The Demonic Element in Gogol's Concept of Russia," Mikhail Epshtein, "Gogol's Theology of Privation and the Devil in Ivan Fedorovic Sponka and His Auntie," Christopher Putney [book chapters, *Gogol: Exploring Absence*, ed. Sven Spieker, Slavica]

Th: Gogol "The Overcoat/Шинель" "The Portrait/Портрет"

RECOMMENDED: "К образу переписчика: Акакий Башмачкин и князь Мышкин," Mikhail Epshtein, *Slovo i molchanie: Metafizika russkoi literatury*," consult instructor about this book].

RECOMMENDED: "Imitation: The Portrait," Robert A. Maguire [book chapter, *Exploring Gogol*, Stanford University Press]

WEEK FIVE:

T: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

RECOMMENDED: "Russian Views of Art as Demonic," Pamela Davidson [in coursepack]

Th: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

RECOMMENDED: "Панночка и Россия: Демоническое у Гоголя," (pp. 106-132, in Mikhail Epshtein's *Slovo i Molchanie: Metafizika russkoi literatury* - consult instructor about this book]

RECOMMENDED: "The Word in Dead Souls," Robert A. Maguire [book chapter, *Exploring Gogol*, Stanford University Press]

RECOMMENDED: "Restoring the Disfigured Human Image: A Gogolian Slap in the Face and Moral Responsibility," by Michael R. Kelley, *The Russian Review* 68 (April 2009): 302-20.

WEEK FIVE:

T: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

Th: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

WEEK SIX:

T: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

RECOMMENDED: "The Evils of Dead Souls," Adam Weiner [book chapter, *By Authors Possessed*, Northwestern University Press]

Th: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

WEEK SEVEN:

T: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

Th: Dostoevsky: *Demons*.

RECOMMENDED: Lounsbery, Anne. "Dostoevskii's Geography: Centers, Peripheries and Networks in Demons." *Slavic Review*, 2007 Summer; 66 (2): 211-29.

RECOMMENDED: "The Demon of Doubt and the Revenge of the Neglected Son: Demons," Carol Apollonio [book chapter, *Dostoevsky's Secrets: Reading Against the Grain*, Northwestern University Press]

WEEK EIGHT:

T: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

RECOMMENDED: "The Demonic in Dostoevsky's The Devils," W.J. Leatherbarrow [in coursepack]

Th: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

WEEK NINE:

T: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

RECOMMENDED: "Narrative Possession in The Devils," Adam Weiner [book chapter, By Authors Possessed, Northwestern University Press]

Th: Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor," "The Devil" (excerpt from *The Brothers Karamazov*)

WEEK TEN:

T: Sologub: *The Petty Demon*

Th: Bulgakov: *The Petty Demon*

WEEK ELEVEN:

T: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

Th: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

WEEK TWELVE:

T: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

RECOMMENDED: "An Interpretation of the Occult Symbolism in Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*," Amy De La Cour, *Slavonica*, vol. 11, no. 2, November 2005.

RECOMMENDED: "Полет над Москвой: Вид с воздуха и репрезентация пространства в Мастере и Маргарите Булгакова," Molly Branson, *Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie*, 2005: 76 (6): 173-95.

RECOMMENDED: "Children in Master and Margarita," Eric Naiman, *Slavic and East European Journal*, 2006 50 (4): 655-675

RECOMMENDED: "Skyscrapers, Consular Territory, and Hell: What Bulgakov and Eizenshtein Learned about Space from Il'f and Petrov's America," Anne Nesbet, *The Slavic Review*, Summer 2010, 69 (2): 377-397.

Th: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

WEEK THIRTEEN:

T: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

Th: Pelevin: *Homo Zapiens*

RECOMMENDED: Sofya Khagi, "From Homo Sovieticus to Homo Zapiens: Viktor Pelevin's Consumer Dystopia," [*The Russian Review*, 67 (October 2008)].

WEEK FOURTEEN:

T: Pelevin: *Homo Zapiens*

Th: Pelevin: *Homo Zapiens*

WEEK FIFTEEN:

T: Sokurov: *Faust*

Th: Sokurov: *Faust*

WEEK SIXTEEN:

T: Bekmambetov: *Night Watch/Day Watch*

Th: Conclusion