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 Grudtsyyn, Frol Skobeev; “Russian Demonism And The Orthodox Tradition,” Simon Franklin [coursepack].

WEEK TWO:


Th: “Vii/Вий”
WEEK THREE:

T: Gogol: “Vii/Вий”


Th: “Nevsky Prospekt/Невский проспект”

WEEK FOUR:

T: Gogol: “Nevsky Prospekt/Невский проспект”


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


Th: Gogol “The Overcoat/Шинель” “The Portrait/Портрет”


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]


**WEEK FIVE:**

* T: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

* Th: Gogol: *Dead Souls*

**WEEK SIX:**

* T: Gogol: *Dead Souls*


* Th: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

**WEEK SEVEN:**

* T: Dostoevsky: *Demons*

* Th: Dostoevsky: *Demons.*


**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*


* 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*


Th: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

WEEK THIRTEEN:

T: Bulgakov: *Master and Margarita*

Th: Pelevin: *Homo Zapiens*


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