CRIME AND PUNISHMENT: MURDER, MYSTERY, AND THE MENACE OF IDEAS

In 1866, the Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky wrote what would become one of the world’s great novels about murder. And it’s told from the murderer’s point of view. People are still reading it and arguing about what it means—indeed, it can be read in more than 170 languages. It’s an odd yet compelling book—we learn from the murderer Raskolnikov that he is indeed guilty. The mystery revolves around why he committed the murder—Raskolnikov keeps changing his own explanations. Here is a novel about the dangerous powers of ideas, revolving around the question of whether a truly extraordinary person can overstep the barriers of morality and law; a story of friendship, love, and redemption, asking the ultimate questions about human life.

This discussion course anticipates that students will read the novel and actively participate in class discussion about each week’s reading.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR: PETER KAYE, PHD

I first read Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment while in high school. While reading the murder scene—told from the perspective of the murderer—I remember thinking “So this is what’s it feels like to kill someone.” I’ve read the novel at least 30 times, but that first sensation has lasted a lifetime and prompted some of my most important career choices. I went out to earn a Ph.D. in English Literature and Humanities at Stanford, where I continued my studies of Dostoevsky. My dissertation focused on how modern English novelists responded to Dostoevsky’s novels (which were all translated in the early 20th century), leading to a book published by Cambridge University Press. I’ve been an educational administrator, an editor, and teacher.

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 4TH THROUGH NOVEMBER 8TH
9AM PACIFIC | 10AM MOUNTAIN | 11AM CENTRAL | 12PM EASTERN

- Live Lecture 1, Wednesday, October 4
- Live Lecture 2, Wednesday, October 11
- Live Lecture 3, Wednesday, October 18
- Live Lecture 4, Wednesday, October 25
- Live Lecture 5, Wednesday, November 1
- Live Lecture 6, Wednesday, November 8

For more information:
Call OLLI at (915) 747-6280 or via email at olli@utep.edu