



European College of Liberal Arts

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2007

The Mantle of the Prophet: *Demons, Saints, and Terrorists*

PROGRAMME DATES: July 11 – August 27

INTRODUCTION

On the very day of Dostoyevsky's funeral, in January 1881, his good friend, the philosopher Vladimir Solovyev, called the deceased novelist a "prophet", a theme that has been repeated over and over again with regard to the fall of the tsarist monarchy and the Russian Revolution, to Communism, Fascism and other forms of totalitarianism. In reaction to the terrorist attacks of September 11 the French philosopher André Glucksman published an essay under the title Dostoyevsky in Manhattan.

Based on a real case of political murder, the so-called "Nechaev Affair", *Demons*, more than any other of Dostoyevsky's novels, probably deserves to be characterized as "prophetic". During the six-week programme of the summer university, students and faculty explored some of its numerous moral, religious and political implications as, for example, the historical and metaphysical roots of terrorism, its various embodiments from state terror to individual violence and, more generally, the "death of God", the "deification of man", nihilism and existentialism.

In addressing these issues, students and faculty discussed a variety of philosophical, literary and historical texts, including such authors as Albert Camus (*The Stranger*), Heinrich von Kleist (*Michael Kohlhaas*), Serguei Nechaev (*Catechism of a Revolutionary*), Carl Schmitt (*Theory of the Partisan*), and Friedrich Nietzsche (*On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense*). The text-based core component of the curriculum was complemented by the visual (films, museum visits, art history) and component visits in and around Berlin.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday to Friday, 11 – 13 July

- Arrivals and Orientation

Saturday, 14 July

- Opening Session

Week One: Nihilism and Culture

Monday, 16 July

Reading assignment: Dostoyevsky, Demons, pt. 1

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Dostoyevsky, *Demons*, part 1

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

14:00 – 15:30 Introduction to Culture Crawl

Tuesday, 17 July

Reading assignment: Nietzsche, The Will to Power

14:00 – 15:15 Lecture and Discussion, Nietzsche

15:30 – 17:00 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Zabriskie Point* (Antonioni) or *Sideburns*

Wednesday, 18 July

Distribution of essay theme questions

09:15 – 10:30 Writing Workshop

14:00 – 15:30 Culture Crawl: German Historical Museum

Thursday, 19 July

Reading assignment: Turgenev, Fathers and Sons

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Turgenev

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (Loach) or *Rider Named Death*

Saturday, 21 July

12:00 Essay #1 Deadline

Week Two: Cynicism, Indifference, and Violence

Monday, 23 July

Reading assignment: Plato, Gorgias

Tutorials

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Plato

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

14:00 – 15:30 Culture Crawl: Exhibition "Schmerz" + A. Kiefer in Hamburger Bahnhof

Tuesday, 24 July

Reading assignment: Camus, The Stranger

Tutorials

14:00 – 15:15 Lecture and Discussion, Camus

15:30 – 17:00 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *High and Low* (Kurosawa)

Wednesday, 25 July

Reading assignment: Camus, The Rebel

Tutorials

Distribution of essay theme questions

09:15 – 10:30 Guest Lecture and Discussion, *The Rebel* (Costica Bradatan)

14:00 – 15:30 Film analysis workshop

19:30 – 21:30 Debate Evening

Thursday, 26 July

Reading assignment: Nachaev, Catechism of a Revolutionary

09:15 – 10:30 Guest lecture, Nachaev (Costica Bradatan)

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *The Terrorist* (Santosh Sivan)

Saturday, 28 July

12:00 Essay #2 Deadline

Week Three: From the Partisan to the Terrorist – Philosophy of the Bomb

Monday, July 30

Reading assignment: Dostoyevsky, Demons, pt. 2

Tutorials

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, *Demons*, part 2

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

14:00 – 15:30 *Roundtable preparation*

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Come and See* (Klimov)

Tuesday, 31 July

Reading assignment: Kleist, Kohlhaas

Tutorials

14:00 – 15:30 Lecture and Discussion, Kleist

15:30 – 17:00 Seminar sessions

Wednesday, 1 August

Reading assignment: Schmitt, Theory of the Partisan

Tutorials

Distribution of essay theme questions

14:00 – 15:15 Lecture and Discussion, Schmitt

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *The Battle of Algiers* (Pontecorvo)

Thursday, 2 August

Reading assignment: Red Army Faction Manifesto

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, *Manifesto*

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

Saturday, 4 August

12:00 Essay #3 Deadlines

Sunday, 5 August

Student/Faculty excursion to Wannsee

Week Four: Religion and Atheism, Casuistry and Conscience

Monday, August 6

Reading assignment: Schopenhauer, Dialogue on Religion

Tutorials

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Schopenhauer

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

14:00 – 15:30 *Roundtable preparation*

Tuesday, 7 August

Reading assignment: Kierkegaard, Fear and Trembling

Tutorials

14:00 – 15:15 Lecture and Discussion, Kierkegaard
15:30 – 17:00 Seminar sessions
19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion , *Maedchen in Uniform* (Leontine Sagan)

Wednesday, 8 August

Distribution of essay themes

Tutorials

09:15 – 10:30 Guest lecture "Global Terrorism and Jihadi Terrorists, Pt. 1 (Fernando Reinares)

Thursday, 9 August

Reading assignment: Pascal, The Provincial Letters

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Pascal

11:00 – 13:00 Seminar sessions

15:30 – 17:00 Guest lecture, "Global Terrorism and Jihadi Terrorists, Pt. 2 (Fernando Reinares)

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Nun* (Jacques Rivette)

Saturday, 11 August

12:00 Essay #4 Deadline

14:00 – 15:30 Culture Crawl: Jewish Museum

Week Five: Confession

Monday, 13 August

Reading assignment: Dostoyevsky, Demons, pt. 3

Tutorials

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, *Demons*, part 3

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

14:00 – 15:30 *Roundtable preparation*

Tuesday, 14 August

Reading assignment: Bakunin, Confessions to Tsar Nicholas I

Tutorials

14:00 – 15:15 Lecture and Discussion, Bakunin

15:30 – 17:00 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *The Confession* (Costa-Gavras)

Wednesday, 15 August

Distribution of essay themes

Tutorials

14:00 – 15:30 Presentation workshops

Thursday, 16 August

Reading assignment: Koestler, Darkness at Noon

09:15 – 10:30 Lecture and Discussion, Koestler

11:00 – 12:30 Seminar sessions

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Burnt by the Sun* (Mikhalkov)

Saturday, 17 August

12:00 Essay #5 Deadlines

Sunday, 18 August

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Legend of Rita* (Schloendorff)

Week Six: Terrorism and Future Prospects

Reading assignment: Said and Barenboim, Parallels and Paradoxes

Laqueur, The Terrorism to Come

Tutorials

Monday, 20 August

10:00 – 12:00 Roundtable #1 *Terrorism and the State*

14:00 – 16:00 Guest Lecture *Political History and Cultural Memory: East Germany and the RAF in Schloendorff's Legend of Rita* (C. Gerhardt)

19:30 – 21:30 Film and Discussion, *Munich* (Spielberg)

Tuesday, 21 August

14:00 – 16:00 Roundtable #2 *Terrorism and Religion*

Wednesday, 22 August

10:00 – 12:00 Culture Crawl: The Wannsee Conference

Thursday, 23 August

10:00 – 12:00 Roundtable #3 *Terrorism and Ethnicity*

Friday, 24 August

- Closing Ceremonies

Saturday and Sunday, 25-26 August

- Student Check-outs