

CORRECTED TOPICS.

PAPERS DUE APRIL 17th, NOT 10th AS FORMERLY INDICATED.

1. Dostoyevsky proposes “love” as a solution to the contradictions at the heart of human existence. Consider some of the following: the nature of the problem, what makes the love possible, the social impact of the solution, the kind of transformation required.
2. Does it make sense to say that everyone is guilty for all the evil in the world, and that one should ask forgiveness even from animals? (Section G of Zossima’s biographical notes). Do the events in The Brothers Karamazov support this extreme claim or a weaker one?
3. Is Lise a proper spiritual partner for Alyosha? How do they differ and how do they compliment each other?
4. Examine the way Dostoyevsky parodies one of his major themes and explain the significance of the parody in relation to his own views.
5. What are Ivan’s motives for confession at the trial? Are they admirable or blameworthy or both? What does this tell us about Dostoyevsky’s view of motives for action?
6. Discuss the antinomy concerning mystery and/or authority in the Grand Inquisitor Legend. What is Dostoyevsky’s proposed resolution of the antinomy(s)?
7. How is it appropriate that Ivan has written the Grand Inquisitor Legend? How does it express his problem in relating to himself?
8. Dostoyevsky explores two kinds of suffering. How does Katerina exemplify one and Dmitri the other?

NOTE: You are encouraged to write on a topic of your own, but before you begin you must have the approval of your GSI. Don’t wait until the last minute to propose a topic to your TA.

LENGTH: Approximately 5 pages. Please use Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins, double space, number your pages.

DUE: Mon. April 17 by 5:00 PM in The Howison Philosophy Library. One increment of grade (for example A to A minus) will be taken off for each **day** a paper is late.

Suggestions: 1) Raise a specific question. Make your paper clearly an answer to this specific question. 2) Avoid jargon, e.g. "Death of God" and "meaninglessness", etc. In using words such as "commitment", “absurdity”, and "faith", make sure to make clear the author's use of the term. 3) Avoid summary comparison. Show differences as well as similarities in any comparisons you make. 4) Avoid merely repeating what was said in lectures and sections. 5) Support your arguments with specific details from the relevant text and/or phenomenon. 6) Keep a copy of your essay.

PUT THE TOPIC AT THE TOP OF YOUR PAPER AND YOUR GSI'S NAME AND SECTION DAY AND TIME IN THE UPPER RIGHT-HAND CORNER.

BE SURE TO KEEP A COPY OF YOUR PAPER.