

Dostoevsky and Western Fiction

Robert L. Belknap

Heyman Center Friends Colloquium

Spring 2011

Tuesdays, 5:30-7:30

Robert L. Belknap is Professor Emeritus of Russian at Columbia and Director of the University Seminars. He was educated at Princeton University, the University of Paris, Columbia University, and Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) State University. He is the author of *The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov*, *The Genius of The Brothers Karamazov*, and other studies of Russian literature and literary theory. He has taught the Humanities courses in major texts of the Western tradition for fifty years, and recently a sequel to it that involves major Asian classics. He has chaired the Humanities course and the Slavic Department, been Director of the Russian (now Harriman) Institute, and served as Dean of Students and Dean of the College.

This Colloquium will treat Dostoevsky as an active participant in the history of European prose fiction. It will read a small sampling of his favorite Western European authors and then spend three sessions on his first world-famous novel, dealing with the ways he adapted his reading to his writing, but also with the novel as a whole.

1/25: E.T.A. Hoffman, *The Sandman*, tr. E.F. Bleiler (Dover)

2/8: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue," "The Mystery of Marie Roget," "The Imp of the Perverse," in *Selected Tales*, ed. Van Leer (Oxford World Classics)

2/22: George Sand, *Mauprat*, tr. Stanley Young (online uncopyrighted), Project Gutenberg:
<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/2194>.

3/8: Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, tr. Pevear and Volokonsky (Knopf), 1-2

3/29: Dostoevsky, 3-4

4/12: Dostoevsky, 5 and Epilogue

4/26: Make-up (if necessary)