

SCHOLARLY ARTICLE ASSIGNMENT

DUE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 (THE WEEK YOU RETURN FROM BREAK)

ASSIGNMENT:

- **Use** JSTOR (or another literary database available through UVM) to find scholarly materials.
- **Choose** one of the works or authors we have covered in this course and **identify** two scholarly articles that relate to it (you may choose any work, but I would encourage you to read about the work you've decided to write your final analytical paper on, in order to deepen your understanding of it). Feel free to ask for suggestions!
- **Write** bibliographical entries for the two articles in MLA format.
- **Read** the articles carefully.
- **Write** a brief summary, response, and comparison of the articles, using the format detailed below.

I. USING THE UVM LIBRARY DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES

Use the same set of databases you used for the earlier library assignment! Reminder:

- Start at the **library home page** (<http://library.uvm.edu/>)
- Click on “**Articles & More**”
- Scroll through the “Article Databases” until you find **JSTOR** (short for “Journal Storage”), and click on it. There are other humanities databases (such as the MLA International Bibliography), but JSTOR is the most navigable and easy to access at UVM.
- Provide your student username/password, if necessary, to access the database. Our access to this site is licensed through UVM, so your Internet connection must be through the university in order to use it (this is why I had you log in through the library's website, rather than go directly to www.jstor.org).
- Try a few searches on the “**Search**” screen, by plugging authors, works, keywords, etc. into the search fields. Narrow your search by date, item type (article), and discipline (Slavic Studies).
- Obviously, make sure the article you find is from a **scholarly journal** devoted to the study of Russian literature, written for an academic audience and not the general public. *Newsweek*, *Sports Illustrated*, *High Times*, *The New Yorker* and *Harper's* do not qualify as scholarly journals, while *Slavic Review*, *Slavic & East European Journal*, and *Russian Review* do.
- Choose two of these articles that seem most interesting/relevant to your topic (don't just accept the first two!). Download the PDF. *Voila!*

II. IDENTIFY, SUMMARIZE AND RESPOND TO YOUR ARTICLES

Your written response to the scholarly article must contain the following information:

1. **Full “bibliographic” entries, alphabetized, in MLA format**
2. **Summary of the articles**
3. **Your own response to (and comparison of) the articles**

III. INFORMATION ON FORMATTING

Different disciplines have adopted different rules for bibliographies; in each case the system tries to make it easy for writers to efficiently and clearly describe their sources and for readers to identify them. We will be using the MLA format, which is pretty standard for the humanities. The most important principle in writing a bibliography is that it must be possible to track down all of your sources from the information you provide about them. Be sure to:

1. Include the author's full name as it appears in the article.
2. Article titles are in quotes. Book and journal titles are italicized.
3. Make sure to indent your entry after the first line (see example).
4. Provide the full name of the book or journal, complete publication information, and page numbers of all articles.
5. Eliminate all unnecessary information, such as Internet links, addresses, etc.
6. Only provide a URL if that is the only way to access your source (if no print copy actually exists); it is unlikely that you will find any such sources for the purpose of this project.
7. Below, see an example of a properly formatted article citation (note that yours should look exactly like this one, including indentation, punctuation, "quotes" for article titles and *italics* for books and journal titles, etc.):

Smith, Bob. "The Symbolism of Clothing in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*." *Slavic Review* 53.4 (Winter 1994): 333-345.

IV. SUMMARY

Now, write a short (3-5 sentences) summary of each article. Be sure to include the author's main thesis (in your own words), as well as the textual evidence s/he cites to "prove" the argument. See bad and good examples below:

BAD: In this article the author discusses how clothing works as a symbol in Dostoevsky's novel *Crime and Punishment*. Raskolnikov, Sonya, and Luzhin are examples he uses.

GOOD: This article focuses on the clothing of various key characters in Dostoevsky's novel as a means of understanding their characters. The author finds a number of patterns in the clothing of these characters; namely, that those characters who wear worn or ragged clothes prove to be positive and moral agents in the novel, whereas those who are richly or opulently dressed turn out to be negative characters with little compassion for others. Dr. Smith uses Raskolnikov, Sonya, and Razumikhin as examples of characters whose shabby appearances mask an inner spiritual goodness; these characters prove to be agents of redemption. Conversely, Luzhin and Svidrigailov are examples of characters whose stylish appearances disguise evil, corruption, or perversion.

V. RESPONSE/COMPARISON

In your final paragraph, provide your own response to the authors' arguments:

- Did you agree or disagree with the overall arguments presented?
- Was the evidence provided by the authors persuasive? Which article was more persuasive to you, and why?
- Were the articles well organized and easy to follow?
- Did either of them change or challenge your own interpretation of the work in any way?
- Optional: would you suggest an alternative reading of the evidence he/she provides?