SPRING 2023 Inside-Out Course Application

HC 421H Honors College Colloquium

***Ethics and Literature: Levinas and Vasily Grossman’s Stalingrad***

Instructor: Steven Shankman

*Spring 2023 / OSP / Tuesdays* ***4pm-10pm\****

We will read Vasily Grossman’s *Stalingrad,* the recently (2019) translated “prequel” to *Life and Fate*, and *Is it Righteous to Be?,* a series of interviews with the 20th-century’s greatest philosopher of ethics, Emmanuel Levinas (1905-1995). *Life and Fate*, a panoramic novel modeled on Tolstoy’s *War and Peace,* was a work of literature that Levinas often referred to in his writings of the last fifteen years of his life. “The essential thing in this book is simply what the character Ikonnikov says – ‘There is neither God nor the Good, but there is goodness’ – which is also my thesis.” Grossman (1905-1964), like Levinas, is careful to distinguish ethics from politics and he, like Levinas, insists that, even in the wake of the horrors of Nazism and Stalinism, goodness is still possible.

We will discuss Grossman’s novel in the context of Vladimir Putin’s current and brutal invasion of Ukraine, and we will note the moral and tactical significance of the fact that, in Grossman’s *Stalingrad*, Russia (or, more precisely, the Soviet Union) is being invaded by Nazi Germany, in contrast to the current war, in which Russia is the invader.

Application Instructions

Submission deadline: **Wednesday, February 15th**

**→ Email completed application to**

**uoprisoned@uoregon.edu and shankman@uoregon.edu**

You will be notified of a phone or in-person interview, if selected for one,

shortly after the applications are submitted.

**More information about the program can be found at** [**prisoned.uoregon.edu**](http://prisoned.uoregon.edu/)

\*Note: the class itself runs from 6 – 8:30. The 4:00–10:00 timeframe above is the time commitment for class each week.

Logistics

**Last Name: First Name:**

**Email: Phone:**

**Major(s): Student ID:**

**Class Standing: Freshman 𑂽 Sophomore 𑂽 Junior 𑂽 Senior 𑂽 Fifth Year + 𑂽**

Short Answers Please respond to each with no more than a few sentences

**[1] How did you hear about Inside-Out? / What attracts you to this course?**

**[2] How does this course fit into your educational goals / life goals as a person?**

**[3] What do you seek to gain from this experience?**

**[4] What life experiences - if any - have you had that might prepare you for this**

**course?**

**[5] What do you feel you could bring to this course?**

**[6] How do you feel about interacting with others whose life and experiences differ from your own?**

**[7] Do you have any concerns about taking this class?**

**Additional Information**

**Have you previously been involved with Inside-Out?**

𑂽Yes! I have already taken an Inside-Out course

𑂽Yes! I applied for a spot in a previous Inside-Out course (but didn’t take it)

No, but I am applying to another Inside-Out class spring term

𑂽No, this is my first application

If you answered any but the final question, please note the following information about the other Inside-Out course you applied to or took:

**Term / Academic Year: Professor:**

**Institution: 𑂽**

**References** Please provide the contact information of two individuals who can speak to your character and academic experience. At least one must be a professor; additional references may come from graduate students, graduate employees, or other faculty.

Reference 1 | Name: Email:

Reference 2 | Name: Email:

Thank you for your interest and time filling out this application.

We will be in touch with you within a few days of receipt of your application.