BASIC PROGRAM of LIBERAL EDUCATION FOR ADULTS
Summer Quarter, 2019
Joseph Brodsky: Poet and Thinker

COURSE INFORMATION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>CODE &amp; SECTION</th>
<th>LENGTH OF COURSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Brodsky: Poet and Thinker</td>
<td>BASC70040 19U1</td>
<td>6 WEEKS</td>
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<td>July 11 – August 15, 2019</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

| DAYS: Thursdays |
| TIMES: 9:30 AM – 12:45 PM |

CLASS LOCATION

Gleacher Center
450 N. Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

INSTRUCTOR: Katia Mitova
PHONE: 312.282.4722
EMAIL: kmitova@uchicago.edu

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students should register before the course begins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In “How to Read a Book,” Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996) writes, “The more one reads poetry the less tolerant one becomes of any sort of verbosity, be it in political or philosophical discourse, in history, social studies or the art of fiction.” In 1987, Brodsky was awarded a Nobel Prize “for an all-embracing authorship, imbued with clarity of thought and poetic intensity.” Studying Brodsky’s poetry and essays will – hopefully – make us better readers of literary and other texts.

Please be prepared to read about 100 pages of poetry and prose per week. In the beginning of each class we will choose several of the assigned poems to discuss in some depth. Before delving into each poem, we will read it aloud. We will also listen to audio recordings of Brodsky reading some of his poems. I will try to answer any translation-related questions that might come up. (It might be reassuring to know that Brodsky was involved as an editor or co-author of the English translations of his poems.) We will save time in the second part of each class to discuss one or two of Brodsky’s essays.

REQUIRED BOOKS


RECOMMENDED FILM

*A Room and a Half* (see trailer at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSs3OSHy9V4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSs3OSHy9V4)).
About the film [HERE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSs3OSHy9V4); link to the whole film: [http://sharstudio.com/en/catalog/a-room-and-a-half/](http://sharstudio.com/en/catalog/a-room-and-a-half/)
# WEEKLY READING SCHEDULE

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<th>WEEK</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>TEXT/READING ASSIGNMENT</th>
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| **Week 1** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 3-72  
Nobel Lecture: “Uncommon Visage.” In *Less Than One* (pp. 44-58)  
or online (http://nobelprize.org) |
| Date: July 11 |        |                         |
| **Week 2** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 71-161  
Essay: “Less Than One” (*Less Than One*, pp. 3-33) |
| Date: July 18 |      |                         |
| **Week 3** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 208-273  
Essay: “In a Room and a Half” (*Less Than One*, pp. 447-501) |
| Date: July 25 |      |                         |
| **Week 4** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 275-341  
| Date: August 1 |     |                         |
| **Week 5** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 345-412  
Essay: “The Condition We Call Exile” (*On Grief and Reason*, pp. 22-34) |
| Date: August 8 |     |                         |
| **Week 6** | Brodsky | *Collected Poems*, pp. 413-457  
Essay: “Immodest Proposal” (*On Grief and Reason*, pp. 198-211) |
| Date: August 15 |    |                         |

This syllabus is a *summary of course objectives and content*, not a contract. All information in this syllabus is subject to change, with sufficient advance notice provided by the instructor.

**CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE**
As we may be addressing controversial topics in our class discussions, we expect students to be respectful and considerate of others.

**DISABILITY INFORMATION**
Student Disability Services (SDS) works to provide resources, support and accommodations for all students with disabilities and works to remove physical and attitudinal barriers, which may prevent their full participation in the University community. Students that would like to request accommodations should contact SDS in advance of the first class meeting at 773.702.6000 or disabilities@uchicago.edu.