

**DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR IN THE HUMANITIES  
SEMINAR OFFERING, FALL 2002**

The Center for the Humanities Advisory Board is pleased to announce that Vyacheslav Ivanov will be the Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities during the Fall Semester 2002.

In Fall 2002, the second Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities, Professor Vyacheslav Ivanov, will be on campus. Professor Ivanov is Professor in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and in the Indo-European Studies Program at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has authored more than fifteen books and over 1000 journal articles. Since 1992, he has been editor-in-chief of a new journal in Slavic studies: *Elementa. Journal of Slavic Studies and Comparative Cultural Semiotics*, which continues the tradition of the Moscow-Tartu school of semiotics, which he co-founded.

One of the primary responsibilities of the Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities is to offer an upper-level interdisciplinary seminar open to juniors and seniors. It is the goal of this program to be able to offer an upper-level course that can have pre-requisites from several different departments so that the students in the class can reflect a broad range of disciplines. The topic of Professor Ivanov's seminar will be "Literature and Cinema." A brief description follows:

**HUMANITIES 395: Special Topic: Literature and Cinema**

The goal of this seminar is to study literature and cinema as two parallel ways (systems of *signs* or *semiotic systems*) of describing the world and expressing the world view of the author(s). Our focus will be on the *relationship between these two different sign systems*—verbal art (i.e., written literature) and (initially silent, subsequently audio-visual) cinema. The aesthetic and semiotic similarities and differences between literary texts and their cinematic projections will be discussed. We will compare film with the literary texts both from the point of view of the contents (social, historical, philosophical ideas) and the expressive devices used by the filmmaker and the writer. Each film studied at the seminar will be discussed in its relation to the work of literature on which it is based. Particular attention will be paid to the following aspects of the films and their literary counterparts:

- a) narration and the role of the heroes (plot and story/"fable")
- b) temporal structure (linear time and flashbacks, cyclic reversals)
- c) spatial relations (general shots and close-ups, structure of the shot, point of view)

"Readings" will include texts written by filmmakers and a number of films, including:

Jean Cocteau, *Orpheus* (France, 1950) / Rainer Maria Rilke, "Orpheus, Euridice, Hermes"  
Federico Fellini, *Satyricon* (Italy, 1969) / Petronius, *Satyricon*  
Paolo Pasolini, *Canterbury Tales* (Italy, 1971/1972) / Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*  
Bernardo Bertolucci, *The Double* (Italy, 1968) / Fyodor Dostoevsky, "The Double"  
Akira Kurosawa, *Idiot* (Japan, 1951) / Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*  
Akira Kurosawa, *Rashomon* (Japan, 1950) / two short stories by Ryunosuke Akutagawa  
Andrzej Wajda, *Ashes and Diamonds* (Poland, 1958) / Jerzy Andrzejewski, *Ashes and Diamonds*  
Luchino Visconti, *Death in Venice* (Italy, 1971) / Thomas Mann, "Death in Venice"  
Andrei A. Tarkovsky, *Solyaris* (Russia, 1972) / Stanislaw Lem, *Solyaris*  
Andrei A. Tarkovsky, *Stalker* (Russia, 1980) / A.N. and B.N. Strugatskies, "A Sideway Banquet"  
Stanley Kubrick, *A Clockwork Orange* (UK, 1971) / Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*

Students interested in enrolling in this class should have taken at least one of the following courses as a pre-requisite and should consider this as they register for Spring 2002 courses: Art 231, English 390, German Philosophy 235 or 245, Russian 265, Russian and European Studies 291, or any 300-level literature course.

**Questions should be directed to Alan Schrift, Director, Center for the Humanities <[schrift@grinnell.edu](mailto:schrift@grinnell.edu)>.**