V55. 0510-0001  
* Russia Between East and West *  
Spring 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>T-Th</th>
<th>2:00-3:15</th>
<th>Prof. Eliot Borenstein</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tisch</td>
<td>UC 50</td>
<td>Russian &amp; Slavic Studies</td>
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<td>19 University Place, Room 203</td>
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Office Hours:  
By appointment  
Morse Academic Plan  
903D Silver  
(212) 998-8676  
eb7@nyu.edu

http://homepages.nyu.edu/~eb7/index.html

**Course Description:** This course will trace a question that has troubled Russians for centuries: what is Russia? What does it mean to be "Russian"? Certainly, most nations engage in such soul-searching at one time or another, but Russia, thanks to special historical circumstances, has been obsessed with the problem of its own identity. Central to this issue is an issue that would appear to be more geographical than cultural: is Russia apart of Europe (the West), or of Asia (the East)? Or is it some hybrid that must find its own unique destiny? As we trace the development of this problem throughout Russia’s history, we will also become acquainted with the major characteristics and achievements of Russian culture, from its very beginnings to the present day.

**Course requirements:** No knowledge of any foreign language is expected, as all works will be read and discussed in English. It is essential that you keep up with the reading assignments and come to class prepared. Attendance is, of course, mandatory. Sleeping in class is punishable by dismemberment.

**Recitation Sections.** In addition to the lectures, all students must enrol in a discussion section led by one of the nine preceptors assigned to this course. This will be an opportunity for you to become actively engaged in the material, as well as simply to ask clarifying questions.

These recitations sections are an integral part of the course and play a significant role in your final grade.

**Assignments:** Throughout the semester, you will be given short assignments during your recitation sessions. At times these assignments will consist of preparing questions for class discussion, writing brief (2-3 page) essays in advance; on other occasions, there will be short quizzes. These assignments will, along with your level of participation, determine the recitation portion of your grade. In addition, you will also write one longer, more formal
essay (4-6 pages) on topics assigned in advance, or on a topic of your choice that has been approved in advance. There will also be an in-class midterm exam on Tuesday, March 9 and a final exam on Thursday, May 9, at 2:00, which will consist of both essay and short-answer questions.

Blackboard and the Internet. Blackboard, which is accessible through the "Academics" tab of NYU Home, is an important part of course, facilitating announcements and the distribution of course materials.

Please keep in mind that, by default, Blackboard uses your NYU email account. Many of you may have other email accounts that you use. If so, it is a quite simple matter to arrange for your email from one account to be forwarded automatically to the other. I strongly urge you to do so. It is your responsibility to make sure that you are receiving official email sent to your NYU account.

Final Grade. Your final grade will be determined according to the following formula:

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Short Writing Assignments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Longer Writing Assignment</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Required Texts, Part One
(NYU Book Store):

Please note: Of the four books ordered by the NYU bookstore, only one is needed immediately (Thompson). The others will arrive later.


Required Texts, Part Two
(On Blackboard)

The rest of the readings for this class will be available in two formats on Blackboard: Rich Text Format (.rtf), which can be read and printed using virtually any word processing program on any platform, and .pdf, which treats the articles as images rather than texts. Occasionally, the files are in .html format.
rather than .rtf. In addition, some of the texts are available on Blackboard in the original Russian.

Please also note that the first five readings on Blackboard are not assigned for specific days; rather, they are ancillary materials designed to help you perform well in the class. I expect you to familiar yourself with the first two ("Advice for Student Writers" and "Citation") before you turn in any written assignment. The next three are timelines of Russian history, included purely for your convenience.

Finally, please note that you must bring the texts with you to your recitation sections. The bulk of the reading for this class comes from handouts on Blackboard.

A-1 Advice for Student Writers.
A-2 Citation
A-3 Chronology 1: Pre-Petrine
A-4 Chronology 2: Peter the Great to the Fall of the Romanovs
A-5 Chronology 3: Soviet and Post-Soviet Period
A-6 From Pagan Deity to Christian Saint
A-7 Church and Family in Medieval Russia
A-14 Pushkin Handout
A-17 Karmazin Handout


A-21 Lermontov Handout


A-23 Tolstoy Handout


A-25 Gogol Handout


A-34. Simonov, Konstantin. "Kill Him."


Plays, Movies, Jokes, Ads, and Images from Russian Urban Life, 1779-1917.
1-23.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>January 19</td>
<td>Russia Between Christians and Pagans: Baptizing a Nation</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter One</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Thompson, &quot;Vladimir Chooses a Faith&quot;</td>
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<td>(excerpts)</td>
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<td>□ Thompson Chapter Two</td>
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<td>January 24</td>
<td>Enemy from the East: the &quot;Uninvited Guests&quot;</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Three, Advice: Start reading either A-15 or A-16, both of which are assigned for 2/7</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>The Orthodox Church</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Three, Life of Sviatosha (A-11)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Thompson, Life of Yuliania (A-12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>The Schism</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Five, The Life of Archpriest Avraam (excerpts: 134-160) (A-13)</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Peter the Great/Peter the Antichrist</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Six, Alexander Pushkin (A-14)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Pushkin, The Bronze Horseman (A-15)</td>
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<td>Platonov, &quot;The Epifan Locks&quot; (A-16)</td>
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<td>February 9</td>
<td>Sentimental Journeys</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Seven, Nikolai Karamzin (A-17)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Radischev, A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow (excerpts) (A-18)</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Identity Crisis</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Eight, Chaadaev, Letter 1, (A-19)</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Slavophiles and Westernizers</td>
<td>Danilevsky, &quot;The Slav Role in World Civilization&quot; (A-20)</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>Constructing Siberia</td>
<td>Dostoevsky, Memoirs from the House of the Dead (excerpts)</td>
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<td>February 23</td>
<td>Caucasus (1)</td>
<td>Mikhail Lermontov (A-21)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Lermontov, &quot;Bela&quot; (A-22)</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Caucasus (2)</td>
<td>Lev Tolstoy (A-23)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Tolstoy, Hadji-Murat</td>
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<td>March 2</td>
<td>Jews</td>
<td>Thompson Chapter Nine</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Dostoevsky, A Writer's Diary (A-24)</td>
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<td>March 6</td>
<td>Cossacks</td>
<td>Nikolai Gogol (A-25)</td>
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<td>▼ For Today:</td>
<td>Gogol, Taras Bulba (A-26)</td>
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<td>March 9</td>
<td>MIDTERM EXAM</td>
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<td>March 13-18</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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March 21 (T) Revolutionary Fervor
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Ten
  - Gogol, Troika Scene (A-27)
  - Blok, "The People and the Intelligentsia" (A-28)
  - Blok, "The Intelligentsia and the Revolution" (A-29)
  - Blok, "The Scythians" (A-30)

March 23 (Th) Revolutionary Culture (1)
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Eleven (through p. 204)
  - Revolutionary Songs (A-31)
  - Von Geldern (3-6, 13-17, 36-52)
  - Zamyatin, "The Cave" (A-32)

March 28 (T) Revolutionary Culture (2)
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Eleven (finish)
  - Von Geldern (56-71, 74-84, 86-114)

March 30 (Th) The Terror/The Cult
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Twelve (through 231)
  - Isakovsky, "A Word to Comrade Stalin" (A-33)
  - Von Geldern (153-156, 163-172, 216-227, 234-238, 257-268, 271-272, 327-328)

April 4 (T) The Great Patriotic War
- Film: She Defends the Motherland
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Twelve (finish)
  - Simonov, "Kill Him" (A-34)
  - Von Geldern (315-318, 341-344, 371-386, 401-405, 416-421)

April 6 (Th) The Thaw and Stagnation
- Thompson Chapter Thirteen
- Trifonov, "The Exchange" (A-35)
- Von Geldern (450-453)

April 11 (T) The Red and the Black: Russia and Africa
- Film: Circus
- Charlskaia, "The Little Siberian Girl" (A-36)
- Volkonsky, "The African Princess" (A-37)

April 13 (Th) PASSOVER

April 18 (T) Emigration
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Fourteen
  - Limonov, It's Me, Eddie (excerpts) (A-38)

April 20 (Th) Perestroika and Moral Panic
- Film: Intergirl
- Little Vera
- For Today:
  - Borenstein, "Introduction" (A-39)
  - Borenstein, Chapter 3 (A-40)

April 24 (T) The Yeltsin Era
- Film: Brother
- For Today:
  - Thompson Chapter Fifteen
  - Borenstein, Chapter 7 (A-41)

April 27 (Th) Someone Like Putin
- For Today:
  - Kaplan, "Euphorias of Hatred" (A-43)
  - Borenstein, Conclusion (A-42)

May 9 (Th) Final Exam
2:00-3:50
Academic Guidelines for Students
Morse Academic Plan, College of Arts and Science

To help foster common academic expectations among students and instructors, the following guidelines for MAP courses are offered to students. While these represent minimum expectations across the curriculum, individual faculty members may set additional course requirements. Students should therefore consult the course syllabus for details of policies in each class.

Attendance
Inasmuch as students have voluntarily sought admission to the University, they are expected to attend all class meetings, including all lectures and all meetings of associated recitation, workshop, or laboratory sections. Students may be excused for documented medical or personal emergency and will receive reasonable accommodation for the observance of religious holidays. In these cases, they should contact their instructors in advance or, in cases of emergency, as soon as is practicable. Students are responsible for making up any material or assignments they miss.

Classroom Decorum
The classroom is a space for free and open inquiry and for the critical evaluation of ideas, and it should be free of personal prejudice. Students and instructors alike have an obligation to all members of the class to create an educational atmosphere of mutual trust and respect in which differences of opinion can be subjected to deliberate and reasonable examination without animus.

As a matter of courtesy to their fellow students and instructors, students should arrive at class promptly, prepared and ready to participate. Students are reminded particularly to shut off all cellular telephones and pagers and, except in cases of emergency, to remain in the classroom for the duration of the lecture or section meeting. If it is necessary to leave or enter a room once class has begun, students should do so quietly and with as little disruption as possible. Under University policy, disruptive classroom behavior may be subject to faculty review and disciplinary sanction.

Completion of Assignments
Students are expected to submit course work on time and to retain copies of their work until a final grade has been received for the course. Instructors are not obliged to accept late work and may assign a failing or reduced grade to such assignments.

Students who encounter sudden and incapacitating illness or an other comparably grave circumstance that prevents them from completing the final examination or assignment in a course may request a temporary mark of Incomplete from the course instructor. To receive an Incomplete, students must have completed all other requirements for the course, including satisfactory attendance, and there must be a strong likelihood they will pass the course when all work is completed.

Questions and Concerns
Up-to-date course information is available on the MAP website: www.nyu.edu/cas/map. Questions, concerns, comments, and feedback may be directed to the following members of the MAP staff, located in 903 Silver Center, 212-998-8119. Complaints will remain confidential.

MAP Director:
Dr. Eliot Borenstein morse.plan@nyu.edu
Foundations of Contemporary Culture:
Dr. Vincent Renzi map.fcc@nyu.edu
Foundations of Scientific Inquiry:
Dr. Trace Jordan map.fsi@nyu.edu
MAP Administration:
Mike Summers morse.plan@nyu.edu

revised 06/2004
Statement on Academic Integrity
Morse Academic Plan, College of Arts and Science

As a student at New York University, you have been admitted to a community of scholars who value free and open inquiry. Our work depends on honest assessment of ideas and their sources; and we expect you, as a member of our community, likewise to maintain the highest integrity in your academic work. Because of the central importance of these values to our intellectual life together, those who fail to maintain them will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University.

Plagiarism consists in presenting ideas and words without acknowledging their source and is an offense against academic integrity. Any of the following acts constitutes a crime of plagiarism.

- Using a phrase, sentence, or passage from another person’s work without quotation marks and attribution of the source.
- Paraphrasing words or ideas from another’s work without attribution.
- Reporting as your own research or knowledge any data or facts gathered or reported by another person.
- Submitting in your own name papers or reports completed by another.
- Submitting your own original work toward requirements in more than one class without the prior permission of the instructors.

Other offenses against academic integrity include the following.

- Collaborating with other students on assignments without the express permission of the instructor.
- Giving your work to another student to submit as his or her own.
- Copying answers from other students during examinations.
- Using notes or other sources to answer exam questions without the instructor’s permission.
- Secreting or destroying library or reference materials.
- Submitting as your own work a paper or results of research that you have purchased from a commercial firm or another person.

*Particular emphasis is placed on the use of papers and other materials to be found on the World-Wide Web, whether purchased or freely available. In addition to having access to the same search engines as students, faculty also have at their disposal a number of special websites devoted to detecting plagiarism from the web.*

Plagiarism and other cases of academic fraud are matters of fact, not intention. It is therefore crucial that you be diligent in assuring the integrity of your work.

- Use quotation marks to set off words that are not your own.
- Learn to use proper forms of attribution for source materials.
- Do your own original work in each class, without collaboration, unless otherwise instructed.
- Don’t use published sources, the work of others, or material from the web without attribution.
- For further information, consult the Bulletin of the College of Arts and Science, the CAS Academic Handbook, and the Student’s Guide to NYU.

revised 06/2004