

V55. 0510-0001

φ **Russia Between East and West** φ
Spring 2007

TTh 2-3:15
Tisch UC 50

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Russian & Slavic Studies
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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 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 (5-7 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 **Thursday, March 8** and a **final exam** on **Tuesday, May 8, 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:

Participation:	20%
3 Short Writing Assignments:	25%
Longer Writing Assignment:	15%
Midterm Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

**Required Texts, Part One
(NYU Book Store):**

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

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Memoirs from the House of the Dead*. Trans. Jessie Coulson. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Thompson, John M. *Russia and the Soviet Union: An Historical Introduction from the Kievan State to the Present*. Fifth Edition. Boulder: Westview Press, 2003.

Von Geldern, James and Richard Stites (eds.). *Mass Culture in Soviet Russia: Tales, Poems, Songs, Movies, Plays, and Folklore, 1917-1953*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995.

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-8 "Vladimir Chooses a Faith." From the *Primary Chronicle*. Trans. by George Kalbouss. George Kalbouss. *Russian Culture*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998. 13-14.

A-9. "From the *Primary Chronicle*. Yaroslav and St. Sophia. George Kalbouss. *Russian Culture*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998. 15.

A-10. *The Lay of Igor's Campaign*. Serge A. Zenkovsky (ed. and trans.). *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*. New York: Penguin, 1974. 167-190.

A-11 Bishop Simon: Prince Sviatosha of Chernigov. Serge A. Zenkovsky (ed. and trans.). *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*. New York: Penguin, 1974. 142-147.

A-12 Kallistrat Druzhinina-Osoryin: *The Life of Yuliania Lazarevsky*. Serge A. Zenkovsky (ed. and trans.). *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*. New York: Penguin, 1974. 391-399.

A-13 *The Life of Archbishop Avvakum by Himself*. Trans. Helen Iswolsky. From G. P. Fedotov. *A Treasury of Russian Spirituality*. New York: Sheed & Ward, 1948. 134-181. The assigned reading ends on page 160.

A-14 Pushkin Handout

A-15. Alexander Pushkin. *The Bronze Horseman*. Trans. Oliver Elton. <http://www.sunbirds.com/lacquer/readings/1070>.

A-16. Platonov, Andrei. "The Epifan Locks." Trans. Marion Jordan . Andrei Platonov. *Collected Works*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1978. 233-256.

A-17 Karmazin Handout

A-18 Radishchev, Aleksandr. *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow* (excerpts).

"Mednoe". Trans. Nathaniel Knight.

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/radishchev.htm>

"Gorodnya." *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958. 201-212.

A-19. Chaadaev, Peter. *Philosophical Letters (One)*. Trans. Mary-Barbara Zeldin. James M. Edie, James P. Scanlan, and Mary-Barbara Zeldin, with the collaboration of George L. Kline (eds.). *Russian Philosophy Volume I: The Beginnings of Russian Philosophy. The Slavophiles. The Westerners*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1965. 106-125.

A-20. Danilievsky, Nikolai. "The Slav Role in World Civilization."

A-21 Lermontov Handout

A-22 Mikhail Lermontov. *A Hero of Our Time*. ("Author's Preface"; "Bela") <http://www.namdar.dircon.co.uk/aaRussian/Lermon/lermonov.htm>

A-23 Tolstoy Handout

A-23.1 Tolstoy, Leo. *Hadji Murat*. Trans. Hugh Aplin. London: Hesperus Press, 2003.

A-24. Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *A Writer's Diary . Volume Two 1877-1881*. Trans. and Annotated by Kenneth Lantz. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1993. 900-925.

A-25 Gogol Handout

A-26 Gogol, Nikolai. *Taras Bulba*. Trans. John Cournos. New York: E> P. Dutton & Co., 1952. <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/etcbn/toccer-new?id=GogTara.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=all>

A-27. Gogol, Nikolai. "The Troika Scene." *Dead Souls*. Trans. George Reavey. Ed. George Gibian. New York: Norton, 1985. 269-270.

- A-28. Blok, Aleksandr. "The People and the Intelligentsia." Marc Raeff. *Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology*. New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1988, pp. 359-363.
- A-29. Blok, Aleksandr. "The Intelligentsia and the Revolution." Marc Raeff. *Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology*. New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1988, pp. 364-371.
- A-30 Blok, Aleksandr. *The Scythians*.
http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/~mdenner/Demo/texts/scythians_blok.html
- A-31 "Revolutionary Songs. (Late 19th Century)." Von Geldern, James and Louise McReynolds (eds). *Entertaining Tsarist Russia: Tales, Songs, Plays, Movies, Jokes, Ads, and Images from Russian Urban Life, 1779-1917*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998. 269-272.
- A-32. Zamyatin, Evgeny. "The Cave."
- A-33. Isakovsky, Mikhail. "A Word to Comrade Stalin."
- A-34. Simonov, Konstantin. "Kill Him."
- A-35 Trifonov, Yuri. "The Exchange." Trans Ellendea Proffer 18-70. *The Exchange and Other Stories*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1991
- A-36 Charskaia, Lidiia. *The Little Siberian Girl (Sibirochka)*. Von Geldern, James and Louise McReynolds (eds). *Entertaining Tsarist Russia: Tales, Songs, Plays, Movies, Jokes, Ads, and Images from Russian Urban Life, 1779-1917*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998. 306-316.
- A-37 Volkonovsky, M.N. *The African Princess (Vampuka)*. Von Geldern, James and Louise McReynolds (eds). *Entertaining Tsarist Russia: Tales, Songs, Plays, Movies, Jokes, Ads, and Images from Russian Urban Life, 1779-1917*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998. 316-322.
- A-38. Limonov, Eduard. *It's Me, Eddie*. New York: Random House, 1983. 1-23.
- A-39 . Borenstein, Eliot. "Introduction." *Overkill: Sex, Violence, and Russian Popular Culture after 1991*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).
- A-40 Borenstein, Eliot. "Chapter 3: Pimping the Motherland." *Overkill: Sex, Violence, and Russian Popular Culture after 1991*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).
- A-41 Borenstein, Eliot. "Chapter 7: Overkill: *Bespredel* and Gratuitous Violence." *Overkill: Sex, Violence, and Russian Popular Culture after 1991*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).

CLASS SCHEDULE

January 16 (T) Introduction

(A-15)
 §Platonov, "The Epifan Locks"
 (A-16)

January 18 (Th) Russia Between Christians and Pagans:

Baptizing a Nation

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter One

§"Vladimir Chooses a Faith"
 (A-8)

§"Yaroslav and St. Sophia" (A-9)

§*The Lay of Igor's Campaign* (A-10)

February 8 (Th) Sentimental Journeys

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Seven

§Nikolai Karamzin (A-17)

§Radishchev, *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow*

(excerpts) (A-18)

January 23 (T) Enemy from the East: the "Uninvited Guests"

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Two

February 13 (T) Identity Crisis

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Eight

§Chaadaev, *Letter 1*, (A-19)

January 25 (Th) The Orthodox Church

Film: *Andrei Rublev*

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Three

Advice: Start reading either A-15 or A-16, both of which are assigned for 2/7

February 15 (Th) Slavophiles and Westernizers

τ For Today:

§Danilievsky, "The Slav Role in World Civilization" (A-20)

Short Paper # 2 Due

January 30 (T) The Time of Troubles

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Four

§Life of Sviatosha (A-11)

§Life of Yuliania (A-12)

February 20 (T) Constructing Siberia

τ For Today:

§Dostoevsky, *Memoirs from the House of the Dead* (excerpts)

February 1 (Th) The Schism

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Five

§*The Life of Archpriest Avvakum*
 (excerpt: 134-160) (A-13)

Short Paper #1 Due

February 22 (Th) Caucasus (1)

τ For Today:

§Mikhail Lermontov (A-21)

§Lermontov, "Bela" (A-22)

February 6 (T) Peter the Great/ Peter the Antichrist

τ For Today:

§Thompson Chapter Six

§Alexander Pushkin (A-14)

§Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman*

February 27 (T) Caucasus (2)

τ For Today:

§Lev Tolstoy (A-23)

§Tolstoy, *Hadji-Murat* (A-23.1)

March 1 (Th) Cossacks

τ For Today:

§Nikolai Gogol (A-25)

9Gogol, *Taras Bulba* (A-26)

March 6 (T) Jews

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Nine
9Dostoevsky, *A Writer's Diary*
(A-24)

March 8 (Th) MIDTERM EXAM

March 12-17 SPRING BREAK

March 20 (T) Revolutionary Fervor

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Ten
9Gogol, Troika Scene (A-27)
9Blok, "The People and the
Intelligentsia" (A-28)
9Blok, "The Intelligentsia and the
Revolution" (A-29)
9Blok, "The Scythians" (A-30)

March 22 (Th) Revolutionary Culture (1)

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Eleven
(through p. 204)
9Revolutionary Songs (A-31)
9Von Geldern (3-6, 13-17, 36-52)
9Zamyatin, "The Cave" (A-32)

March 27 (T) Revolutionary Culture (2)

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Eleven (finish)
9Von Geldern (56-71, 74-84, 86-
114)

March 29 (Th) The Terror/The Cult

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Twelve
(through 231)
9Isakovsky, "A Word to Comrade
Stalin" (A-33)
9Von Geldern (153-156, 163-172,
216-227, 234-238, 257-268,
271-272, 327-328)

April 3 (T) PASSOVER (No class)

April 5 (Th) The Great Patriotic War

Film: *She Defends the Motherland*
τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Twelve
(finish)
9Simonov, "Kill Him" (A-34)
9von Geldern (315-318, 341-344,
371-386, 401-405, 416-421)
Short Paper # 3 Due

April 10 (T) The Thaw and Stagnation

9Thompson Chapter Thirteen
9Trifonov, "The Exchange" (A-35)
9Von Geldern (450-453)

**April 12 (Th) The Red and the Black:
Russia and Africa**

Film: *Circus*
9Charskaia, "The Little Siberian
Girl" (A-36)
9Volkonsky, "The African Princess"
(A-37)

April 17 (T) Emigration

τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Fourteen
9Limonov, *It's Me, Eddie* (excerpts)
(A-38)
Longer Paper Due

April 19 (Th) Perestroika and Moral Panic

Film: *Intergirl*
Little Vera
τ For Today:
9Borenstein, "Introduction" (A-39)
9Borenstein, Chapter 3 (A-40)

April 24 (T) The Yeltsin Era and Beyond

Film: *Brother*
τ For Today:
9Thompson Chapter Fifteen
9Borenstein, Chapter 7 (A-41)

April 26 (Th) Someone Like Putin

τ For Today:
§Borenstein, Conclusion (A-42)

May 8 (T) 2-3:50

Final Exam