

V55. 0510-0001

✱ **Russia Between East and West** ✱
Summer 2006 - Session I

MTWTh 9:30-11:30
Meyer 102

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Russian & Slavic Studies
19 University Place, Room 203

Office Hours:
T-Th 1-2:00

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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.

Assignments: Throughout the semester, you will be given **short writing assignments**. At times these assignments will consist of **preparing questions for class discussion, writing brief (3-5 page) essays**. There will also be an **in-class midterm exam on Monday, June 5**, and a **final exam on Thursday, June 22** 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 Writing Assignments:	30%
Midterm Exam:	25%
Final Exam:	25%

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

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 class**. 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 Kalbous. George Kalbous. *Russian Culture*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1998. 13-14.

- A-9. "From the *Primary Chronicle*. Yaroslav and St. Sophia. George Kalbous. *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 Archpriest 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 (A) 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 has been omitted]

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 - A-38 have been omitted]

A-39 . Borenstein, Eliot. "Introduction." *Overkill: Popular Culture and Moral Panic in Post-Soviet Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).

A-40 Borenstein, Eliot. "Chapter 3: Pimping the Motherland." *Overkill: Popular Culture and Moral Panic in Post-Soviet Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).

A-41 Borenstein, Eliot. "Chapter 7: Overkill: *Bespredel and Gratuitous Violence*." *Overkill: Popular Culture and Moral Panic in Post-Soviet Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press (forthcoming).

Films

We will be viewing the following films in class, either as excerpts or in their entirety:

Andrei Rublev (1969). Dir. Andrei Tarkovsky.

Brother (1997). Dir. Aleksei Balabanov.

Circus (1936). Dir. Grigorii Aleksandrov.

Intergirl (1989). Dir. Petr Todorovskii.

Little Vera (1988). Dir. Vasily Pichul.

She Defends the Motherland (No Greater Love) (1943). Dir. Fridrikh Ermler.

CLASS SCHEDULE

May 15 (M) Introduction

May 16 (T) Russia Between Christians and Pagans: Baptizing a Nation

▼ 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)

May 17 (W) Enemy from the East: the "Uninvited Guests"

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Two

May 18 (Th) The Orthodox Church

Film: *Andrei Rublev*

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Three

May 22 (M) The Time of Troubles

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Four
- ⊕Life of Sviatosha (A-11)
- ⊕Life of Yuliania (A-12)

First Essay Due

May 23 (T) The Schism

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Five
- ⊕*The Life of Archpriest Avvakum* (excerpt: 134-160) (A-13)

May 24 (W) Peter the Great / Peter the Antichrist

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Six
- ⊕Alexander Pushkin (A-14)
- ⊕Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman* (A-15)
- ⊕Platonov, "The Epifan Locks" (A-16)

May 25 (Th) Sentimental Journeys

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Seven
- ⊕Nikolai Karamzin (A-17)
- ⊕Radishchev, *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow* (excerpts) (A-18)

May 29 (M) Identity Crisis

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Eight
- ⊕Chaadaev, *Letter 1*, (A-19)

Second Essay Due

May 30 (T) Slavophiles and Westernizers

▼ For Today:

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

May 31 (W) Constructing Siberia

▼ For Today:

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

June 1 (Th) Caucasus (1)

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Mikhail Lermontov (A-21)
- ⊕Lermontov, "Bela" (A-22)

June 5 (M) MIDTERM EXAM

June 6 (T) Caucasus (2)

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Lev Tolstoy (A-23)
- ⊕Tolstoy, *Hadji-Murat* (A-23a)

June 7 (W) Jews

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Thompson Chapter Nine
- ⊕Dostoevsky, *A Writer's Diary* (A-24)

June 8 (Th) Cossacks

▼ For Today:

- ⊕Nikolai Gogol (A-25)
- ⊕Gogol, *Taras Bulba* (A-26)

June 12 (M) 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)

June 21 (W) The Yelstin Era

▼ For Today:

- Film: *Brother*
- ⊛Thompson Chapter Fifteen
 - ⊛Borenstein, Chapter 7 (A-41)

June 13 (T) Revolutionary Culture

▼ For Today:

- ⊛Thompson Chapter Eleven
- ⊛Revolutionary Songs (A-31)
- ⊛Von Geldern (3-6, 13-17, 36-52, 56-71, 74-84, 86-114)

June 14 (W) The Terror/The Cult (1)

Film: *Circus*

▼ 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)

June 15 (Th) 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)

June 19 (M) The Thaw and Stagnation

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

Third Essay Due

June 20 (T) Perestroika and Moral Panic

Film: *Little Vera*
Intergirl

▼ For Today:

- ⊛Borenstein, "Introduction" (A-39)
- ⊛Borenstein, Chapter 3 (A-40)

June 22 (Th) Final Exam