

University of Pittsburgh
 Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
 Russian 0850: Early Russian Culture

Fall 2008: 25 Aug-3 Dec Monday, Wednesday 3-4:15 PM OEH 300 CRN: 10935	Instructor: Julie Draskoczy Office: CL 1417 Tel: 412-624-5715 (no voice mail) Office hours: Mon 1-2 PM, Wed 2-3 PM E-mail: jsd14@pitt.edu
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Other Contacts:

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Credits, Prerequisites, and Format:

This course carries three credits and satisfies the CAS requirement in international/foreign culture. It is intended for a general undergraduate audience and has no prerequisites. In particular, no prior knowledge of Russian language or culture is required or assumed.

The course meets twice a week and combines lecture and discussion formats. I am committed to giving each one of you ample opportunity to participate in class discussions. I also encourage every student to consult with me during my office hours regarding their performance and any potential questions.

Course Description:

The course covers the period from the advent of Christianity in Russia and Ukraine at the end of the tenth century to the aristocratic rebellion (Decembrist Revolt) of 1825. It examines artifacts of literature, architecture, and painting, placing them against their proper historical background and drawing on them for the understanding of principal features and issues of Russian culture through the period. Thus class work encompasses three main tasks: historical understanding, analysis of artistic texts, and general cultural interpretation. Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify the most important dates, events, figures, and developments in early Russian history and assess their significance;
- Discuss the character and general cultural profile of principal historical periods;
- Associate significant artifacts (texts, paintings, architectural structures) with principal cultural centers, periods, and schools;
- Identify and characterize styles and trends in literature, painting, and architecture;
- Employ appropriate terminology in discussing artistic and architectural features, techniques, materials, etc.

Required Texts:

The following texts are all available in the University Book Center, but can also be purchased used online. Students will also find copies of these texts on two-hour reserve in Hillman Library.

Billington, James. *The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture*. NY: Random House, 1970.

Hamilton, George H. *The Art and Architecture of Russia*. 3rd ed. New Haven: Yale UP, 1983.

MacKenzie, David and Michael W. Curran. *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union and Beyond*. 6th ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2002.

Zenkovsky, Serge A., ed. *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*. Rev. ed. NY: Dutton, 1974.

Supplementary Texts:

These three texts are not required reading for the course, but curious students may wish to consult them as a supplement to assigned readings.

Channon, John and Rob Hudson. *The Penguin Historical Atlas of Russia*. NY: Penguin, 1995.

Likhachev, Dmitry. *The Great Heritage: The Classical Literature of Old Rus*. Trans. Doris Bradbury. Moscow: Progress, 1981.

Tschizewskij, Dmitrij. *History of Russian Literature from the Eleventh Century to the End of the Baroque*. Gravenhage: Mouton, 1962.

Course Requirements and Grading:

You will be required to:

- Complete the assignments scheduled for each class meeting and be ready to discuss them on the pertinent day, including picking either a favorite and/or troublesome passage (I highly encourage taking notes during your reading)
- Participate actively and intelligently in class discussions
- Take the three scheduled exams
- Take at least three unannounced quizzes administered during the semester

You will have the option to:

- Prepare one extra credit report (10 minute in-class presentation with handout; students must consult with me during office hours prior to their report)

Your grade will be determined by the following components:

- 3 exams 60%
- Quizzes 30 %
- Class participation 10 %

Grading scale:

98-100—A+	87-89—B+	77-79—C+	67-69—D+	
93-97—A	83-86—B	73-76—C	63-66—D	≥ 59 = F
90-92—A-	80-82—B-	70-72—C-	60-62—D-	

Exams (three section exams with no final examination) will feature a combination of multiple-choice, short-answer, and analytical questions requiring up to paragraph-length answers. The exams are non-cumulative. Please note the three exam dates and plan ahead, so as to be present in class on the particular day. Because the exams will invariably feature visual components that require special equipment, their administration at another place and time is impossible. Requests for make-up exams will be accommodated only in extreme circumstances: death in the immediate family, serious illness on the day of the exam, or travel related to university activities. The proper documentation of these must be submitted to me no later than one week after the exam date. All exams will be administered during regular class time, in the room where we usually meet.

Quizzes will consist of multiple-choice or short answer questions. They will be unannounced and should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Their purpose is to check whether and how attentively you have done the reading for the particular day. Since there is an extra credit option, no make-up quizzes will be given.

Attendance:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Missing classes jeopardizes your participation record and puts you in danger of missing quizzes and important information. **More than three unexcused absences will affect the final grade by one full notch (an A to A-, a B+ to B, etc). More than six will result in automatic failure of the course, regardless of the student's prior standing.** Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented no later than a week after the student's return to class.

In case of absence, it is your responsibility to obtain from your classmates any information passed out during the class you missed. You are, therefore, encouraged to exchange telephone numbers and e-mail addresses with your classmates (use the space provided on the first page of this syllabus to note down relevant contact information).

If you are experiencing special problems in the course, do not hesitate to make an appointment with me.

Academic Integrity:

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the above stipulations, but also understand that I will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the Arts and Sciences Academic Integrity guidelines regarding cheating and plagiarism, available at: <http://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html>. Any infraction of this policy will result in automatic failure in the course.

Disability Policy:

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both me and Disability Resources and Services by the second week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The Internet address is: <http://www.pitt.edu/~osaweb/drs/drs.html>. The office is located in William Pitt Union, Rm. 216.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Abbreviations:
Zenkovsky, Serge A., ed. Medieval Russia’s Epics, Chronicles, and Tales.
Hamilton, George H. The Art and Architecture of Russia.
MacKenzie, David and Michael W. Curran. A History of Russia, the Soviet Union and Beyond.
Billington, James. The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture
Handout = Xerox to be distributed in class or via email

Mon 25 Aug	SYLLABUS & GENERAL INTRODUCTION
Wed 27 Aug	THE PRIMARY CHRONICLE & THE BEGINNINGS OF RUSSIAN CULTURE Mac: Chapter 2 Zen: Items 1, 2, 4 Prepare for debate: Normanists vs. Anti-Normanists
Mon 1 Sept	LABOR DAY. NO CLASS.
Wed 3 Sept	KIEVAN RUS': HISTORICAL BACKGROUND Mac: Chapter 3 Zen: Items 3, 5-10 Begin to memorize date handout
Mon 8 Sept	CHRISTIANIZATION AND KIEVAN LITERATURE Mac: Chapter 4 Zen: Items 11-13, 21, 22, 25, 26, 30 Bil: 2-15
Wed 10 Sept	WRITING THE RELIGIOUS LIFE: THE <i>VITA</i> AS GENRE Zen: Item 25 Writing exercise: Write your own <i>vita</i> In-class introduction to icons
Mon 15 Sept	ART & ARCHITECTURE: ICON PAINTING AND KIEVAN CHURCHES Ham: Chapter 2, 8 Begin to memorize architecture term sheet

Wed 17 Sept	THE RISE OF NOVGOROD Mac: Chapter 5 Ham: Chapter 3
Mon 22 Sept	MONGOL INVASION. MEDIEVAL EPICS AND MILITARY TALES. Mac: Chapter 6 Zen: Items 33, 34
Wed 24 Sept	NOVGOROD CULTURE Mac: Chapter 7 Ham: Chapter 12
Mon 29 Sept	ALEKSANDR NEVSKII Zen: Item 39 Film Excerpt in Class: <i>Aleksandr Nevskii</i> Review viewing questions for film
Wed 1 Oct	EXAM I
Mon 6 Oct	THE RISE OF MOSCOW Mac: Chapters 8, 9 Zen: Item 50 Bil: 46-77
Wed 8 Oct	MUSCOVITE LITERATURE AND ART Mac: Chapter 10 Ham: Chapter 11 Zen: 44 Film Excerpt in Class: <i>Andrei Rublev</i>
Tues 14 Oct	THE MUSCOVITE VITA: FATHER SERGIUS Zen: Item 45 Film Excerpt in Class: <i>Father Sergius</i> Discussion topic: Who is your favorite saint and why?
Wed 15 Oct	THE REIGN OF IVAN THE TERRIBLE Mac: Chapter 11 Zen: Items 53, 54 Prepare for Kurbsky-Ivan Debate

Mon 20 Oct	<p>THE TIME OF TROUBLES & WOODEN CHURCH ARCHITECTURE</p> <p>Ham: Chapter 14 Mac: Chapter 12 Film Excerpt in Class: <i>Ivan the Terrible, Part I</i> Review viewing questions for film</p>
Wed 22 Oct	<p>THE SCHISM & EARLY ROMANOV DYNASTY</p> <p>Mac: Chapter 14 Bil: 116-44</p>
Mon 27 Oct	<p>EARLY BIOGRAPHY</p> <p>Bil: 144-62 Zen: Item 59</p>
Wed 29 Oct	<p>THE MOSCOW BAROQUE AND SECULAR LITERATURE</p> <p>Zen: Items 61, 62 Ham: Chapter 16</p>
Mon 3 Nov	<p>EXAM II</p>
Wed 5 Nov	<p>THE REIGN OF PETER THE GREAT</p> <p>Mac: Chapters 15, 16 Hand: Massie's <i>Land of the Firebird</i>, c. 8</p>
Mon 10 Nov	<p>PETER'S BAROQUE & ST. PETERSBURG</p> <p>Ham: Chapter 19 Bil: 180-92</p>
Wed 12 Nov	<p>ELIZABETH'S ROCOCO</p> <p>Mac: Chapter 17 Hand: Massie's <i>Land of the Firebird</i>, c. 9</p>
Mon 17 Nov	<p>THE REIGN OF CATHERINE THE GREAT</p> <p>Mac: Chapters 18, 19 Hand: "Catherine's Instructions" from <i>Readings in Russian Literature</i></p>
19-23 Nov	<p>THANKSGIVING BREAK</p>
Mon 24 Nov	<p>CATHERINE'S CLASSICISM</p> <p>Ham: Chapter 21 Hand: Massie's <i>Land of the Firebird</i>, c. 10</p>
Wed 26 Nov	<p>PAUL AND ALEXANDER</p> <p>Mac: Chapter 20 Bil: 259-68</p>

Mon 1 Dec	<p style="text-align: center;">THE DECEMBRIST REVOLT</p> <p>Mac: Chapter 22 Hand: <i>Readings in Russian Civilization</i>, Chapters 24-25 COURSE EVALUATIONS</p>
Wed 3 Dec	EXAM III