V55. 0510-0001

f Russia Between East and West f

Fall 1998

MW 1:20-2:35 Prof. Eliot Borenstein

Cant 200 Russian & Slavic Studies

 19 University Place, Room 302

Office Hours: 998-8676 (w)

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Or by appointment

Preceptors

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Recitation Sessions

W 4:20-5:35 Th 4:20-5:35

Th 8:30-9:45 F 9:55-11:10

Th 2:50-4:05 F 11:55-1:10

 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.

 Recitation Sections. In addition to the lectures, all students must enroll in a discussion section led by one of the two 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.

 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, informal (1-2 page) essays in advance, and preparing brief (5-10 minute) presentations on the readings. These assignments will, along with your level of participation, determine the recitation portion of your grade. In addition, you will also write one short, more formal essay (5-6 pages) on topics assigned in advance, or on a topic of your choice that has been approved in advance. This paper is due on November 25. There will also be an in-class midterm exam on October 26 and a final exam on Wednesday, December 16, at 1:00, which will consist of both essay and short-answer questions. Note that the final exam will not be held at the time indicated in the course bulletin.

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

 Recitation: 20%

 Paper: 30%

 Midterm Exam: 20%

 Final Exam: 30%

Required Texts (NYU Book Store):

 Gogol, Nikolai. The Complete Tales of Nikolai Gogol . Volume 2. Chicago: University of Chicago Press:, 1985.

 Kalbouss, George. Russian Culture. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998.

 Lermontov, Mikhail. A Hero of Our Time. London: Penguin Books.

 Thompson, John M. Russia & the Soviet Union: An Historical Introduction from the Kievan State to the Present. Third Edition. San Francisco: Westview Press, 1994.

 Tolstoi, Leo. Hadji-Murat. Washington, DC: Orchises Press, 1996.

 In addition, there will also be readings made available as photocopies. These texts are listed on the following two pages, in the order of assignment. In what may be a futile attempt at simplification, all the photocopied assignments have been given a number (Z-1, Z-2, etc.) for easier reference.

 Though this might seem like a long list, most of these assignments are quite short.

Photocopies:

 Z-1. Chronology of Russian History: The Pre-Petrine Period.

 Z-2. Chronology of Russian History: From Peter the Great to the Fall of the Romanovs.

 Z-3. Chronology of Russian History: The Soviet and Post-Soviet Period.

 Z-4 Advice for Student Writers.

 Z-5 Citation

 Z-6 From Pagan Deity to Christian Saint

 Z-7 Church and Family in Medieval Russia.

 Z-8. 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.

 Z-9 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.

 Z-10 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.

 Z-11 Avvakum’s Autobiography (excerpts). Trans. Helen Iswolsky. 132-144.

 Z-12. Platonov, Andrei. “The Epifan Locks.” Trans. Marion Jordan. Andrei Platonov. Collected Works. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1978. 233-256.

 Z-13. Radishchev, Aleksandr. A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow (excerpts). Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1958. 201-212.

 Z-14. 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 fo Russian Philosophy. The Slavophiles. The Westerners. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1965. 106-125.

 Z-15. Danilievsky, Nikolai. “The Slav Role in World Civilization.”

 Z-16. Robert C. Williams. “The Russian Soul: Western Thought and Non-Western Nationalism.” Russia Imagined: Art, Culture, and National Identiy, 1840-1955. New York: Peter Lang, 1997. 3-18.

 Z-17. Dostoevsky, Fedor. Memoirs from the House of the Dead . Trans. Jessie Coulson. New York: Oxford University Press, 1991. 6-12, 23-25, 35, 70-79, 136-147, 267-275, 323-339, 356-361.

 Z-18. Dostoevsky, Fyodor. A Writer’s Diary . Volume Two 1877-1881). Trans. and Annotated by Kenneth Lantz. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1993. 900-925.

 Z-19. Chernyshevsky Handout.

 Z-20. Chernyshevsky, Nikolai. What Is to Be Done? (excerpts)Trans. Michael R. Katz. Annoted by William G. Wagner. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1989. 129-131, 359-379.

 Z-21. Gogol, Nikolai. “The Troika Scene.” Dead Souls. Trans. George Reavey. Ed. George Gibian. New York: Norton, 1985. 269-270.

 Z-22. Blok, Aleksandr. "The People and the Intelligentsia." Marc Raeff. Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology. New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1988, pp. 359-363.

 Z-23. Robert C. Williams. “The Russian Revolution and the End of Time.” Russia Imagined: Art, Culture, and National Identiy, 1840-1955. New York: Peter Lang, 1997. 253-298.

 Z-24. Blok, Aleksandr. "The Intelligentsia and the Revolution." Marc Raeff. Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology. New Jersey: Humanities Press, 1988, pp. 364-371.

 Z-25. Blok, Aleksandr. The Scythians.. Trans. Jack Lindsay.

 Z-26. Isakovsky, Mikhail. "A Word to Comarde Stalin."

 Z-27. Mandelstam, Nadezhda. "Theory and Practice." Hope Against Hope. A Memoir. Tr. Max Hayward. New York: Atheneum, 1983, pp. 33-38.

 Z-28. Simonov, Konstantin. “Wait for Me.” (Handout)

 Z-29. Simonov, Konstantin. “Kill Him.” (Handout)

 Z-30. Robert C. Williams. “Russia Abroad.” Russia Imagined: Art, Culture, and National Identiy, 1840-1955. New York: Peter Lang, 1997. 143-151.

 Z-31. Limonov, Eduard. It’s Me, Eddie (excerpt). New York: Random House, 1983. Chapter One (1-23).

CLASS SCHEDULE

September 9 (W) Introduction

September 14 (M) Russian Between Christians and Pagans: Baptising a Nation

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter One

 JKalbouss 10-15

 JThe Lay of Igor’s Campaign (Z-8)

September 16 (W) Enemy fromthe East: the “Mongol Scourge” (1)

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Two

September 21 (M) ROSH HASHANAH

 (No class today)

September 23 (W) Enemy from the East: the “Mongol Scourge” (2)

 Film: Andrei Rublev

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Three

 JKalbouss 19-27

September 28 (M) The Time of Troubles

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Four

 JLife of Sviatosha (Z-9)

 JLife of Yuliania (Z-10)

 tBring Medieval terms (Z-7)

 to class

September 30 (W) YOM KIPPUR

 (No class today)

October 5 (M) The Schism

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Five

 JAvvakum’s Autobiography (excerpts) (Z-11)

October 7 (W) Peter the Great/ Peter the Antichrist

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Six

 JPlatonov, “The Epifan Locks”

 (Z-12)

October 12 (M) Sentimental Journeys

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Seven

 JKalbouss 30-35

 JRadishchev, A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow (excerpts) (Z-13)

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 tRecommended: “Poor Liza” (Kalbouss 36-44)

October 14 (W) Identity Crisis

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Eight

 JChaadaev, Letter 1, (Z-14)

 JKalbouss 53-55

 tRecommended: “Queen of Spades” (Kalbouss 56-72)

October 19 (M)Slavophiles and Westernizers

 t For Today:

 JDanilievsky, “The Slav Role in World Civilization” (Z-15)

 JWilliams, “The Russian Soul”

 (Z-16)

October 21 (W) Constructing Siberia

 t For Today:

 JKalbouss 179-182

 JDostoesky, Memoirs from the House

 of the Dead (exerpts) (Z-17)

October 26 (M) MIDTERM EXAM

October 28 (W) Caucasus (1)

 t For Today:

 JLermontov, “Bela”

 JKalbouss 75-77

November 2 (M) Caucasus (2)

 t For Today:

 JTolstoi, Hadji-Murat

 JKalbouss 135-137, 215-216

November 4 (W) Cossacks

 t For Today:

 JGogol, Taras Bulba

November 9 (M) Jews

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Nine

 JDostoesky, A Writer’s Diary (Z-18)

November 11 (W) Utopianism

 t For Today:

 JChernyshevsky Handout (Z-19)

 JChernyshevsky,What is to Be Done? (excerpts) (Z-20)

November 16 (M) The People and the Intelligentsia

 t For Today:

 JGogol, Troika Scene (Z-21)

 JBlok, “The People and the Intelligentsia” (Z-22)

 JKalbouss 258-265

November 18 (W) The Russian Apocalypse

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Ten

 JWilliams, “Russian Revolution

 and the End of Time” (Z-23)

November 23 (M) Revolution and the East

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Eleven

 JBlok, “The Intelligenstia and the Revolution” (Z-24)

 JBlok, “The Twelve” (Kalb. 318-27)

 JBlok, “The Scythians” (Z-25)

November 25 (W) The Soviet East, the Soviet West

 t For Today:

 JKalbouss 314-316, 331-332, 337-340

 Paper Due

November 30 (M) The Terror/The Cult

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Twelve

 JIsakovsky, “A Word to Comrade

 Stalin” (Z-26)

 JMandelstam, “Theory and

 Practice” (Z-27)

 JKalbouss 341

December 2 (W) The Great Patriotic War

 t For Today:

 JSimonov, “Wait for Me.” (Z-28)

 JSimonov, “Kill Him” (Z-29)

December 7 (M) Emigration

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Thirteen

 JLimonov, It’s Me, Eddie (excerpts)

 (Z-36)

December 9 (W) Perestroika and Cultural Anxiety

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Fourteen

December 14 (M) The Collapse of Empire

 t For Today:

 JThompson Chapter Fifteen

December 16 (W) Final Exam (1-2:20)

 t Note: this is not the time

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Russian Language Office