INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN CULTURE R223
Fall 2008-9
T-Th 1:00-2:15 Ballantine 321
Instructor: A. R. Durkin BH 574

Readings for the course can be obtained at the IU Bookstore and TIS. Please read assignments by the dates indicated. Some materials will be on-line on Oncourse. I will also post selected visual material on Oncourse. Please read assignments by the date indicated, even if lectures run behind. You will be responsible on tests for materials in the readings and lectures, as well as for materials on reserve or on Oncourse, including visual material.

Basic Texts:

J. Thompson, Russia and the Soviet Union: An Historical Introduction
N. Rzhevsky, An Anthology of Russian Literature
A. Chekhov, The Major Plays
A. Pushkin, The Queen of Spades and Other Stories
I. Turgenev, Fathers and Sons

Schedule of Topics and Readings:

Week of September 1  Introduction
Origins: Slavs/Russians
Read: Milner-Gulland, Chapter 1 (on Oncourse) pp. 4-13 (‘Rus as Land’)
Study maps and other materials on Oncourse under Gimbutas,

Week of September 8  Kiev: Christianity and Culture
Read: Thompson, Chapter 1
From the Primary Chronicle: "Olga’s Revenges"; "Vladimir Christianizes Russia";
"Yaroslav" (Oncourse under Zenkovsky)
Anthology: "Boris and Gleb"
Milner-Gulland “Belief Systems” (83-91) Oncourse

Week of September 15  From Rus’ to Muscovy
Read: Anthology: The Tale of Igor
Thompson, Chapters 2, 3
“The Life of Alexander Nevsky” (Oncourse under Zenkovsky)
Film: Eisenstein: Alexander Nevskií

Week of September 22  Muscovy: The Realm of Orthodoxy
Read: Thompson, Chapters 4, 5
Film: Eisenstein: Ivan the Terrible or Tarkovsky: Andrei Rublev
Milner-Gulland “Iconic Russia” (171-197) Oncourse

Week of September 29  The Crises of Late Muscovy/Folk Life
Read: Anthology: Pushkin, Boris Godunov
The Life of Avvakum
Milner-Gulland “The Human Landscape/Wooden Russia” (13-36)
“Sects and Schisms/Beyond the Schism” (117-132) Oncourse

TEST I
Week of October 6  Peter and Petersburg/ Gentry and People/Free Class
   Read: Thompson, Chapters 6, 7
   Pushkin The Captain’s Daughter
   Excerpts from Avrich (on Oncourse)

Week of October 13  The Empire Comes of Age/The Age of Pushkin
   Read: Pushkin, "The Bronze Horseman" (Anthology)
   Film: Sokurov: Russian Ark

Week of October 20  The Nineteenth Century
   Gogol, "The Overcoat" (Anthology)
   Thompson, Chapters 8, 9

Week of October 27  The Age of Realism
   Read: Companion: “Music”; pp. 161-186
   Turgenev: "Bezhin Meadow" (Anthology)

Week of November 3  The Intelligentsia
   Read: Turgenev: Fathers and Sons
   TEST II

Week of November 10  End of an Era/New Cultural Currents
   Read: Thompson, Chapter 10
   Chekhov: The Cherry Orchard (in Major Plays)

   Companion: "Popular Culture"; "Theatre"; pp. 187-203 (Oncourse)
   Video: Rite of Spring

Week of November 17  Remaking the World
   Read: Thompson, Chapters 11, 12
   Companion: "Film" (Oncourse)
   Film: Eisenstein: Battleship Potemkin

Week of November 24  Free Class
   Thanksgiving Day

Week of December 1  From Stalin to Medvedev (or is it still Putin?)
   Read: Thompson, Chapters 13, 14, 15

Week of December 8  Review/Conclusion

Final: 10:15AM-12:15 PM Tuesday, December 16

Grades for the non-Intensive writing section will be based on the three tests, counted equally.
Grades for the Intensive Writing section will be based on the three tests (60% of the final grade), and also on four
writing assignments of at least six (word-processed) pages each (40% of the final grade). The assignments will be
due at approximately 3-week intervals, and topics will be provided. Further information will be provided in class.
NB: If you wish to fulfill the Intensive Writing requirement, you must be registered in the correct section and you
must also be registered for W333.

Students are reminded of university regulations concerning cheating and plagiarism, as discussed in the Student
Handbook. Please note that material on the WWW must, like material from written sources, be properly
acknowledged if quoted or used as a source.