

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 Nevskii*

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.