

Susanne Hillman
H&SS 6023

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Office hours: Tue 10 am to noon

This is an upper-division lecture/discussion survey course on the history of medieval and imperial Russia, from the foundation of Kievan Rus' to the twilight of the Tsarist empire. We will study political, social, and cultural developments by adopting an interdisciplinary approach. Course readings will be supplemented by film clips, music, pictures, and in-class discussions.

Course Requirements

- Regular Attendance and Participation (10 % of course grade)
- Assigned Readings
- Writing Assignments (two quizzes, 10 % each; one book review, 30 %; final take-home essay, 40 %)

Information on quizzes, book reviews, and final exam will be given at the appropriate time. Make-up exams will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

Required Readings

- *The Domostroi: Rule for Russian Households in the Time of Ivan the Terrible*, ed. Carolyn Johnston Pouncy [referred to in the syllabus as *Dom*]
- Nadezhda Durova, *The Cavalry Maiden*, ed. Mary Zirin*
- Nikolai Gogol, *Plays and Petersburg Tales*
- *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*, ed. Serge A. Zenkovsky [MR]
- *The Memoirs of Catherine the Great* [CG]*
- S. F. Platonov, *The Time of Troubles*
- Alexander Pushkin, *The Queen of Spades and Other Stories*
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Cossacks and Other Stories*

Optional: Richard Pipes, *Russia under the Old Regime* [read at your own pace]

Books are available for purchase at Groundworks and on reserve in the library.
Books marked with an *: choose **only one!**

Note: If you cannot afford to purchase all required books, I recommend that you find copies of Gogol, Pushkin, and Tolstoy in the library or request them through Circuit or Interlibrary Loan. Remember: the readings are essential to your success in this course. Let me know if you have any problems obtaining them, and I will be happy to help you out.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 0

24 September: Introduction: Main Themes/Forces in Russian History; the Emergence of Kievan Rus'

Readings: *MR* 4, 7

Film clip: *The Face of Russia*

WEEK 1

29 Sept.: Christianity Comes To Russia

1 Oct.: Decline of Kiev; discussion of *The Lay of Igor's Campaign*; the Mongol Conquest

Readings: *MR* 11, 20, 21, 25, 31 / *MR* 33, 36, 41

Film Clips: *Peter the Great* (wedding ceremony) / *Andrei Rublev*

WEEK 2

6 Oct.: Lord Novgorod the Great; the Appanage Period

8 Oct.: Ivan III (the Great) and the Rise of the Patrimonial State; the "Third Rome"

Readings: *MR* 38, 39 / *MR* 45, 46

Film Clip: *Alexander Nevsky*

WEEK 3

13 Oct.: The Reign of Ivan IV (Grozny or the Terrible)

15 Oct.: Life in Terrible Times: Serfs and Boyars – **first quiz (first 30 minutes of class)**

Readings: *MR* 53,54, begin Platonov, ch. 2-5 / *Dom*, introduction, sections 3, 6, 8, 11-13, 15, 17, 18, 20-25, 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, 45, 51, 64, wedding ritual pp. 209-233

Film Clip: *Ivan the Terrible*

WEEK 4

20 Oct.: The Time of Troubles

22 Oct.: The Romanovs Come to Power; the Great Schism

Readings: *MR* 55, 56, 57; finish Platonov, ch. 2-5 / *MR* 58, 59; optional: *MR* 60, 61, 62

Film Clip: *Khovanshchina*

WEEK 5

27 Oct.: Peter I (the Great), Revolutionary Autocrat

29 Oct.: Russia Looks to the West: St. Petersburg

Readings: Pushkin, *Peter the Great's Blackamoor* / Gogol: *Nevsky Prospect*, *The Portrait*, *Diary of a Madman* / begin *CG* and Durova
Film clip: *Peter the Great*

WEEK 6

3 Nov.: The post-Petrine Period (Catherine I, Anne, Elisabeth, Peter III) – **second quiz (first 30 min. of class)**

5 Nov.: Catherine II (the Great), Enlightened Despot; Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia

Readings: continue *CG* and Durova

WEEK 7

10 Nov.: Unruly Peasants: the Pugachev Rebellion, history and fiction

12 Nov.: Alexander I: Russia in the Age of Napoleon / Discussion of *CG* and Durova – **book review due at beginning of class**

Readings: Pushkin, *The Captain's Daughter* / finish *CG* and Durova, begin Tolstoy, *Hadji Murat*
Film Clip: *War and Peace* (time permitting)

WEEK 8

17 Nov.: The Decembrists and the Reign of Nicholas I; Beginning of Russia's Golden Age

19 Nov.: Life in the City and in the Country: Of Bureaucrats and Superfluous Men; the Caucasian Campaigns

Readings: Pushkin, *Queen of Spades*; Gogol, *The Nose*, *The Overcoat* / finish Tolstoy, *Hadji Murat*

Film Clip: *Oblomov* / *Prisoner of the Mountains*

WEEK 9

24 Nov.: Whither Russia? Slavophiles versus Westerners; the Crimean War

26 Nov.: **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY, NO CLASS!**

Readings: Tolstoy, *Sevastopol Stories*

WEEK 10

1 Dec.: Alexander II, Liberator Tsar; Radical Unrest: Nihilists, Populists, and Terrorists

3 Dec.: Radical Unrest Continued; Alexander III: Reactionary Tsar

FINAL EXAM Tuesday 8 Dec., 8-11 am: turn in take-home essay