

<9/9/2010>

Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary  
Jordanville, NY 13361  
Russian History 121. Two credits  
Wednesday 10:00 - 10:50 am; 11:00-11:50 am  
Fall Semester 2010  
Instructor: Deacon Andrei Psarev  
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### Objective

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to turning points in Russian history from 860 to 1689. The ambit of Russian History 121 is Russian history in general, as the history of the Russian Church is covered in a separate two-year course. However, the history of the Russian Church is part of Russian history, and neither can be studied without the other.

### Texts

**Textbook:** [parts I & II from] *History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces* Catherine Evtuhov, et al (Houghton Mifflin: Boston and New York, 2004);

**Primary sources:** *Medieval Russia's Epics: Chronicles and Tales*, Serge Zenkovsky, ed. and tr. (E.P. Dutton, New York: 1974). This book is available in paperback, published by Meridian;  
*For God and Peter the Great: The Works of Thomas Consett, 1723-1729*, James Cracraft, ed. (Columbia U. Press, 1982).

**Atlas:** *An Atlas of Russian History: Eleven Centuries of Changing Borders*, Revised Edition, Alen B. Chew (Yale University Press) or any other good atlas.

### Supplemental Reading

Alexander, John, *Catherine the Great: Life and Legend*

Billington, James, *The Icon and the Axe*

Bushkovitch, Paul, *Peter the Great*

Cruse, Mark, and Hoogenboom, Hilde (tr.), *The Memoirs of Catherine the Great*

Hughes, Lindsey, *Peter the Great: A Biography*

Idem., *Russia in the Age of Peter the Great*

Madariaga, Isabel de, *Catherine the Great: A Short History*

Idem., *Russia in the Age of Catherine the Great*

Massie, Robert, *Peter the Great*

Pipes, Richard, *Russia Under the Old Regime*

Ragsdale, Hugh (ed.), *Paul I: A Reassessment of His Life and Reign*

Riasanovsky, Nicholas, *The Image of Peter the Great in Russian History and Thought*

### **Assigned Readings**

Assigned readings from the textbook must be completed prior to class. The mid-term and final examinations will be designed to assess students' understanding of the themes covered in the textbook.

### **Office Hours**

The instructor will normally be available for consultation in our classroom **from 12:30-1:30 pm on Wednesday.** Please notify him in advance if you intend to come.

### **Class presentations**

Each student will be assigned a reading from primary sources and will have to make a 15-minute class presentation on this text. Every student will receive in advance a copy of all texts and is required to prepare questions for the presenter. A rough draft of the presentation script should be e-mailed to the instructor one week prior to the presentation. Peer evaluations will be considered as grades are assigned.

In preparing their presentations, students should follow the guidelines set forth in the online handout ["How to Read a Primary Source."](http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/primaries.htm) [http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/primaries.htm]

### **Paper Size, Format and Deadline**

Students will develop their presentation scripts into a two-page paper. Follow the MLA stylesheet. Text should be in 12 point Courier New or equivalent, single-spaced. Please consult the following resource for additional help in writing your papers:

<http://www.hts.edu/seminary/forms/academics/syllabi/HRC-Methodology.pdf>.

Papers will be accepted only in electronic form (Ms Word) sent to [apsarev@gmail.com](mailto:apsarev@gmail.com)

Final drafts of papers are due by **5 pm, on Friday, December 10.**

Papers submitted after the final exam will not be returned for improvement and will be marked down one full grade (e.g, from B to C).

### **Student Participation**

Substantive participation in discussions and demonstrable familiarity with assigned texts will be reflected in the course grade.

### **Classroom Rules**

No food or drinks are allowed in class.

### **Mid-Term and Final Examination**

Mid-term examination on October 20 will cover all readings prior to that date and the final will cover all readings after the mid-term.

### **Attendance of tests and exams**

A student who misses a test or an exam for a valid reason may do a make-up no later than one month after the original administration. If the absence occurred without a valid excuse the missed test or exam will be marked down one full grade (e.g, from B to C).

A valid reason for absence, such as a serious illness or a family emergency, will be taken into consideration only if the student informs the Dean of Students and the course instructor in advance. The instructor's e-mail addresses is available and students should feel free to contact him with such problems at any time.

### **Grading**

Grading will conform to guidelines published in the Holy Trinity Seminary catalogue. Class participation, mid-term test, class-presentation/paper, and final exam will each count as 25% of the course grade.

**Test and exam evaluation.** Students must adhere rigorously to the questions posed. Answers that fail to respond specifically to assigned questions will be severely penalized: 70% of the grade will be based on effective engagement with the questions as asked, and 30% on clarity and cogency of expression. Answers that substantially exceed their recommended length will be marked down.

**Essay evaluation.** 75% for substantive completion of the assignment, 25% for clarity of exposition and style.

### **Plagiarism**

Representation of another's work as one's own, whether through verbatim quotation, paraphrase, or summary, will result in marked-down grade (e.g., from B to C) on the first occurrence, and on the second occurrence in a failing grade for the course.

## Lecture Schedule

(Lecture topics follow the order in which they are presented in the textbook)

Unit 1. **September 8.** Course orientation.

Fr. Georges Florovsky, "The Predicament of the Christian Historian."

["How to Read a Primary Source"](#).

Pre-Kievan period.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "The Origin of Rus, 750-1000"; "Kievan Rus: Structures and Events, 988-1240."

Unit 2. **September 15.** Review of assigned reading. Sources. Kievan period, 988-1237: princes and events. Kievan Rus and East Roman Empire. Kiev and Novgorod. Administration and civil law. Independent principality. Daily life.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "The First Mongol Century: Hardship and Adaptations, 1237-1341."

Unit 3. **September 22.** Review of assigned reading. Tartar-Mongol period, 1237-1480: princes and events. Disintegration of the Kievan Rus. Vladimir and the rise of Moscow. Daily life.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Shifting Fortunes, 1341-1456."

Unit 4. **September 29.** PRESENTATION # 1 by David: "Tales from the Novgorodian Chronicle." Review of assigned reading. Post-Mongol period, 1480-1547: princes and events.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Russia's New Monarchy, 1456-1533."

- Evaluation sheet

Unit 5. **October 6.** Review of assigned reading. Establishment of monarchy. Two periods of Tsar Ivan Vasil'evich Groznyi. Oprichnina. Lithuania and Poland. Daily life.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Boris Godunov and the Time of Troubles, 1584-1613."

Unit 6. **October 13.** PRESENTATION # 2 by Srdjan: "Tale of the White Cowl." Review of assigned reading. The time of troubles, 1605-1613: main figures and events. Preparation for the mid-term examination.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Muscovy Expands, 1613-1676."

Unit 7. **October 20.** Mid-term examination.

- Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Religion and Culture at the Crossroads, 1645-1689."

Unit 8. **October 27.** PRESENTATION # 3 by John: Correspondence between Tsar Ivan IV and Andrei Kurbskii. Ascension of the Romanov dynasty. Acquirement of Ukraine. Socio-Cultural processes. Princess Sophia.

•Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Peter the Great: From Tsar to Emperor, 1689-1725."

Unit 9. **November 3.** Review of assigned reading. Peter the Great. Daily life.

•Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Between Two Greats, 1725-1762."

Unit 10. **November 10.** Review of assigned reading. Catherine I, Peter II, Anna Ioannovna, Elisabeth, Peter III.

•Assigned reading: Evtukhov, "Catherine the Great: In Pursuit of Enlightenment and Empire, 1762-1796;

"Catherine the Great: The Golden Age of the Nobility, 1776-1796."

Unit 11. **November 17.** PRESENTATION # 4 Jason: "A Brief Relation of the Death of Peter the Great." Review of assigned reading. Catherine the Great.

**November 24:** Thanksgiving break

Unit 12. **December 1.** PRESENTATION # 5 by Simeon: "Preface to the *Naval Statute.*"

Unit 13. **December 8.** PRESENTATION # 6 by Stojanche "The Rules of Falconry." Review and preparation for final exam.