

Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary
Jordanville, NY 13361
Russian Church History 325. Two credits
Thursday 8:00 - 8:50 am; 9:00-9:50 am
Fall Semester 2010
Instructor: Deacon Andrei Psarev
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Course Objective

The main objective of this course is to introduce students to the significant developments in the history of the Russian Church from the ninth to the fifteen century.

Textbook and Atlas

- John Fennell, *A History of the Russian Orthodox Church to 1448* (Addison-Wesley, 1995).
- Colin McEvedy, *The New Penguin Atlas of Medieval History* (Penguin Books, 1992).

Additional Reading (can give student idea for book review)

Recommended: Sophia Senyk, *A History of the Church in Ukraine* (Rome, 1993).

Recommended: Daneil H. Shubin, *A History of Russian Christianity: From the Earliest Years through Tsar Ivan IV* 1 (New York: Algora, 2004).

Mouravieff, *A History of the Church of Russia* (Oxford, 1842, rpt. St. Tikhon's Press).

George P. Fedotov, *The Russian Religious Mind* (Belmont, MA 1975).

The Legacy of St. Vladimir (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1990).

John Meyendorff, *The Rise of Russia*, (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press).

-----, *Rome, Constantinople, Moscow* (St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, 1996).

George P. Fedotov, *The Russian Religious Mind* (Belmont, MA 1975).

Colin Wells, *Sailing from Byzantium: How a Lost Empire Shaped the World* (Delacorte Press, 2006).

A Chronology of the Byzantine Empire, Timothy Venning ed. (Houndmills, Basingtoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan), 2006.

Dmitri Obolensky, "Russia's Byzantine Heritage" in Michael Cherniavsky, ed. *The Structure of Russian History* (New York: Random House, 1970).

Serge Bolshakoff, *Russian Nonconformity* (Philadelphia).

Simon Frankin, *Byzantium-Rus-Russia: Studies in the Translation of Christian Culture* (Variorum Collected Studies Series, 2002).

Ihor Sevcenko, *Ukraine between East and West. Essays on Cultural History to the Early Eighteen Century* (The Petter Jacyk Center for Ukrainian Historical Studies Press 1996) ISSB 1-895571-14-16

C.J. Halperin, *Russia and the Golden Horde: The Mongol Impact on Medieval Russian History* (Blumington, IN:Indiana University Press, 1985).

Office Hours

The instructor will normally be available for consultation in our classroom from 12:30-1:00 pm on Mondays. Please notify him in advance if you intend to come.

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>.

By October 24 topics for turn papers must be confirmed by an instructor, and by November 18 an instructor must receive a draft of the paper. Papers will be accepted only in electronic form (Ms Word) sent to apsarev@gmail.com Final drafts of papers are due by 5 pm, on Friday, December 9.

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

The schedule of tests is provided along with this syllabus. Each test will cover all readings prior to the test's date; the final will cover all readings assigned after December 2.

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.

Topics for Term papers

To edit and append "Questions and Answers" designed for N. Talberg's *Istoria Russkoi Tserkvi*.

Monasteries of Kivean Rus

Literature of Kievan Rus

Ecclesiastical Law of Kievan Rus

Videos

Videos are available in Russian (Russian System PAL):

Origins of Russian Land, Rus Before the Mongol Invasion et. al. Total time 135 min.

Lecture Schedule

September 9: Course orientation. Introduction to major themes. (Why do we study history?)

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

- Fennell, 20-35, 73-86

- Maps

September 16: Revision of home reading. Historiography. The events that preceded the baptism of the Rus. Promulgation of Christianity after baptism of Rus'.

- Reading: John Meyendorff, "From Byzantium to Russia: Religious and Cultural Legacy."

- Fennell, 73-86

September 23: Spiritual Enlightenment. Church writers and literature. First churches. Holy objects. Feasts. Order of divine services. Ecclesiastical books and chants.

•Reading: C.B. Ashanin, "The Primary Chronicle and the Conversion of Russia to Christianity in the 10th Century," *Patristic and Byzantine Review* 10 (1991).

• Fennell, 45-58

September 8: Structure of the institutions of the Russian Church. Canonical basis of the Russian Church. Bishops and monks. Sources of income. Role of metropolitans in the system of civil authorities. Church and civil law. Diocesan division.

• Michael Paul, "Episcopal Election in Novgorod, Russia 1156-1478."

•Преемственный список иерархии.

•Fennell, 189-205

October 7: Parish clergy and sources of their income. Selected personalia of metropolitans.

October 24: Test (1) Fennel 20-35,73-86,45-58

October 14: Protection of the Mother of God

October 21: Mongol overlordship.

Expansion of German Monastic Orders into Baltic lands. Lithuania.

•Fennell, 132-189

•Andrius Valevicius, "Orthodoxy in Lithuania before Union with Poland."

•"The Growth of Lithuania " (map from *Atlas of Medieval World*).

October 28: Test (2) Fennel 189-204

Church authorities.

•Fennell, 205-218

November 4: Kazan Icon of the Theotokos

November 11: Church authorities

November 18: Church authorities (conclusion)

The last day to submit a term paper topic.

•Fennell, 218-240

•Chart of St. Sergius disciples.

November 22-28: Thanksgiving break.

December 2: Test (3) Fennel 189-240

LECTURE: Worship. Daily life of clergy. Spreading of the faith.

December 9: Monasteries. Education *Preparation for final examination.*