

Holy Trinity Orthodox Seminary  
Jordanville, NY 13361  
Russian Church History 423. Two credits  
Monday, 10:00 - 10:50; 11:00-11:50  
Fall Semester 2010

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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 eighteenth to the beginning of the twentieth century.

### **Course Requirements**

No textbook suitable for this course exists in English. You are responsible for reading all handouts.

### **Office Hours**

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

### **Assigned Readings**

Assigned readings 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.

### **Student Participation**

The student's participation in discussions and demonstrated familiarity with assigned texts will be reflected in his grade for the course.

### **Classroom Rules**

No food or drinks are allowed in class.

### **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 and final exam will each count toward the course grade. Answers that substantially exceed their recommended length will be marked down.

**Test and exam evaluation.** The schedule of tests is provided along with this syllabus. Each test will cover all material assigned prior to that test. 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.

### **Main Sources**

*Russian Orthodoxy under the Old Regime*, Robert Nichols and Theofanis Stavrou, ed. (Minneapolis, 1978);

Daniel H. Shubin, *A History of Russian Christianity: The Patriarchal Era through Tsar Peter the Great 1586 to 1725* vol. 2 (New York: Algora Publishing, 2005); *A History of Russian Christianity: The Synodal Era and the Sectarians 1725 to 1894* vol. 3 (New York: Algora Publishing, 2005)

### **Suggested Reading**

Fr. Georges Florovsky, *The Ways of Russian Theology*, part 2, Robert L. Nichols, tr. (Belmont, MA: Norland, 1979 and Vaduz: Buchervertriebsanstalt, 1987);

Gregory Freeze, *The Parish Clergy in 19-th century Russia: Crisis, Reform, Counter-Reform* (Princeton: University Press, 1983).  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The Russian Levites: Parish Clergy in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1977);

James W. Gunnigham, *A Vanquished Hope: The Movement for Church Renewal in Russia, 1905-06* (Crestwood, NY: SVS Press, 1981);

Nicholas Zernov, *The Russian Religious Renaissance of the Twentieth Century* (New York: Harper and Row, 1963);

Vera Shevzov, *Russian Orthodoxy on the Eve of Revolution* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003);

Serge Bolshakoff, *Russian Nonconformity*, (Philadelphia, n.d.);  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The Foreign Missions of the Russian Orthodox Church*, (London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, 1943);

A.S.Khomiakov: *Poet, Philosopher, Theologian*, Vladimir Tsurikov, ed. (Jordanville, NY: Holy Trinity Seminary Press, 2004);  
*Of Religion and Empire: Missions, Conversion, and Tolerance in Tsarist Russia*, Robert P. Geraci and Michael Khodarkovsky, eds. (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001).

### Lecture Schedule

**September 13:** Course orientation. Review of key works in the field. Peter the Great. Reasons for the demolition of the patriarchal system of governance in the Russian Church. *Ecclesiastical Statute*. Handout: 1) Shubin, "Peter Alekseevich Romanov's Early Years" (159); "Tsar Peter the Great and the Russian Orthodox Church" (174) 2) Muller, "The Inquisitorial Network of Peter Great" *in Russian Orthodoxy under Old Regime*.

**September 20:** The Establishment of the Most Holy Governing Synod. Metropolitans Stefan Iavorskii and Feofan Prokopovich. Handout: Shubin, "Metropolitan Stefan Yavorski, Archbishop Theofan Prokopovich, the Religious Regulation, the Ratification of the Most-Holy Governing Synod, the Attorney-General of the Most-Holy Synod" (159-200).

**September 27:** Elevation of the Cross

**October 4:** Church administration in the time of Empress Catherine the Great. Saint Arsenii, Metropolitan of Rostov. Church administration in the time of Emperor Pavel. Handout: Shubin, "Empress Catherine II" (17); "Metropolitan Arseni Matzeevich" (24); "Tsar Pavel Petrovich" (87); "The Coronation of Russian Sovereigns" (91).

**October 11:** Test no.1

**October 18:** Secularization of church land. Parish clergy. Monasteries. Handout: Shubin, "The Secularization of Ecclesiastical Patrimony" (22); "Saints and Elders of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century" (88).

**October 25:** Russian Missions in Siberia, Alaska, Caucasus, China and Europe.

Handouts: Sergei Kan, "Russian Orthodox Missionaries at Home and Abroad: the Case of Siberian and Alaskan Indigenous Peoples" in *Of Religion of Empire*; 2) Konstantin Simon, "Aleix Toth and Beginnings of the Orthodox Movement among the Ruthenians in America (1891)"; 3) Anthony S. Vitale, "Bishop Filaret Gumilevskii's Role in the Conversion of Latvians and Estonians to Orthodoxy in the Diocese of Riga from 1841 to 1848."

**November 1: Test no.2.**

Sectarians and Old Believers.

Handout: Serge Bolshakoff, *Russian Nonconformity* (58-113).

**November 8:** Church administration in the time of Emperor Alexander the Blessed. Prince Golitsyn and his religious department.

Handout: Nichols, "Orthodoxy and Russia's Enlightenment, 1762-1825," in *Russian Orthodoxy under Old Regime*.

**November 15: Test no.3.**

Church administration in the time of Emperor Nicholas the First. Unter Procurator Count Protasov.

Handout: Edwards, "The System of Nicholas I in Church-State Relations," in *Russian Orthodoxy under Old Regime*.

**November 22:** Thanksgiving break

**November 29:** Slavophile Theologians. Church administration and reforms in the time of Emperor Alexander the Liberator.

Handout: Gregory L. Freeze, "Revolt from Below: A Priest's Manifesto on the Crisis in Russian Orthodoxy (1858-59)," in *Russian Orthodoxy under Old Regime*.

**December 6:** Church administration and reforms in the time of Emperors Alexander the Third and Nicholas the Martyr. Spiritual trends in the Russian church and social life.

Preparation for the final examination.

Handout: 1) Meyendorff, "Russian Bishops and Church Reforms in 1905" in *Russian Orthodoxy under Old Regime*;

2) G.L.Freeze, "Handmaiden of the State? The Church in Imperial Russia Reconsidered."