

Fall 2018
ML&L 3343
The Culture of Russia

MWF 11:30 – 12:20 am
CGC 40

Office Hours:
MWF 2:30 – 3:30 pm
or by appointment

Note: Friday Office Hours may be canceled.
Students will be notified.

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Syllabus, materials and announcements available at <http://culture.mashaholl.com>

Required Books:

- **Ware, Timothy: *The Orthodox Church*.** New Edition. Penguin Books, 1997. ISBN: 9780140146561
- **Nabokov, Vladimir, trans. *The Song of Igor's Campaign*.** Norton. ISBN: 9780875010618
- **Pushkin, Alexander: *The Captain's Daughter and Other Stories*.** Knopf. ISBN 13: 9780394707143
- **Afnas'ev, Aleksandr: *Russian Fairy Tales*.** Penguin. ISBN: 9780394730905

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The specific publications and translations referenced above have been selected because of the quality and nature of the translations, i.e. the translator's choice of words, phrasing, etc. In addition, whenever we refer to pages, it will be to the pagination in these editions.

IN RESPECT TO ELECTRONIC EDITIONS: Some of these books are available in e-format. HOWEVER, the pagination of e-books is not consistent either with the paper edition or between devices. I have no objection to the students' use of e-books or older editions, BUT ***it is up to the students to check for corresponding pages where relevant.***

While I tend to refer to chapters and sections, I may refer to specific pages of a text. Be forewarned.

Schedule of Lectures

			Homework Due	In Class
1	Monday	08/21/18		
	Wednesday	08/23/18		Introduction to the course. Procedures, paper topics, formats.
	Friday	08/25/18		Geography of Russia – overview
2	Monday	08/27/18		Pre-Christian Russian Culture and Religion.
	Wednesday	08/29/18	Reading: First excerpt from the Chronicles. Response paper due.	Pre-Christian Russian Culture and Religion. The Chronicles.
	Friday	08/31/18		Discussion
3	Monday	09/03/18	Labor Day Holiday	
	Wednesday	09/05/18		The Baptism of Russia, Orthodoxy
	Friday	09/07/18	Reading: <i>The Orthodox Church</i> , pp. 298-327. Response paper due.	Orthodoxy
4	Monday	09/10/18		Discussion.
	Wednesday	09/12/18		Kiev and Novgorod.
	Friday	09/14/18	Reading: Second excerpt from the Chronicles. Response paper due.	Kiev and Novgorod.
5	Monday	09/17/18		Discussion.
	Wednesday	09/19/18		<i>The Lay of Igor's Campaign.</i>
	Friday	09/21/18	Reading: <i>The Lay of Igor's Campaign</i> . Response paper due.	<i>The Lay of Igor's Campaign.</i>
6	Monday	09/24/18		Discussion
	Wednesday	09/26/18		Papers: topics, formats, proposals.
	Friday	09/28/18		Rus' to Russia: The rise of Moscow.
7	Monday	10/01/18	Reading: <i>Domostroi</i> excerpt. Response paper due.	Rus' to Russia: The rise of Moscow.
	Wednesday	10/03/18		Discussion.
	Friday	10/05/18		Mid-Term Exam
8	Monday	10/08/18		Russian Architecture: The traditional home.
	Wednesday	10/10/18	Paper topics due.	Russian Art: Traditional Russian (folk) art.
	Friday	10/12/18	Fall Break	
9	Monday	10/15/18		Peter the Great and Saint Petersburg. Science and

				Innovation.
	Wednesday	10/17/18		Catherine the Great, Art and Literature.
	Friday	10/19/18	Reading: Excerpt from the <i>Memoirs of Catherine the Great</i> . Response papers due.	Catherine the Great, Art and Literature
10	Monday	10/22/18		Discussion
	Wednesday	10/24/18		Russian Folklore: Tales and Epics
	Friday	10/26/18	Reading: <i>Selected folk tales</i> . Response papers due.	Russian Folklore: Fantastic Creatures
11	Monday	10/29/18		Discussion
	Wednesday	10/31/18		Russian Folklore: Beliefs and Rituals
	Friday	11/02/18		Russian Folklore: Music
12	Monday	11/05/18		Russian literature and Pushkin
	Wednesday	11/07/18	Reading: <i>The Captain's Daughter</i> . Response papers due.	The Captain's Daughter
	Friday	11/09/18		Discussion
13	Monday	11/12/18		The Art and Spirituality of Russian Icons
	Wednesday	11/14/18		National movement in Russian art.
	Friday	11/16/18		Russian music: Church music.
14	Monday	11/19/18		The Mighty Five and Tchaikovsky.
	Wednesday	11/21/18	Thanksgiving	
	Friday	11/23/18	Thanksgiving	
15	Monday	11/26/18		The Mighty Five and Tchaikovsky.
	Wednesday	11/28/18		Visual arts: Imperial architecture
	Friday	11/30/18	Final Papers due.	Visual arts: Academic art.
16	Monday	12/03/18		Visual arts: The Travelers.
	Wednesday	12/05/18		The end of the Empire: society and economy
	Thursday	12/06/18	<i>Reading Days</i>	
	Friday	12/07/18	<i>Reading Days</i>	

Mid-Term (Exam 1): October 5

Paper topics due: October 10

Final papers due: November 30

Final Exam Date: December 3rd, 12:00 to 3:00 pm

Course Objectives

- The student will learn the cultural and historical context, main ideas, and philosophical principles of the Russian culture as it has inspired works of major artistic and cultural significance
- The student's ability to read and evaluate a variety of primary texts will improve.
- The student will develop research and writing skills that will be transferable to various disciplines and professions.
- The student will be able to research in depth a subject related to pre-1917 Russia.

Course Procedures

- The course begins with an overview of pre-Christian religion and culture, followed by an examination of Eastern Christianity and its significance in Russian culture
- Following a thematic-chronological pattern, the course will examine the major aspects of pre-Revolutionary Russia, from inception of the state to the fall of the Romanovs.
- It will cover the effects of the location of Russia's major cities on the Silk Route, of the 200-year Mongol rule, of the Westernization instituted by Peter the Great.
- The course will examine aspects of Russian folklore as it has been and remains an important source of inspiration in the arts.
- We will read and discuss in depth a medieval work of literature, as well as one of the most important works of 19th century author Alexandr Pushkin, *The Captain's Daughter*.
- Additional readings throughout the semester will include primary texts such as medieval chronicles, the memoirs of Catherine the Great, as well as secondary works on Orthodoxy, and folk tales and epics. We will listen to musical excerpts from major Russian composers of the XIX century and from liturgical songs, and examine reproductions of paintings and icons.

Assignments

- For each book or selected reading, students will hand in a reaction paper to facilitate, encourage, and enrich the discussion. These reaction papers may be about topics students wish to bring up in class, or details that they feel need clarification. They may address plot, characters, author's intent, cultural background, or any subject related to the reading.
- There will be two non-cumulative in-class exams. The first will cover the material studied up to that point, and the second will cover the remainder.
- The second exam will take place at the assigned final exam time.
- Lecture notes will be placed online at <http://mashaholl.com/culture> .
- Students are expected to review the lecture notes.
- A term paper will be due November 29 (see syllabus). A topic must be submitted to the instructor as indicated in the syllabus (October 06) which will consist of a typed half-page statement.
- Paper topics may be changed throughout the semester. The topic statement due on 10/06 is only a working draft and is not the final word on the subject. Please talk to the instructor about your paper.

Grading

Final Grades will be based on the following:

Exams (2) _____	40%
Final Paper _____	35%
Attendance and participation	25%

- Students must take both exams, and write and submit a paper to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Unless other arrangements are made, exams must be taken at the assigned date and response papers must be turned in on time.
- The response papers are a mandatory part of the Attendance and Participation grade.
- Response papers will be e-mailed to the instructor by midnight on the due date as indicated in the syllabus.
- Final papers are due by midnight (e-mailed) or in hard copy (handed in class) by the due date as indicated in the syllabus.
- The final paper must be 7 to 10 pages long (not including Bibliography/Reference pages), must deal with some aspect of pre-1917 Russian culture, and must be approved by the instructor ahead of time.
- A project of comparable scope can take place of the paper. Projects might include (but are not limited to) power point presentations, videos or musical recordings with accompanying commentaries, etc.
- The project must include 5-7 pages of original writing by the student and must conform to all the rules of a traditional term paper with respect to grammar, spelling, punctuation, and citing sources.
- Any statement in the paper (or documentation accompanying the project) must be properly supported, either by reliable scholarly works (not Wikipedia articles) or by relevant quotes or references to the work examined (literary work, musical piece, art piece, etc) or primary sources.
- Proper attribution of quotes, statements, and referenced material is expected. "In our class discussion/in our lecture" is sufficient to quote from the course itself (i.e. the instructor's statements or course notes). However, *quoting the course alone is not sufficient documentation*.
- In-class participation grades will be based on the student's attendance (including tardiness), preparedness (i. e., timeliness in doing the assigned readings), response papers, and willingness to discuss the material.
- The syllabus, list of assignments, and other course materials will be available online.
- It is the student's responsibility to complete assignments.

Classroom Decorum

Please do not talk among yourselves in class, do ***bring your book or handout to class when we are discussing a reading***, and do not leave and re-enter the classroom during class except when it is ***absolutely*** necessary.

I also don't mind the use of laptops or other electronics, but *I assume you are using them for in-class work*. It is up to the students to keep up with lectures and assignments.

HOWEVER: note that research has shown again and again that taking notes by hand is more productive than taking notes on the keyboard.

Students are encouraged to comment, ask questions, and otherwise voice their opinions. In-class participation is *highly encouraged*. Don't be afraid to ask, someone else might thank you for it.

Attendance/Response Paper Policy

Students are expected to attend every class except in the case of an excused absence or emergency, of which the instructor should be notified as soon as possible. A student's attendance and participation grade (worth 25% of the overall course grade) may be lowered by one grade point if he or she has more than 5 unexcused absences. A student's attendance and participation grade (worth 25% of the overall course grade) may be lowered by one grade point if he or she fails to turn in more than 1 homework assignments. These grades may be lowered further if the student misses a substantial number of classes or several homework assignments.

Academic Honor Code

- All students are covered by a policy that prohibits dishonesty in academic work. Under the Honor Code, a faculty member will (or a student may) report an alleged violation to the Academic Honor Council. It is the task of the Council to investigate, adjudicate, and assign a punishment within certain guidelines if a violation has been verified. **Students are required to pledge all written work that is submitted for a grade: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance on this work" and their signature. The pledge may be abbreviated "pledged" with a signature.**

Trinity University Academic Honor Code.

<https://inside.trinity.edu/academics/academic-honor-code>