

MADNESS AND MADMEN IN RUSSIAN CULTURE (CGS)

Thursdays 7:00 – 9:30

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Office Hours by appointment.

Your grade in this class will be made up of the following:

Exams (2 of them), comprised of multiple choice and essay questions, each worth 30%

Quizzes, worth a total of 20%

Class Participation, worth 20%

Each student may do up to two extra credit projects:

*A 3-page paper on a topic approved by me, tangential to but not drawn directly from the syllabus (that is, a topic related to what we've discussed in class but whose source material does not come from syllabus readings).

*A 10-15 minute class presentation on a topic approved by me, tangential to but not drawn directly from the syllabus.

You may do one 3-page paper, two 3-page papers, one presentation, two presentations, or one 3-page paper and one presentation. You may also choose to write a 6-page paper on a single topic, again approved by me, that will count as "two" extra credit papers; be advised that you must have 6 pages of content, not 3 pages plus 3 pages of verbiage. If you choose to do a presentation, you must let me know at least two weeks in advance of when you would like to present so I can schedule your presentation into the class. All presentations must be scheduled prior to the final exam; all papers are due the day of final exam. You may email me your papers at any time before then, however, after having discussed your topic(s) with me.

The projects will be graded on a scale of 0-10 points; thus, turning in an extra credit paper or making an extra credit presentation does not guarantee you any particular number of points. All extra credit projects must cite sources: papers must have citations within the text of the paper; presentations must include a works cited page turned into me.

At the end of the term, I will drop everyone's lowest quiz score from my grade computations.

Class Participation will be evaluated by me in class while we're talking and will work on a 5-point scale. An excellent, thoughtful, incisive comment might conceivably earn you all five of your possible points in one go; a thoughtless comment, meant only to prove that you "said something" in class, might earn you no

points at all. In general, though, five good comments, questions, or answers will earn you five points for the day.

I have no official attendance policy; we're all adults, and I do not want to put myself in the position of adjudicating whose absences, after some arbitrarily set number of them, were really "worth it," and therefore deserve mercy. Furthermore, I understand that there will be days when you simply can't be here – again, I don't want to be in the position of deciding for which reasons such an absence might be "approved" or not. However, by missing class, you miss the opportunity to earn class participation points, and you may miss the opportunity to earn points by taking a quiz.

Many of the readings will be in the form of handouts that I email to the class; therefore, make sure that the email address you provide me is the one you use regularly, and if it changes, you notify me.

University Disability Policy

If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, please notify both me and Disability Resources and Services by the second week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call 648-7890 (voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in the William Pitt Union, Room 216.

Class Integrity Policy

I expect every student in the course to rigorously follow the guidelines laid out in Pitt's *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. I take a dim view of academic integrity violations, and violators will be penalized to the full extent possible. Every student is also expected to visit the following website:

<http://clover.slavic.pitt.edu/tales/02-1/plagiarism.html>

and familiarize themselves with its content, with particular care if the student intends to write an extra credit paper. If plagiarism occurs, I will proceed under the assumption that you have read this website and committed a violation in spite of it.

Our probable schedule of readings (you'll be notified in advance if anything changes):

Thursday, September 2:

*Chapter 15 of *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture*, "Methods of Madness and Madness as Method," by Mikhail Epstein (pp. 263-282)

*Book III, Part 3, Chapter 25 of *War and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy

Thursday, September 9:

- *Chapters 1 and 2 of *Madness: A Brief History*, "Introduction" and "Gods and Demons," by Roy Porter
- *Readings from Part I, Chapter 1 of *The Icon and The Axe* by James H. Billington (pp. 1-28, 34-43)
- *Chapters 6 and 7 from *Russian Folk Belief*, "Russian Sorcery" and "Spoiling and Healing," by Linda J. Ivanits (pp. 83-111)
- *Chapter 4 from *Ivan the Fool: Russian Folk Belief: A Cultural History* by Andrei Sinyavski found at www.glas.msk.su/sinyavsky.html
- *Folk tales from *Russian Folk Tales* by Aleksandr Afanasev

Thursday, September 16:

- *Readings from *Holy Fools in Byzantium and Beyond* by Sergey A. Ivanov (pp. 55-59, 321-324, 285-303, 399-414)
- *Reading from *Understanding Russia: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture* by Ewa Thompson (pp. 1-23)
- *Chapter 11 of *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, "Ivan the Terrible," by David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran (pp.118-132)

Thursday, September 23:

- *Chapters 3 and 4 of *Madness: A Brief History*, "Madness Rationalized" and "Fools and Folly," by Roy Porter (pp. 34-88)
- *Reading from Part IV, Chapter 1 of *The Icon and the Axe* by James H. Billington (pp. 213-268)
- *Chapter 1 of *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture*, "A Cheerful Empress and Her Gloomy Critics: Catherine the Great and the Eighteenth-Century Melancholy Controversy," by Ilya Vinitsky (pp. 25-45)

Thursday, September 30:

- *Reading from Part IV, Chapter 3 of *The Icon and the Axe* by James H. Billington (pp. 331-340)
- *"The Bronze Horseman" by Alexander Pushkin
- *"Diary of a Madman" by Nikolai Gogol
- * Reading from Part V, Chapter 2 of *The Icon and the Axe* (pp. 414-433)
- **The Double* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (pp. 1-40)

Thursday, October 7:

- **The Double* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (pp. 40-160)
- *Chapter 3 from *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture*, "Madness as an Act of Defense of Personality in Dostoevsky's *The Double*," by Elena Dryzhakova (pp. 59-74)

Thursday, October 14:

- *Chapters 5 and 6 of *Madness: A Brief History*, "Locking up the Mad" and "The Rise of Psychiatry," by Roy Porter (pp. 89-155)
- *"Ward 6" by Anton Chekhov

Thursday, October 21:

Exam One

Thursday, October 28:

*Chapter 7 of *Madness: A Brief History*, "The Mad," by Roy Porter (pp. 156-182)

*Readings from *The Female Malady: Women, Madness, and English Culture* by Elaine Showalter (pp. 55-61, 127-140, 199, 203-210, 212-213, 249)

*Readings from *Possessed: Women, Witches, and Demons in Imperial Russia* by Christine Worobec (pp. 3-9, 166-172, 188-206)

Thursday, November 4:

*Film Screening: "Giselle's Mania" directed by Alexei Uchitel

* Prior to class, watch online:

Biographical information on Olga Spessivtseva:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2wKfkb5SxmM>

*Optional: "Red Giselle" ballet by Boris Eifman available in six parts, beginning here:

<http://video.yahoo.com/watch/5266086/13892458>

Thursday, November 11:

*Chapters 8 and 9 from *Madness: A Brief History*, "The Century of Psychoanalysis," and "Conclusion," by Roy Porter (pp. 183-214 and pp. 215-218)

*Part VI, Chapter 2 of *The Icon and the Axe*, "The Soviet Era," by James H. Billington (pp. 519-549)

*Readings from Chapter 39 of *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, "The Krushchev Era," by David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran (pp. 562-566, 573-574, and pp. 583-589)

*From *Psychiatry and Psychology in the USSR*, "Involuntary Hospitalization in the USSR," by Boris M. Segal (pp. 267-284)

Thursday, November 18:

*From *Joseph Brodsky: Collected Poems in English*, "Gorbunov and Gorchakov," by Joseph Brodsky

*Chapter 5 from *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture*, "On Hostile Ground: Madness and Madhouse in Joseph Brodsky's 'Gorbunov and Gorchakov,'" by Lev Loseff (pp. 90-100)

*Film Screening: *Chapayev* directed by Georgi and Sergei Vasilyev

Thursday, November 25:

Thanksgiving Break – No Class

Thursday, December 2:

*“Afterword” of *Madness and the Mad in Russian Culture* by Julie Brown (pp. 283-299)

*Readings from *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond* by David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran (pp. 630-637, 716-719, 735-738)

**Buddha’s Little Finger* by Victor Pelevin

Thursday, December 9:

**Buddha’s Little Finger* by Victor Pelevin

Thursday, December 16:

Exam Two