

**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures**

**Russian 0850: Early Russian Culture**  
**Fall 2013 (2141)**  
**Gerald McCausland**

Class Meetings

Tuesday / Thursday: 2:30–3:45  
CL 306

Instructor Office Hours

Monday 11:00–12:00; Wednesday 2:00–4:00  
CL 1401C  
e-mail: gmmst11@pitt.edu

This course is an introduction to the culture of Russia from the advent of Christianity in 988 to the Decembrist Revolt in 1825. The literature, architecture, graphic arts, and performing arts of Russia will be considered in their historical context, and the complex relationship of Russian culture to the culture of its neighbors to its eastern, western, and southern neighbors will be explored. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the legacy of Russia's early culture and the ways in which it did and did not determine the further development of Russian in the modern world.

Required Texts

Riasanovsky, Nicholas V. and Mark D. Steinberg. *A History of Russia*. 8th ed. New York: Oxford UP, 2010.

Zenkovsky, Serge, ed. *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*.

Several important primary and secondary texts will be provided by the instructor in digital (pdf) format. Students will be required to print out all primary texts and bring these copies to class on the days they are assigned for discussion.

Expectations, Examinations, and Requirements

1. Attendance is required at all class meetings and a classroom grade is assigned after each meeting based on participation in class discussions. Students absent for any class meeting receive a 0 [zero] for that class meeting. Having missed **six** class sessions, a student's final grade will be lowered **one full letter grade** (e.g., B+ => C+); having missed **eight** class sessions, a student's final grade will be lowered **two full letter grades** (e.g., B+ -> D+); having missed **ten** classes, a student will fail the course.
2. Students are to complete all reading assignments before the class meeting for which they are listed in the Meeting Schedule below. Students **must bring the Zenkovsky text and any class handouts to class with them on days when those readings are due**. The Riasanovsky/Steinberg history text need not be brought to class, but students are responsible for the material in the history text when assigned and there will be frequent quizzes on this material.
3. There will be three tests given over the course of the semester on the dates given in the Meeting Schedule. They will cover the content of the course up to that point and since the preceding test. In other words, they are not cumulative. There is no midterm or final examination. Students who miss any test due to absence will receive a zero on that test. No test can be made up (but see Paper Option below).

- Each student will present the discussion material for **one** class session. A schedule of student discussion presentations will be drawn up during the *second* week of the semester. Students should consult with the instructor if they have any doubts or questions regarding the form or content of these presentations.

### Grading

Grades will be calculated according to the following schema:

Tests: 60% (3 x 20%)  
Classroom discussion: 25% (15% + 10% for presentation)  
Quizzes: 15%

### Paper Option

Students who wish to write a paper have the option of doing so. If this option is taken, the paper will replace one of the three major in-class tests, determined by the time period treated in the paper—for example, someone writing a paper on the iconography of the Kievan period will not have to take the *first* test. The paper project will involve the writing of a draft and final version. A detailed written description of the writing project, including requirements, guidelines, possible topics, and due dates, will be distributed during the *second* week of the course. Students wishing to exercise this option must commit to it **in writing** during the *fourth* week of the course. Taking the option to write a paper is an irrevocable decision—once made, it cannot be undone. Students are welcome and encouraged to discuss their interest in writing a paper with the instructor in advance of committing to it.

### Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the stipulations of this course overview, but also understand that we will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the *Handbook on Integrity* regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

### Disability

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

### Classroom Recording

Students may not use any electronic recording devices in the classroom without written verification from DRS that such recording is a necessary accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

### Meeting Schedule with Assignments and Test Dates

27 August: Introduction

29 August: The Rise of Kiev

R&S 3–17

Zenkovsky 2–7, 11

The Apostle Andrew Comes to Russia

Founding of the City of Kiev

Beginning of the Russian State and the Arrival of Rurik

Oleg's Campaign Against Constantinople

The Death of Oleg

Igor's Death and Olga's Revenge

Vladimir Christianizes Russia

3 September: Christenization of Rus'

R&S 19–37

Zenkovsky 12, 18, 20

Yaroslav the Wise

Metropolitan Hilarion's Sermon on Law and Grace

Vladimir Monomakh's Instruction to His Children

5 September: Political Decay and Architectural Splendor

R&S 38–55

Zenkovsky 21, 22, 32, 25

Martyrdom of Boris and Gleb

Beginning of the Kiev Crypt Monastery and Its Founder, St. Antonius

St. Theodosius, Abbot of the Crypt Monastery

Life of Our Blessed Father Theodosius, Abbot of the Crypt Monastery

Architecture of Kievan Rus' [Courseweb]

10 September: The Beginnings of Icon Painting

Zenkovsky 31, 33

Descent of the Virgin into Hell

The Lay of Igor's Campaign

“Russkaia Pravda” (short version)

Icons of Kievan Rus' [Courseweb]

12 September: Mongol Invasion

R&S 61–70

Zenkovsky, 34, 35

The Battle on the River Kalka

Orison on the Downfall of Russia

17 September: Rus' Under the Yoke: Novgorod

R&S 71–82

Zenkovsky, 39, 40

Tale of the Life and Courage of the Pious and Great Prince Alexander

Narrative of the Pious Prince Dovmont and His Courage

Art and Architecture of Novgorod [Courseweb]

19 September: Rus' Under the Yoke: Vladimir/Suzdal  
R&S 83–88  
Documents of the Yoke [Courseweb]  
Art and Architecture of Vladimir/Suzdal [Courseweb]

24 September: The Wane of the Yoke  
Zenkovsky 43  
Daniel the Prisoner  
TBA [Courseweb]

26 September: **Test 1**

1 October: The Rise of Moscow  
R&S 89–113  
Zenkovsky  
Zadonshchina  
The Last Will of Ivan Kalita, The Money Bag

3 October: Andrei Rublev and others  
R&S 114–127  
Zenkovsky 44, 45, 46, 47  
Epiphanius, to St. Stephen  
Epiphanius, Life of Sergius of Radonezh  
Peter and Fevronia  
Life of St. Michael, a Fool in Christ  
The Rublev phenomenon [Courseweb]

8 October: Culture under the “Moscow Yoke”  
R&S 128–136  
Zenkovsky, 50, 51  
Tale of the White Cowl  
Afanasy Nikitin’s Journey Across Three Seas  
Filofei, on the “Third Rome”  
Culture after Rublev: Painting, Music, Architecture [Courseweb]

10 October: Ivan IV The Terrible  
R&S 139–153  
Zenkovsky 52, 53, 54  
Steven Bathory’s Campaign Against Pskov  
Kurbsky, First Epistle to Ivan IV  
Ivan IV, Epistle of the Tsar Against Prince Kurbsky

17 October: The Time of Troubles  
R&S 155–172

22 October: Pious Alexis and The Schism

R&S 173–181; 195–201

Zenkovsky 59

Life of Archpriest Avvakum By Himself  
from the “Biography of Boyarina Morozova”

24 October: External Influences

R&S 182–194; 201–209

Zenkovsky 58

Life of Yuliania Lazarevy

29 October: The Beginnings of a Secular Court Culture

Zenkovsky 60, 61, 62, 64

Shemiaka’s Judgment

Tale of Savva Grudtsyn

Frol Skobeev, the Rogue

Misery-Luckless-Plight

31 October: Test 2

5 November: Peter I The Great

R&S 211–238

Peter the Great, “Decree on the Duties of the Senate”

---, “Letter to the Holy Synod”

---, “Instruction to Russian Students Abroad Studying Navigation”

7 November: The Rise of St. Petersburg

R&S 239–243

Zenkovsky, 73, 74, 75

Simeon Polotsky, Ode on the Birth of Peter I

Simeon Polotsky, The Law

Simeon Polotsky, The Merchant Class

12 November: Baroque and Rococo

R&S 243–250

Mikhail Lomonosov, Letter on the Use of Glass

14 November: Enlightenment and Empire

R&S 251–261; 272–276

Gavriil Derzhavin, “Felitsa,” “God,” “On the Death of Count Meshchersky,” “The Waterfall”

19 November: The Age of Catherine II The Great

R&S 261–271; 276–279

Catherine the Great, from *The Instruction*

---, “Manifesto Against Pugachev”

Pugachev, “Emancipation Decree”

21 November: The Fruits of Enlightenment

R&S 280–295

Aleksandr Radishchev, excerpts from *A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow*

26 November: Archaists and Innovators

R&S 296–318

Nikolai Novikov, Polemic with Catherine II

---, “Perception of Russian Society, Jan 1770”

3 December: Sentimentalism and the Dawn of Romanticism

Karamzin, “Natalie, the Boyar’s Daughter” (or other story)

Karamzin, from *History of the Russian State*

Alexander I, “Proclamation To the Nation”

5 December: **Test 3**