

Cities and Civilizations: An Introduction to Eurasian Studies
HIS/SLAV W3224
Tues, Thurs 2:40-3:55
411 International Affairs Building
Fall 2003

Instructors:

Catharine Nepomnyashchy
Email: cn29@columbia.edu
Tel: 854-6213
Room 1214 IAB

Mark von Hagen
Email: mlv2@columbia.edu
Tel: 854-6598
Room 1229 IAB

Description:

An introduction to Eurasian studies (as successor to Russian/East European and Soviet studies) through an examination of the history and culture of major centers of urban settlement. Eurasia focuses attention on the multiethnicity, religious pluralism, hybrid identities, and regional diversity of a set of communities inhabiting the lands between East Asia and West and Central Europe: they include, but are not limited to the state formations known as Kyivan Rus' and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, Muscovy, the Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, as well as the Habsburg and Ottoman empires. The East European and Eurasian cities will be compared with one another and with contemporary cities outside the geopolitical boundaries that are the primary focus of the course. History and culture will be approached through lectures and readings, including primary historical texts, works of imaginative literature and art (including film, music, painting, architecture), scholarly articles. Lecture class with discussion sections.

Assignments:

- 30% class attendance, quizzes, film reviews, journals, and participation in discussions online and in sections
- 30% one synthetic research project (10-12 pages each in length), possibly involving multiple media
- 40% midterm and final exam

Required texts: The books listed below have been ordered from Labyrinth Books (536 West 112 St., between Broadway and Amsterdam). Whether you buy or borrow, please use the editions of the books listed below. The rest of the readings will be posted on www.courseworks.columbia.edu

Aleichem, Sholom, *The Letters of Menachem Mendl* (Yale University Press)
Andrukhovych, Iury, *Recreations*
Bulgakov, Mikhail, *Master and Margarita* (Vintage)

Dostoevsky, Fedor, *Crime and Punishment* (Vintage)
Kappeler, Andreas, *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* (Longman, 2001)
Reid, Anna, *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997)
Zenkovsky, Serge A., *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles and Tales*

Film: A film series entitled “The Eurasian City on Film” will air at the Harriman Institute in conjunction with this course. Students will be expected to attend and write brief reviews of all of the films listed in the syllabus. Reviews are due one week after each film showing.

Course Outline:

Sep. 2 Introduction.

Sep. 4 The Rise of the City in Eurasia.

Bassin, “Asia”

Kappeler, “Introduction,” *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History*

Kyiv/Kiev Between Ukraine and Russia (4 units)

Sep. 9 Kyiv Today

Reid, “The New Jerusalem: Kiev” and “Europe or Little Russia? Ukraina”

Sep. 11 Myths of Origins

Cross, ed. *The Russian Primary Chronicle*, pp. 96 - 110. (entry from the year 6494 [986])

Zenkovsky, “Stories from the Primary Chronicle”, pp. 43-76, 101-112.

Mircea Eliade, *The Myth of the Eternal Return* (selection)

Lewis Mumford, “What is a City?”

Sep. 16 Modern Kyiv City Text

Bulgakov, *White Guard* (Ch.1-5)

Hamm, “Continuity and Change in Late Imperial Kiev,” *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Kappeler, “Westward Expansion”

Reid, “Poles and Cossacks: Kamyanyets Podilsky” and “The Books of Genesis: Lviv”

Yaroslav Hrytsak, “Lviv”

Mark von Hagen, “Ukraine”

Sep. 18 Recreations (guest lecture: Vitaly Chernetsky)

Andrukhovych, *Recreations*

Taras Shevchenko, *Zapovyt', Kateryna, Kavkaz*

Kazan': Window on the East (4 units)

Sep. 23 Muslim/Slavic Encounters: Kazan, Grozny

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)

Edward Said, "Introduction," *Orientalism*

Bill Keller, "On How to Build a Muslim Republic," *The New York Times*

Robert Geraci, *Window on the East*, Chapter 1

Film: *Andrei Rublev* (Kazan/Muscovy)

Sep. 25 The Mongol Empire in History and Imagination

Kappeler, "The Medieval Background," "The Gathering of the Lands of the Golden Horde"

N.S. Trubetzkoy, "The Legacy of Genghis Khan: A Perspective on Russian History not from the West but from the East"

Zenkovsky, "Military Tales," pp.193-223

Sep. 30 Pushkin and "The Captain's Daughter"

Pushkin, *The Captain's Daughter*

Oct. 2 Muslim Cities

Kappeler, "Colonial Expansion in Asia in the Nineteenth Century"

Daniel Brower, "Islam and Ethnicity: Russian Colonial Policy in Turkestan" in *Russia's Orient*

Ronald Grigor Suny, "Crucible of Ethnic Politics, 1860-1905", in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Audrey Altstadt-Mirhadi, "Transformation of a Muslim Town," in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Oleg Grabar, "The Architecture of Middle Eastern Cities: The Case of the Mosque," in *Middle Eastern Cities in Comparative Analysis*, ed. Ira Lapidus, 25-46

Opera: *The Legend of the Invisible City of Kitezh*

St. Petersburg/Petrograd/Leningrad (6 units)

Oct. 7 St. Petersburg Today and the Tercentennial

Svetlana Boym, "St. Petersburg, the Cosmopolitan Province," *The Future of Nostalgia* (Basic)

Film: *The Overcoat* (Petersburg)

Oct. 9 Autocrat and Architect as Author of the City: Enlightened Despotism and Empire as Narrative of St. Petersburg

Kappeler, “The Pre-Modern Russian Multi-ethnic Empire”

Yuri Slezkine, “Naturalists versus Nations: Eighteenth-Century Russian Scholars Confront Ethnic Diversity” in *Russia’s Orient*

Alexander Pushkin, *The Blackamoor of Peter the Great*

Oct. 14 Pushkin’s and Gogol’s Petersburg

Alexander Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman*, *Eugene Onegin* (part one)

Nikolai Gogol, “The Overcoat”

Burton Pike, “The City as Image”

Oct. 16 Dostoevsky’s Petersburg and the Modern City

Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

James Bater, “Between Old and New: St. Petersburg in the Late Imperial Era,” in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Kappeler, “The Late Tsarist Multi-Ethnic Empire between Modernization and Tradition”

Kingsley Davis, “The Urbanization of the Human Population”

William L. Blackwell, “Modernization and Urbanization in Russia: A Comparative View,” in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Oct. 21 *Crime and Punishment* (cont’d)

Oct. 23 Revolution and War: Petrograd and Leningrad

Alexander Blok, “The Scythians,” and “The Twelve”

Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*, prologue and chapter one

Eugene Zamiatin, “The Cave”

Daniel R. Brower, “Urban Revolution in Late Russian Empire,” in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Cynthia Simmons and Nina Perlina, eds., *Writing the Siege of Leningrad* (selections)

Ballet: *Petrushka*

Midterm take-home essay examination

Odessa: Window on the South (4 units)

Oct. 28 From Odessa to Brighton Beach

Reid, “The Russian Sea: Donetsk and Odessa,” “A Meaningless Fragment: Chernivtsi”

Film: *Battleship Potemkin* (Odessa)

Frederick W. Skinner, "Odessa and the Problem of Urban Modernization," in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Jewish Community Study of New York City 2002

<http://www.ujafedny.org/site/PageServer?pagename=jewishcommunitystudy>

Oct. 30 Odessa, Warsaw and the shtetlakh: the variety of Jewish experience

Steven Zipperstein, "Introduction," "Historical Background," *The Jews of Odessa*

Stephen D. Corrsin, "Warsaw: Poles and Jews in a Conquered City," in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

Nov. 4 Election Day Holiday. No classes.

Nov. 6 Sholom Aleichem's Russia (guest lecture: Jeremy Dauber)

Sholom Aleichem, *The Letters of Menachem Mendl and Sheyne-Shendl* (Yale)

Nov. 11 Isaak Babel's Odessa (guest lecture: Rebecca Stanton)

Babel, *Odessa Tales*

St. Petersburg symposium

Moscow and the Socialist City (5 units)

Nov. 13 Moscow Today

Svetlana Boym, "Moscow, the Russian Rome," *The Future of Nostalgia* (Basic)

Nov. 18 The Utopian, Dystopian, and Socialist City (Odoevsky, Chaianov, Shaginian)

V.F. Odoevsky, "The City Without a Name," *Russian Nights*

Alexander Chaianov, *The Journey of my Brother Alexei to the Land of Peasant Utopia*

Marietta Shaginian, "Mess-Mend: Yankees in Petrograd" (selection).

Richard Wortman, "Moscow and Petersburg: The Problem of Political Center in Tsarist Russia, 1881-1914," in Sean Wilentz, ed., *Rites of Rulers: Symbolism, Ritual and Politics since the Middle Ages*

Film: *Irony of Fate* (Leningrad/Moscow/socialist city)

Nov. 20 No class.

[American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies, Toronto, November 20-23]

Nov. 25 Stalin as Author and Architect of Socialist Moscow

Joseph Bradley, "Moscow: From Big Village to Late Imperial Metropolis," in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

James Bater, *The Soviet city: ideal and reality* (selections)

Kappeler, "Aftermath: Change and Continuity in the Soviet Multi-ethnic Empire"

Svetlana Boym, "Welcome to the Communal Apartment," *Common Places*, pp. 139-145

Nov. 27 No classes. **Thanksgiving Day Holiday.**

Dec. 2 **Bulgakov's Moscow and Rival Moscow Texts.**

Mikhail Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita* and "Housing Crisis in 1920s"

Walter Benjamin, "Moscow 1927," *Reflections*

Dec. 4 *Master and Margarita* (cont'd)

Dec. 9 **Make-up class. Summary and conclusions**