

NYU Prague

RUSSN-UA9261P01

Russia and East-Central Europe

Fall 2018

Instructor Information

- Janusz Salamon, Ph.D.
- Email: js6399@nyu.edu
- Office hours: Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Course Information

- RUSSN-UA9261P01
- **Russia and East-Central Europe**
- Wednesday, 9.00-11.50
 - "Mucha" classroom RD

Course Overview and Goals

The current anti-Western turn in the Russian politics provides a useful context for exploration of the profound diversity of the Eastern half of the European continent which has traditionally been perceived in the West as a monolith called "Eastern Europe". This course aims at helping students to understand the distinctiveness and uniqueness of Russia's cultural and political traditions vis-à-vis not only Western Europe, but also vis-à-vis the countries of East-Central Europe which during the second half of the 20th century constituted a part of the Soviet sphere of influence locked behind the Iron Curtain. By attending to the complexities of the dynamics of the centuries-long interaction between the "Russian civilization" (*Russkiy mir*) with the cultures of Russia's Asian and European neighbors students will be encouraged to appreciate the significance of the differences between the historical experiences, identity narratives, and value systems of various peoples, who tend to retain their particular cultural patterns of thought and social behavior despite geographical proximity and growing interconnectedness brought about by globalization. While the course is primarily addressed to the students of Russian and Slavic Studies and the students of European intellectual history, and of European politics, its focus on the explanatory power of particular cultural outlooks of peoples which provide the context for individual and group decision-making makes this course suitable also for students of other social and cultural sciences. Without adequate understanding and appreciation of both commonality and diversity of human experience we are risking profound misreading of the intentions and expectations of the others, and this in turn is likely to lead to mismanagement of intercultural and international affairs despite our best intentions to make our globalizing world livable and hospitable to all.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the key issues in the Russian political, social, cultural and intellectual history and to relate them to the current developments in the social and political life of the Russian Federation.

- Compare and contrast the key ideas, beliefs, and values that have shaped the cultural identities of the Russians and their European neighbors and demonstrate their impact on politics and economics of Russia and countries of East Central Europe respectively.
- Appreciate the richness and diversity of the literary, musical and intellectual achievement of the „Golden Age“ of the Russian culture (from Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy, through Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky and Borodin to Chekhov, Akhmatova, Stravinsky and Shostakovich).

Course Requirements

Class Participation

Quality participation in the class discussions (including short individual presentations): 10%

Assignment 1

Mid-term Paper (ca. 2000 words): 15%: Research Paper 1 (due before the mid-term break) will be devoted to a topic selected by each student from a list of topics (closely related to the list of the main issues explored in the first half of the semester) provided by the instructor. The list of the Required and Supplementary Texts for this course will provide the bibliographical basis for the paper, but each student will be expected to read at least 100 pages of additional readings relevant to the particular topic. (The use of scholarly Internet sources is allowed, but it has to be appropriately acknowledged in the footnotes and bibliography.)

Assignment 2

Final Paper (ca. 2000 words): 15%: Research Paper 2 (due before the final exam) will be devoted to a topic selected by each student from a list of topics (closely related to the list of the main issues explored in the second half of the semester) provided by the instructor. The list of the Required and Supplementary Texts for this course will provide the bibliographical basis for the paper, but each student will be expected to read at least 100 pages of additional readings relevant to the particular topic. (The use of scholarly Internet sources is allowed, but it has to be appropriately acknowledged in the footnotes and bibliography.)

Assignment 3

Mid-term Written Exam: 25%: The exam will last 150 minutes. The students will be asked to select and discuss 3 large-scale topics from a list of topics covering the material explored in the first half of the course. Minimum 4 pages of writing per topic will be expected.

Assignment 4

Final Written Exam: 25%: The exam will last 150 minutes. The students will be asked to select and discuss 3 large-scale topics from a list of topics covering the material explored in the second half of the course. Minimum 4 pages of writing per topic will be expected.

Tests & Quizzes

Quizzes testing familiarity with the class readings which will be tested on a regular basis by short quizzes (each quiz = 1% of the final grade): 10%

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Quality participation in class	10%
Mid-term Paper	15%
Final Paper	15%
Mid-term written exam	25%
Final written exam	25%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	94% - 100%
A-	90% - 93%
B+	87% - 89%
B	84% - 86%
B-	80% - 83%
C+	77% - 79%
C	74% - 76%
C-	70% - 73%
D+	67% - 69%
D	65% - 66%
F	65 and lower

Assessment Expectations

Mid-term assessment and end-term assessment will be published in Albert.

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Wednesday, September 5	How Russia's Geography and Her Byzantine and Mongol Neighbors Determined the Course of Russia's History	(1) R. Pipes, Russia Under the Old Regime, pp. 1-24 (= Chapter 1 in Pipes) – (Total: 24 pages) + (2) Watching documentaries about the Birth of the Russian Empire and about Byzantium seen through the Russian eyes	Before class
Session 2 Wednesday, September 12	The Sources of Divergence Between Russia and East-Central Europe (I): The Renaissance and	(1) 'God and Caesar' and 'Royal Republic' from A. Zamoyski, The Polish Way, pp. 76-104 + (2) R. Pipes, Russia	Before class

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	Reformation in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth	Under the Old Regime, pp. 221-248 ('Church as a Servant of the State') (Total: 56 pages) + (2) Watching documentaries on the Reformation in East-Central Europe	
Session 3 Wednesday, September 19	'Revolution from Above': The Turn to the West under Peter the Great and Catherine the Great	'The Economic and Social Development of Russia in the Eighteenth Century', from N. Riasanovsky, A History of Russia, pp. 213-241 & 'Trends in the Enlightenment Thought in Russia under Catherine the Great' from: Andrzej Walicki, A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism, pp. 9-17 – (Total: 42 pages) + (2) Watching documentaries about Peter I and Catherine II	Before class
Session 4 Wednesday, September 26	The Explosion of Russia's Cultural Genius: Pushkin, Gogol, Glinka	(1) Watching ecranisations of "Eugene Onegin" and "The Inspector General"; (2) Listening to Glinka's music	Before class
Session 5 Wednesday, October 3	Dostoyevsky in Search of the 'Russian Soul'	(1) Watching BBC ecranisation of "Crime and Punishment" + (2) 'Two Prophetic Writers: Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy' from A. Walicki, A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism, pp. 309-348 – (total: 39 pages) [first half: on Dostoyevsky]	Before class
Session 6 Wednesday, October 10	Dostoyevsky on Russia and the West	Watching fragments of the Russian ecranisation of 'Brothers Karamazov'	Before class
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 7 Wednesday, October 24	Turgenev, Herzen and the 'Liberal Predicament'	MID-TERM PAPER DUE + (1) 'Herzen' and 'Herzen and Bakunin of Liberty' in pp. 82-113 & 186-209 from I. Berlin 'Russian Thinkers', Penguin 1978 - (total: 57) + (2) Watching ecranisation of Turgenev's "Brothers and Sons"	Before class

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 8 Wednesday, October 31	MID-TERM EXAM		Before class
Session 9 Wednesday, November 7	Tolstoy in Search of the 'Russian Soul'	(1) 'Two Prophetic Writers: Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy' from A. Walicki, A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism, pp. 309-348 – (total: 39 pages) [second half: on Tolstoy] + (2) Watching ecranisation of "Anna Karenina"	Before class
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 10 Wednesday, November 14	Tolstoy on Russia and the West	Watching fragments of the Russian ecranisation of 'War and Peace'	Before class
Session 11 Wednesday, November 21	Chekhov: A Compassionate Realist	(1) Reading selections of Chekhov's short stories + (2) Watching the ecranisation of "The Cherry Orchard"	Before class
Session 12 Wednesday, November 28	Quietism: Russian Spirituality and the 'Religious Renaissance'	(1) R. Pipes, Russia Under the Old Regime, pp. 221-248 ('Church as a Servant of the State') + (2) F. Copleston, 'Religion and Philosophy: Vladimir Solovyev' in Philosophy in Russia, pp. 201- 240 (Total: 66 pages)	Before class
Session 13 Wednesday, December 5	'The Stalinist Civilization'	(1) Watching a documentary Stalin + (2) S.K. Kotkin, Magnetic Mountatin. Stalinism as a Civilization, pp. 18-66 – (total: 48)	Before class
Session 14 Wednesday, December 12 (last day of classes)	The Light in Darkness: Great Russian Art under Stalin	(1) "On Akhmatova" from O. Figes Natasha's Dance, pp. 434-458 and DM Thomas' introduction to the English translation of Akhmatova's poems + (2) (1) Watching fragments of a Russian ecranisation of "Master and Margarita"	Before class
Session 15 Wednesday, December 19	Final exam	FINAL PAPER DUE	

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

1. The required readings will be drawn from the following sources:
2. Readings in Russian Civilization, edited by T. Riha, University of Chicago Press, 1969. [ISBN 0226718573]
3. Reinterpreting Russian History: Readings 860-1860s, Primary sources compiled and edited by D. H. Kaiser and G. Marker, Oxford University Press, 1994. [ISBN 0195078578]
4. Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology, edited by M. Raeff, New York: Harcourt, 1966. [ISBN 0155779702]
5. A. Brown (ed.), Contemporary Russian Politics: A Reader, Oxford Univ Press, 2001 [ISBN 0-19-829999-0]
6. B.F. Abrams, The Struggle for the Soul of the Nation: Czech Culture and the Rise of Communism, Rowman & Littlefield, 2004. [ISBN 0-7425-3024-8]
7. A. Applebaum, The Gulag: A History, Anchor Books, 2003. [ISBN-13: 978-1400034093]
8. A. Applebaum, The Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956, Anchor Books, 2013. [ISBN-13: 978-1400095933]
9. I. Berlin, Russian Thinkers, Penguin, 1979. [ISBN o 14 02.2260 X]
10. R. Bideleux and I. Jeffries, A History of Eastern Europe: Crisis and Change, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2007. [ISBN 13: 978-0-415-36627-4]
11. F. Copleston, Philosophy in Russia, University of Notre Dame Press, 1986. [ISBN 0-268-015694]
12. M. Glenny, The Balkans: Nationalism, War and the Great Powers 1804-2012, Granta Books, 2012. [ISBN 184708771X]
13. A. Gleason (ed.), The Blackwell Companion to Russian History, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009. [ISBN 978-1-405-13560-3]
14. O. Halecki, Borderlands of Western Civilization: A History of East Central Europe, Simon Publications, 1980. [ISBN: 0-9665734-8-X]
15. D.L. Hoffmann (ed.), Stalinism: The Essential Readings, Routledge, 2003. [ISBN 0-631-22891-8]
16. A. Janos, East-Central Europe in the Modern World, Stanford University Press, 2000. [ISBN 0-8047-3743-6]
17. L.R. Johnson, Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends, Oxford University Press, 1996. [ISBN0-19-510071-9]
18. W. Lower, Nazi Empire Building and the Holocaust in Ukraine, The University of North Carolina Press, 2005. [ISBN 0-8778-2960-9]
19. K. McDermott and M. Stibbe (eds), Revolution and Resistance in Eastern Europe: Challenges to Communist Rule, New York: Berg, 2006. [ISBN 13-978-1-84520-258-3]
20. R. Medvedev, Post-Communist Russia: A Journey through the Yeltsin Era, Columbia University Press, 2000. [ISBN 0-231-10606-8]
21. C. Milosz, The History of Polish Literature, University of California Press, 1983. [ISBN-13 978-0-520-04477-7]
22. D. Obolensky, The Byzantine Commonwealth: Eastern Europe 500-1453, Praeger Publishers, 1971.
23. R. Okey, Eastern Europe 1740-1985: Feudalism to Communism, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 1986. [ISBN 0-415-08489-X]
24. R. Pipes, Russia Under the Old Regime, Second Edition, Penguin Books, 1995 . [ISBN 0140247688.]

25. A. Polonsky, *My Brother's Keeper? Recent Polish Debates on the Holocaust*, Routledge, 2003.
26. N. Riasanovsky, *A History of Russia*, Oxford University Press, 1999. [ISBN 0-19-215899-6]
27. A. Walicki, *A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism*, Stanford University Press, 1979. [ISBN 0804710260]
28. P.S. Wandycz, *The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present*, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2001 [ISBN 0-415-25491-4]

Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

29. I.T. Berend, *History Derailed: Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century*, University of California Press, 2005. [ISBN 0-520-23299-2]
30. D.L. Ransel and B. Shallcross (eds), *Polish Encounters, Russian Identity*, Indiana University Press, 2005. [ISBN 0-253-21771-7]
31. T. Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus 1569–1999*, Yale University Press, 2003. [ISBN 0-300-09569-4]
32. A. Webb, *The Routledge Companion to Central and Eastern Europe since 1919*, Routledge, 2008. [ISBN 10: 0-415-44562-0]

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](http://nyu.edu/its/classes)(nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](http://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](http://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:**[IT Help Desk](http://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:**[Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor's note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Academic Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

(1) Work submitted within 5 weekdays after the submission time without an agreed extension receives a penalty of 5 points on the 100 point scale.

(2) Work submitted after 5 weekdays after the submission date without an agreed extension fails and is given a zero.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from

another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” **(Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)**

Classroom Etiquette

No Internet surfing in class. Repeated mental absence in class due to Internet surfing will affect negatively student's “Quality participation” grade component.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.