

## **Course syllabus developed with funding from:**

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History 240, Russian Civilization Syllabus  
Fall 2018, M—F, 10:30—11:20  
Office Hours: M—F, 11:30—12:30, or by appointment  
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Web site: <http://www.yvcc.edu/FutureStudents/AcademicOptions/Programs/SocialSciences/History/Pages/default.aspx>

### **The Course:**

**1) Catalog Description,** HIST 240 is a “Survey of Russia from the tenth century to the present era focusing on its geography, history, culture, political, and economic structures. This course will provide a chronology of key events of Tsarist, Communist, and Post-Communist Russia with an emphasis on the last four hundred years.” (YVC Catalog)

**2) Objectives,** As a partial fulfillment of the Social Science component of YVCC’s requirements for an AA degree, History 240 is transferable to four-year universities.

**3) Overview,** History 240 traces the development of Russian civilization from approximately 1000 C.E. until the present century, divided into five eras: the rise of Kiev (980—1169), the First Moscow Period (1169—1689), Petersburg Period (1689—1917), the Second Moscow Period (1917—1990), and post Communist (1990 until present). Thematically, this course will introduce students to the origins and development of the Russian state, relations with other powers, imperialism, Communism, and post-Communism.

**4) Course Outcome,** This course aims to educate students about Russian civilization and its essential role in the development—both positive and negative—of the world around us. Students who successfully complete this course will not only gain a richer grasp of their world, but through class assignments, your reading comprehension, writing skills, and understanding of historical, humanistic, and temporal concepts will improve.

### **II. Readings:**

#### **1) Required,**

Bushkovitch, Paul. *A Concise History of Russia*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013.

*The Tale of the Campaign of Igor*. Translated by Robert C. Howes. New York: W. W. Norton, 1973.

Durova, Nadezhda. *The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars*. Translated by Mary Flemming Zirin. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Translated by Ralph Parker. New York: New American Library, 2009.

Semyonova Tian Shanskaia, Olga. *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*. Translated by David L. Ransel and Michael Levine. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1988.

Alexievich, Svetlana. *Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster*. Translated by Keith Gessen. New York: Picador, 2006.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Notes from Underground*. New York: Bantam Classics, 1983

*Gilbert, Martin. The Routledge Atlas of Russian History*. New York, Routledge, 2007.

Any additional readings assigned by the instructor.

#### **2) Recommended,**

A college level dictionary. A thesaurus or synonym finder. Turabian, Kate. *A Manual For Writers*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### III. Requirements:

Grades will be based upon in-class exams and take home writing assignments.

**1) Exams,** There will be three in-class, objective examinations: the first exam (125 points), a midterm (135 points) and a final (125 points), totaling 385 points or 38.5% of the final grade. Questions on each test will be either multiple choice, true-false, fill-in-the-blank, place location, sequence of events, identifications, and short answers. Each exam will cover elements from lectures, readings, and any other class activities. The pre-midterm exam will be after two weeks of instruction and the midterm will take place roughly at the mid point of this course. The final may have some cumulative questions.

**a. Test Administration:** All exams will start at the beginning of the class period. Since a large subject needs to be covered in ten weeks, no extra time can be allowed for late arrivals. **A note of caution:** since your final grade is based on an accumulation of points, any score gained is better than none. In short, take every exam, even if you are unprepared or late.

**b. Make-up Exams:** Unless arranged before the exam date, There are no-make up exams.

**Repeat: No Make-up exams.**

**2) Seminars,** There will be six seminars, each based on the ancillary readings (*The Tale of the Campaign of Igor, The Cavalry Maiden, Notes from Underground, Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,* and *Voices from Chernobyl*) worth 25 points each (150 points total or 15% of the overall grade).

**NOTE: NO MAKE-UP EXAMS /REPLACEMENT SEMINARS ARE PERMITTED.**

**3) Worksheets,** Each ancillary reading (*The Tale of the Campaign of Igor, The Cavalry Maiden, Notes from Underground, Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,* and *Voices from Chernobyl*) will be partly assessed using a worksheet, worth between 25 or 45 points each (205 points total or 20.5% of the overall grade).

**NOTE: LATE WORKSHEET COME WITH A 10% POINT LOSS PER DAY AS WELL AS THE INELEGABILITY OF ANY EXTRA CREDIT POINTS.**

**4) Ancillary Reading Quizzes,** Each ancillary reading (*The Tale of the Campaign of Igor, The Cavalry Maiden, Notes from Underground, Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich,* and *Voices from Chernobyl*) will be partly assessed via quizzes. Questions for each quiz will come from the reading's worksheet. Each quiz will be worth 25 points each (150 points total (25 points each X 6 = 150) for 15% of the final grade.

**5) Map Quiz,** There will be three map quizzes worth 20 points each, 60 points total (6% of the overall grade).

**Nota Bene:** In this course, students are assumed to be writing at a college level (English &101). Although English &101 is **not** a prerequisite for this course, **eligibility** for English &101 and MATH 084 or 085 is required.

### IV. Grades:

**1) Standards,** Grades are issued on a solid, plus, or minus basis (e.g., B+, B, B-). There are no A+, D-, F+, or F- grades.

**2) Course Grade,** Your final grade is assessed on the accumulation of points from the total points available. Grades are based on a straight percentage (e.g., 89—87% = B+, 86—84% = B, 83—80% = B-). Thus 100 points would need to be lost over the quarter in order to drop a grade.

*"The Secrets of politics? Make a good treaty with Russia."*

- Otto von Bismarck

*"Russia, a country that will continue to be funny until it suddenly isn't."*

- John Oliver

**b. Point Composition,**

**Map Quizzes**

Russian Realm Map Quiz . . . 20 Points    Caucasus Quiz. . . . 20 Points    Central Asia Quiz. . . . . 20

**Ancillary Reading Projects**

*The Tale of the Campaign of Igor.*

Worksheet . . . . 25 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

*The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars.*

Worksheet . . . . 50 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

*Notes from Underground.*

Worksheet . . . . 40 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

*Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia.*

Worksheet . . . . 50 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.*

Worksheet . . . . 40 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

*Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster.*

Worksheet . . . . 50 points                          Seminar . . . . . 25 points                          Quiz . . . . . 25

**Read Subtotals**

**Worksheets . . . . 255 points                          Seminars . . . . . 150 points                          Quizzes . . . . . 150**

**Exams**

First Exam . . . . 125 point                          Second Exam . . . . . 135 points                          Third (Final) Exam . . . 125 points

**Exam Subtotal . . . . . 385 points                          Readings Subtotal . . . 555 points                          Map Quiz Subtotal . . . 60 points**

**Grand Total . . . . . 1000 points**

**3) Other Grading Policies,** While attendance and participation are not part of your final grade, students who demonstrate a commitment to the course through regular attendance and participation may have their grades raised in borderline cases, i.e., a high B+ grade could be changed to an A- if a student was consistent in their attendance and participation.

*“Better to be slapped with the truth than kissed with a lie.”* - Russian Proverb

*“In Russia there are no roads, only directions.”* - Napoleon Bonaparte

*“They're professionals at this in Russia, so no matter how many Jell-O shots or Jager shooters you might have downed at college mixers, no matter how good a drinker you might think you are, don't forget that the Russians - any Russian – can drink you under the table.”* - Anthony Bourdain, A Cook's Tour: Adventures in Extreme Cuisines

## V. Other Policies:

- 1) **Attendance**, Since students have voluntarily enrolled in this course (that is, you have a desire to learn something about Russian civilization, for whatever the reason) regular attendance is thus assumed. If there are potential difficulties in attending this course, please talk to the instructor at the beginning of the quarter. Although there is no penalty for low attendance, a high absentee rates often have a direct correlation to low grades. It is the student's responsibility to keep pace with this course. This is best done through regular attendance. The instructor may withdraw students who miss "two consecutive class sessions" without contacting the instructor (YVC catalog). If you do miss a class, consult with your fellow students for copies of lecture notes or any other information. Since this is not a correspondence course, any possible problems need to be dealt with early.
- 2) **Communication**, If you cannot attend class on a regular lecture day, you need not inform the instructor. However, if you will not be able to attend class on an exam day, contact the instructor as soon as possible (either in person or via email).
- 3) **Outside Help**, If you are having trouble with this course, please seek the instructor's help as soon as possible; new study methods, tutoring center, and the writing center may be available.
- 4) **Courtesy**, As adults, the instructor expects you to exhibit courteous behavior. Please refrain from chattering during lectures, serial nose-picking, eating and drinking in class, sleeping, reading, listening to music, doing homework from another course or any other disruptive behavior.
- 5) **Electronic devices**, There will be no electronic devices used during class time. This includes cellular phones, text messaging, music devices (iPods, etc.), laptops and any other electrical device not expressly permitted by the instructor. Students using any such devices during class time will be asked to leave. This prohibition is especially important for a class that is sent to a remote site; signals in personal electronic devices can interfere with the signal being sent to outside site.
- 6) **Enrollment**, Students need to take care of all enrollment issues on their own. If you have decided not to attend, drop the course **prior to Jan. 16** (without a "W") or **Feb. 16** (with a "W"), otherwise you will receive an "F" as your final grade. V withdrawals or incomplete are only given for **serious** and **compelling** reasons. V drops **are not given** because a student forgot to drop the course or suddenly realized they were failing and past the drop date. In addition, a student's grade must be a **C- or higher** at the time of last attendance. To verify serious and compelling absences, all such excuses must have documentation.
- 7) **Handouts and Returned Papers**, Due to the volume of student work and the need to give each student project adequate grading time, many projects will not be returned for a number of days. When projects are graded, they will be returned during class time. If class was missed on a day when either supplementary work (handouts) or graded assignments were returned, it is the student's responsibility to go to the instructor's office for the missed documents.
- 8) **Cheating and Plagiarism**, Cheating or plagiarism will result in a complete loss of points for that assignment and the possible dropping from the course with an "F" grade. For help on plagiarism see separate handout on the subject.

**Cheating and Plagiarism, Student Rights and Responsibilities:** The YVC student handbook states that the following is a violation of college rules: Buying or copying, or borrowing or otherwise plagiarizing another's images, ideas, evidence, examples, opinions, or other original products or documents from published, unpublished, or electronic sources for the purpose of deceiving an instructor as to the product's origination. If the student is found plagiarizing or is otherwise being academically dishonest, he/she may receive immediate failure and disciplinary action may be taken in accordance with the code procedures. The YVC catalog reviews your rights and responsibilities as a student. It also defines various violations (cheating, plagiarizing, etc.) and outlines disciplinary actions.

**9) Recording Lectures,** Learning is an active mental process. Using a recording device to collect and store lectures short-circuits the learning process. Unless permitted by Disabled Student Services, recording of lectures will not be allowed.

**10) ADA Statement,** If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the buildings must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible. For additional aid, contact Disability Support Services (DSS), located on the first-floor of the Deccio Building, 574-4730.

**11) Tardiness,** If you are arriving late, please show some courtesy by entering the class and taking your seat as quietly as possible. Likewise, if you need to leave early, sit near the exit and quietly depart. In short, avoid parade entrances/exits.

**Note: If there are any students who think they need special accommodations, please see the instructor within the first week of this course. The contents of this syllabus and the course outline are subject to modification. It is the student's responsibility to remain aware of any announced changes.**

## **VI. Tentative Schedule:**

### **Week #1 (2 January—5 January):**

**Friday, 5 January, *The Tale of the Campaign of Igor* Quiz.**

**Friday, 5 January, *The Tale of the Campaign of Igor* Seminar.**

**Friday, 5 January, *The Tale of the Campaign of Igor* Worksheet due.**

Course mechanics, Bushkovitch: Chapter 1—4; start and complete *The Tale of the Campaign of Igor*, begin *The Cavalry Maiden*

### **Week #2 (8 January—12 January):**

**Monday, 8 January, Russian Realm map quiz**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 1—5; continue *The Cavalry Maiden*.

### **Week #3 (15 January—19 January):**

**Monday, 15 January, no class.**

**Friday, 19 January, *The Cavalry Maiden* quiz**

**Friday, 19 January, *The Cavalry Maiden* Seminar.**

**Friday, 19 January, *The Cavalry Maiden* Worksheet due.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 5—8; complete *The Cavalry Maiden*, start *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*.

### **Week #4 (22 January—26 January):**

**Tuesday, 23 January, First Exam.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 5—8; continue *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*.

### **Week #5 (29 January—2 February):**

**2 February, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* Quiz.**

**2 February, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* Seminar.**

**2 February, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* Worksheet due.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 8—11; complete *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*, start *Notes From Underground*.

### **Week #6 (5 February—9 February):**

**Friday, 9 February, Central Asia Region map quiz**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 12—15; continue *Village Life in Late Tsarist*.

“*The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.*”

Dostoevsky, Fyodor

**Week #7 (12 February—16 February):**

**Tuesday, 13 February, Advising Day, no day classes. Spend day consulting with your advisor.**

**Wednesday, 14 February, Midterm Exam.**

**Friday, 16 February, Notes From Underground quiz**

**Friday, 16 February, Notes From Underground Seminar.**

**Friday, 16 February, Notes From Underground Worksheet due.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 14—16; complete *Village Life in Late Tsarist*, begin *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

**Week #8 (19 February—23 February):**

**Monday, 19 February, Presidents' Day, College Closed.**

**Friday, 23 February, Caucasus Region map quiz**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 16—19, continue *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

**Week #9 (26 February—2 March):**

**Monday, 26 February, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich Quiz.**

**Monday, 26 February, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich Seminar.**

**Monday, 26 February, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich Worksheet due.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 19—20; complete *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, begin *Voices from Chernobyl*.

**Week #10 (5 March—9 March):**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 21—23 and Epilogue, continue *Voices from Chernobyl*.

**Week #11 (12 March—13 March):**

**Monday, 12 March, Voices from Chernobyl Quiz.**

**Monday, 12 March, Voices from Chernobyl Seminar.**

**Monday, 12 March, Voices from Chernobyl Worksheet due.**

Bushkovitch: Chapter 21—23 and Epilogue, complete *Voices from Chernobyl*.

**Final Exam: Wednesday, Mar. 14, 10:00—11:50 am.**

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*“All we can know is that we know nothing. And that's the height of human wisdom.”*

- Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*

*“We must execute not only the guilty.*

*Execution of the innocent will impress the masses even more.”*

- Nikolai Krylenko, Commissar for justice

*“The history of Russia is the history of a country which colonizes itself.”* - Vasily Kliuchevskii

*“I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia.*

*It is a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma;*

*but perhaps there is a key. That key is Russian national interest.”*

- Winston Churchill

*“I am especially distrustful of a Russian when he gets power*

*into his hands. Not long ago a slave, he becomes the most unbridled*

*despot as soon as he has the chance to become his neighbor's master.”* - Maxim Gorky

*“Russia! Russia . . . Everything in you is open, desolate and level; your squat towns*

*barely protrude in the midst of the plains like dots, like counters; there is nothing to tempt*

*or enchant the onlooker's gaze. But what is this inscrutable, mysterious force that draws me to you?”*

- Nikolai Gogol

## **An Open Letter to My Students**

adapted from Joyce C. Bremer's  
"An Open Letter to My Students"

Attending college is analogous to being employed. Success on the job is achieved only through hard work and effort. This is true of college.

Your employer expects you to be on the job every day, to be on time, and prepared to work each day. You are allowed only a specific number of sick days each year after which your pay is docked. This is also true of a history class. Regular and prompt attendance is essential and excessive absences will result in a loss of pay (your grade).

Meetings are an essential part of the workplace and everyone is expected to attend regularly and contribute to the discussion. If you miss an excessive number of meetings and/or do not share vital information your employment is in jeopardy. The same holds true for this class. You are not only expected to attend all of our meetings, but you are expected to contribute to our discussions and analysis of issues. This requires that you come to each class prepared to discuss the assigned material. Failure to do so will put your success in jeopardy and can result in a reduction in your salary (grade).

Your employer requires you to submit all reports on time. Failure to do so will endanger your employer's business and your success. The same is true for this class. All 'reports' (tests, quizzes, papers) are due at the scheduled time (see syllabus). If, for a justified reason, you are unable to meet the time schedule, you must notify your instructor, just as you would contact your employer if you needed an extension. However, as in the workplace, such extensions do not come without a price. Extensions result in a decrease in your salary (grade).

Performance reviews occur periodically in the workplace, and your employer determines the degree of your success. Such is the case in this class. Performance reviews are given in the form of quizzes or exams. These reviews require you to show your knowledge of the course material. Your pay (grade) depends upon the magnitude of your performance.

If you attend class regularly, participate in course discussions, and submit all material in a timely fashion, you have the potential to excel in this course. I look forward to working with you. Welcome and best of luck.

Mr. Walker