

Course syllabus developed with funding from:

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Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia worksheet. Translated by David L. Ransel and Michael Levine. Read *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* (in its entirety), pp. 1—169. Address each of the following questions and bring to class for a discussion on _____. Support your answers with passages and page numbers.

Worksheet Rubric (do not mark, project begins at the bottom of this page)

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Answered all questions: (50 points possible)	_____	_____

(If yes, move to question #3)

1a. Number of questions skipped (worth 0.85 points each) _____

1b. Number of skipped pages. (worth 4 points each) _____

1c. Value of skipped question: _____

1d. Value of each skipped page: _____

2. Worksheet Score _____ **/50**

(Value of skipped questions and pages subtracted from total value) _____

	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
3. All questions answered with <u>evidence</u> or an <u>extensive</u> response (Up to 10 points extra).	_____	_____ Stop. No extra credit

3a. Additional Worksheet Score
 Questions answered with evidence (up to 5 extra points) _____

3a. Additional Worksheet Score
 Questions answered with extensive responses (up to 5 extra points) _____

4. Total Worksheet Score _____ **/50**

BEGIN HERE

1. What is brideprice?

2. What is a sarafan?

3. What do you find interesting about Russian peasant marriages?

4. What does the infant mortality rate of a Russian village indicate?

5. What is the value of children?

6. What are the birthing aids a Russian woman can expect when in labor?

7. From changes in marriage to maternity leave, what progress has occurred since the “period of serfdom” (pp. 18) to “nowadays” (pp.3)?

8. What behavior is behind the phrases “nuzzling the bottle” and “the stray dog has gorged himself again” and “to wise up a wife”?

9. What was the diet, health, and general behavior and care expectations for a peasant child?

10. Why do children lie?

11. How do children develop religious beliefs and the concept of freethinking?

12. How do peasants regard animals?

13. For “Ivan” what is the value of education?

14. As a teenager, what was the purpose of summer street gatherings/evening parties?

15. Folk music (unlike popular music) is often of unknown origins and conveys aspects immediate aspects of life. What does the “dance tune played at street parties” convey?

16. What does Semyonova say about prostitution and rape?

17. What does Semyonova say about pilgrimages, abortion, and infanticide?

18. What are the three reasons Semyonova sees for relaxed morals?

19. What does Semyonova say about women sinning for free, and wayward women?

20. What are the values of a wife to a man and what qualities does the man look for?

21. How does a woman's appearance play into selecting a bride?

22. What are the age dynamics of a Russian peasant marriage?

23. Consider Semyonova's descriptions of actual marriages, such as that of Zinaida, what are the general characteristics of these marriages?

24. Explain the phrases "the wine was drunk," "anyone need a stone post?" and "perhaps she is lame?"

25. What is "the scream"?

26. What is the attitude behind the folk songs sung to the new bride?

27. What is the significance of undoing the bride's braided hair and combing out her locks?

28. On the way to the church, what happens to the wedding procession?

29. Explain the first night together for peasant newlyweds.

30. How are non-virginal wives treated?

31. How does a woman charm a man into making love to her?

32. Why are copper coins left on a newlywed woman's floor?

33. Semyonova mentions a number of superstitions concerning marriage, which collectively are associated with liminality (from the Latin word *līmen*, meaning "a threshold"). What does this mean?

34. What are Ivan's sexual demands on his wife and what are the restraints on those demands?

35. What is *snokhachestvo*?

36. Why practice infanticide and what is its punishment?

37. How do men react to infanticide?

38. How do lullabies support Semyonova's writing on infanticide?

39. How do peasants differ with their laughter?

40. What is a Kulak?

41. Who are involved with begging?

42. What is happening when “able-bodied men [were] making merry”?

43. What role does vodka play in the peasants’ life?

44. What is a peasants’ meal and how is it different from a stereotypical American meal?

45. Illness was a “frequent visitor in peasant homes.” In Semyonova’s description, what behaviors might contribute to illness within the village?

46. How are peasant stoves a health hazard?

47. What is a woman's trunk and what does its defilement symbolize?

48. How is money divided within the household?

49. What is bread's role in a peasant household?

50. What is a flayer?

51. What are the peasant views on the Tsar, the priest, and witchcraft?

52. What are the peasant's religious views?

53. What is the attraction of Moscow?

54. How do peasants handle money and work?

55. How do peasants regard landlords and wealthy merchants?

56. How do peasants view theft?

57. How do peasants view the long-term prospect of land ownership?

58. Why are peasants poor?

59. What is the process of corruption?

60. What happens when socialism comes to the village?