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HUM 201-07, Search : Literature track, Fall 2006

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Search 201: Literature Track
Section 7
Fall Semester 2006
MWF 2:00-2:50
Clough Hall 300

Instructor: Dr. Charles Arndt
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Office Hours: MW 3:00-4:00

Course Description :

This unique course has several objectives. First of all, we will gain an understanding of the Russian Orthodox tradition and Russian culture up until the end of the eighteenth century. Concurrent with this, we will examine some of the most seminal works in Western religious thought from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. The dual tracks of our study will provide many opportunities to compare and contrast.

Another important aim of this course is to develop writing skills. Through essay assignments, peer and instructor review of these essays, and their subsequent revision (see syllabus below), students will improve their ability to write clear, convincing, and interesting papers.

Required Texts:

Coursepack for Humanities 201-07
St. John Chrysostum *On Wealth and Poverty*
Zenkovsky *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles & Tales*
Fedotov, G. P. *The Way of a Pilgrim and Other Classics of Russian Spirituality*
Dante *Portable Dante*
Catherine the Great *Two Comedies*
Galileo Galilei *Sidereus Nuncius*
Soloukhin *A Time to Gather Stones*

I will email you (or you can access yourself) all remaining texts from the Search Public File

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

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|---|-----|
| 1. Class participation | 25% |
| 2. Three Essays ¹ (7-10 pages in length) | 50% |
| 3. Quizzes | 25% |

Class participation is vital to this course. Each student should be able to make informed comments about the assigned reading. I will take attendance every class. Mid-way through each month I will talk with each student about his/her class participation.

Three absences will cause your grade to drop. If you cannot make it to class for some reason I need to be notified at least two days in advance (you will need to have a good reason). **If you miss a class, make sure you check with a classmate to get both notes and confirm the next assignment (changes will be made to the syllabus as needed).** I do not provide lecture notes to students who miss class. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to catch up on what you missed from someone in the class.

Arriving to class late (no matter how late) three times will equal one absence.

All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned. Extensions will not be granted unless approved in advance (at least a week before the assignment is due) and under very extenuating circumstances. There are no make-up essays or quizzes but, as you can see, there will be plenty of “evaluative opportunities.”

All work for this class must be done in compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

Three essays on topics you choose are required in this course. As you will notice in the schedule, for each essay there is an initial and final submission. If you take the advice given after the initial submission, you will probably do fine on the final submission. If, however, you ignore the advice on the initial submission and try to write the final essay at the last minute, you will probably not do very well. The final grade on each essay will be an average of the grades of each submission. Students will also give a 20-minute in-class presentation of their final essay. The grade on the final essay will be an average of the initial submission, presentation, and final submission.

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced, but will always deal with very recent readings or issues we discussed in class.

¹ This includes initial and final submissions.

- Wed., Aug 23 Getting Acquainted/Administrative Details
Introduction to Themes of Course/Establishing Continuity with Humanities 102
Short History of the Russian Orthodox Church
Early Fathers: St. John Chrysostum
- Fri., Aug. 25 *Important Questions of this Life and Beyond*
St. John Chrysostum, On Wealth and Poverty, 7-18, 19-55
- Mon., Aug 28 St. John Chrysostum, On Wealth and Poverty, 57-96
- Wed., Aug. 30 St. John Chrysostum, On Wealth and Poverty, 97-140
- Fri., Sep. 1 The Long Rules of St. Basil the Great, (Coursepack) 9-13, 223 - 274
- Mon., Sep. 4 Labor Day – no class
- Wed., Sept. 6 *Medieval Scholasticism*
St. Thomas Aquinas “Proofs for the Existence of God” and “Of God and His Creatures (On the Truth of the Catholic Faith) (Public file)

Similarities and Differences in Eastern and Western Christianity:
Vladimir Lossky “The Mystical Theology of the Eastern Church” (Introduction) (Coursepack)
- Fri., Sept. 8 *The Beginning of Christianity in Russia and the Beginning of Russian Literature*
“The Primary Chronicle”
Introduction
Prolegomenon
“Vladimir Christianizes Russia” (all in Zenkovsky)
- Mon., Sept. 11 “The Martyrdom of Boris and Gleb” (Zenkovsky)
In class: Viewing of excerpt from film *Andrei Rublev*

- Wed., Sept. 13 *Lives of Saints and Monks.* (think about paper topic)
Nestor “Life of St. Theodosius” (Fedotov)
- Fri., Sept. 15 Thomas of Celano: “First and Second of Lives of St. Francis”
(Public file)
Epiphanius the Wise: “The Life, Acts and Miracles of Our Revered
and Holy Father Abbot Sergius” (Fedotov)
- Mon., Sept. 18 **Deadline for Submission of First Paper Topic**
Discussion of Paper Topics
Apocrypha: “Descent of the Virgin [Mother of God] into Hell”
(Zenkovsky)
- Wed., Sept. 20 Dante: Inferno 1-67 (to Canto XIII)
- Fri., Sept. 22 Dante: Inferno 67-122 (to Canto XXIII)
- Mon., Sept. 25 **Initial Submission of First Paper**
Dante: Inferno 122-191 (to the end)
- Wed., Sept. 27 Dante: Conclusion
In class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
- Fri., Sept. 29 Petrarch: Sonnets (from Canzoniere) (Coursepack) 2-17
- Mon., Oct. 2 Petrarch: Sonnets (from Canzoniere) (Coursepack) 18-35
- Wed., Oct. 4 The Lay of Igor’s Campaign (Zenkovsky) 15-18, 167-190
- Fr., Oct. 6 **Final Submission of First Paper**
Zadonshchina (Zenkovsky) 211-223

- Mon., Oct. 9 In Class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
The Schism in the Russian Orthodox Church/Hesychasm
Excerpt from St. Nilus (contemplative prayer) (Fedotov)
- Wed., Oct. 11 In Class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
A New Realpolitik
Machiavelli: The Prince (Public file)
“Correspondence between Prince Kurbsky and Ivan IV (the
Terrible)” (Zenkovsky)
- Fri., Oct. 13 In class: Excerpt from Film “Ivan the Terrible” by Sergei
Eisenstein (discussion following excerpt)
- Mon., Oct. 16 **Fall Break – Grades Due**
- Wed., Oct. 18 *A Division in the Western Church-The Protestant Reformation*
Martin Luther: “The 95 Theses” (Public file)
John Calvin: “A Summary of the Christian Life: Of Self Denial”
(Public file)
- Fri., Oct. 20 **Deadline for Submission of Second Paper Topic**
Galileo: Sidereus Nuncius
- Mon., Oct. 23 Kant: “What is Enlightenment?” (Public file)
- Weds., Oct. 25 *The Enlightenment in Russia/The Beginnings of Secular Literature*
Catherine the Great: “Oh These Times” “The Siberian Shaman”
- Fri., Oct. 27 **Initial Submission of Second Paper**
Nicolai Karamzin: “Poor Liza” (Coursepack)
- Mon., Oct, 30 *Juxtapositions of the Old Spirituality and the New Secularism.*
Gavrila Derzhavin: “Ode to God” (Coursepack)
Gavrila Derzhavin: “Felitsa” (Coursepack)
- Weds., Nov. 1 In Class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
Do we need to preserve the past?

Soloukhin: “A Visit to Zvanka” from A Time to Gather Stones

- Fri., Nov. 3 In Class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
The Optina Monastery
Soloukhin “A Time to Gather Stones”
Excerpts from “The Way of the Pilgrim” (Fedotov)
- Mon., Nov. 6 *The Rebirth of Russian Monasticism Paisy Velichkovsky*
“Conversation of St. Seraphim with Nicolas Motovilov” (Fedotov)
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostum (Handout)
- Weds., Nov. 8 **Final Submission of Second Paper**
Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostum (Handout)
- Fri., Nov. 10 Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostum (Handout)
- Sun.,** Nov. 12 **Visit to St. Seraphim Russian Orthodox Church**
- Mon., Nov. 13 Aleksei Khomiakov: “On the Western Confessions of Faith”
(Coursepack)
- Weds., Nov. 15 **Deadline for Final Paper/Presentation Topics**
Discussion of Final Presentations Topics
Discussion of Service
- Wed., Nov. 17 Vladimir Solovyov “On the Death Penalty” (Coursepack)
- Fri., Nov. 20 Vladimir Solovyov “The Meaning of Love” (Coursepack)
- Thanksgiving Recess**
- Mon., Nov. 27 Discussion of Final Papers
The Situation in Russia Today: Reactions to Soloukhin

Weds., Nov. 29 Discussion of Final Papers
Possible Viewing of Excerpt from film *Andrei Rublev*

Fri., Dec. 1 Presentations of Final Papers

Mon., Dec. 4 Presentations of Final Papers

Wed., Dec. 6 Presentations of Final Papers

Final Papers: Written version due by Weds., Dec. 13