

**Cities and Civilizations: An Introduction to Eurasian Studies**  
**HIS/SLAV W3224**

Instructors: Catharine Nepomnyashchy and Mark von Hagen  
Tues, Thurs 4:10-5:25  
717 Hamilton Hall

**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, and participation in discussions online and in sections
- 40% one synthetic research project (10-12 pages each in length), possibly involving multiple media
- 30% final exam

**Required texts:** The books listed below have been ordered into Labyrinth Books (536 West 112 St., between Broadway and Amsterdam). Whether you buy or borrow, please use the editions of the books listed below. A course pack containing other required readings (marked with asterisks in the list below) is available for purchase at Copy Quick (119 St. and Amsterdam).

- Andreas Kappeler, *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* (Longman, 2001)
- Michael Hamm, ed., *The City in Late Imperial Russia* (Indiana University Press, 1986)
- Anna Reid, *Borderland: A Journey Through the History of Ukraine* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1997)
- Serge A. Zenkovsky, *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales* (revised and enlarged edition, Meridian)
- Daniel Brower and Edward Lazzarini, eds., *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and People, 1700-1917* (Indiana University Press, 1997)
- Alexander Pushkin, *The Captain's Daughter and Other Stories*
- Svetlana Boym, *The Future of Nostalgia* (Basic)

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Vintage)  
John Scott, *Beyond the Urals* (Indiana University Press)  
Sholom Aleichem, *The Letters of Menachem Mendl* (Yale University Press)  
Mikhail Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita* (Vintage)

**Film:** A film series entitled “The Eurasian City on Film” will air weekly at the Harriman Institute in conjunction with this course. Students will be expected to attend and write brief reviews on at least six of the films in the course of the semester.

### **Course Outline:**

**Jan. 21 Introduction**

**Jan. 23 What is a city?**

- \*Kingsley Davis, “The Urbanization of the Human Population”
- \*Lewis Mumford, “What is a City?”
- \*Lewis Mumford, “Introduction,” *The Culture of Cities*.
- \*Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”

**Jan. 28 What is Eurasia?**

- \*Marc Bassin, “Asia”
- \*Kappeler, “Introduction”
- \*Alfred Rieber, “Persistent Factors in Russian Foreign Policy: An Interpretive Essay”

**Jan. 30 Cities and Eurasian Civilization**

- Hamm, “Introduction,” *The City in Late Imperial Russia*
- \*J.H. Bater, “Introduction” (*Rus in Urbe*)
- \*William L. Blackwell, “Modernization and Urbanization in Russia: A Comparative View”

### **Unit One. Kiev/Kyiv: Crossroad of Civilizations**

**Feb. 4 Kiev Today**

- Reid, “The New Jerusalem: Kiev” and “Europe or Little Russia? Ukraina”
- \*Blair Ruble and Nancy Popson, “Kyiv's Nontraditional Immigrants,” *Post-Soviet Geography and Economics*, v. 41, n. 5, pp. 365-378;
- Hamm, “Continuity and Change in Late Imperial Kiev,” *The City in Late Imperial Russia*

**Feb. 6 Guest Lecturer: Svitlana Svich, TBA**

- \*Michel de Certeau, “Walking in the City,” *The Practice of Everyday Life*.
- \*Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City* (selection)

**Feb. 11 Origins and Myths**

\*Mircea Eliade, *Myth of the Eternal Return* (selection)  
Kappeler, "The Medieval Background"  
Zenkovsky, "Stories from the Primary Chronicle," *The Lay of Igor's Campaign* (pp. 43-76, 101-133, 167-190)  
Titus D. Hewryk, *The Lost Architecture of Kiev* (exhibition catalogue, Ukrainian Museum, 1982) (<http://www.kiev.ua/oldkiev/>)  
**Opera:** Prince Igor

### **Feb. 13 Ukraine Between East and West**

Kappeler, "Westward Expansion"  
Reid, "Poles and Cossacks: Kamyanskyi Podilskyi" and "The Books of Genesis: Lviv"  
\* "The Union of Brest (1590s)" in Russel P. Morozuk, *Politics of a Church Union* (Chicago 1983), pp. 17-21.  
\* "The Agreement of Pereiaslav" in John Basarab, *Pereiaslav 1654: A Historiographical Study* (Edmonton 1982), pp. 230-236.  
\* "Magdeburg Law" (article from Ukrainian Encyclopedia).  
Mykhailo Hrushevsky, "The Traditional Scheme of 'Russian' History and the Problem of a Rational Ordering of the History of the Slavs;" *From Kievan Rus' to Modern Ukraine: Formation of the Ukrainian Nation* (Cambridge, Ma., 1984), pp. 355-364;  
\* Mykola Kostomarov, "Two Russian Nationalities" (1861)

## **Unit 2. Kazan': Clash of Civilizations?**

### **Feb. 18 Kazan and Islam today**

\* Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," *Foreign Affairs* (Summer 1993)  
Reid, "The Wart on Russia's Nose: Crimea"  
\* Edward Said, *Orientalism*  
Susan Layton, "Nineteenth Century Russian Mythologies of Caucasian Savagery," in *Russia's Orient*  
Current situation, readings TBA

### **Feb. 20 The Mongols and the Rise of Muscovy**

Kappeler, "The Gathering of the Lands of the Golden Horde"  
Zenkovsky, "Military Tales" (pp. 193-223)  
\* Edward Keenan, "Muscovy and Kazan: Some Introductory Remarks on the Patterns of Steppe Diplomacy," *Slavic Review* 26 (1967): 548-58.  
Michael Khodarkovsky, "Ignoble Savages and Unfaithful Subjects: Constructing Non-Christian Identities in Early Modern Russia" in *Russia's Orient*.  
\* George Vernadsky, "Introduction," *A History of Russia* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1949).  
\* Filofei, Moscow as Third Rome

### **Feb. 25 Empire and Islam**

Pushkin, *The Captain's Daughter*  
Kappeler, "Colonial Expansion in Asia in the Nineteenth Century," *The Russian Empire*.

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

Jo-Ann Gross, "Historical Memory, Cultural Identity, and Change: Mirza Abd Al-Aziz Sami's Representation of the Russian Conquest of Bukhara," in *Russia's Orient*

\*Taras Shevchenko, *Kavkaz*

### **Feb. 27 Muslim Cities**

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*

Adeeb Khalid, "Representations of Russia in Central Asian Jadid Discourse," in *Russia's Orient*.

\*Azade-Ayse Rorlich, "'The Temptation of the West': Two Tatar Travellers' Encounters with Europe at the End of the Nineteenth Century," *Central Asian Survey* 4, no. 3 (1985): 39-58.

## **Unit 3. St. Petersburg/Petrograd/ Leningrad**

### **March 4 Petersburg Today: The Tricentennial**

\*Blair Ruble, *Leningrad* (selection)

Boym, "St. Petersburg, the Cosmopolitan Province"

### **March 6 Imperial Petersburg**

Kappeler, "The Pre-Modern Russian Multi-ethnic Empire"

Yury Slezkine, "Naturalists versus Nations: Eighteenth-Century Russian Scholars Confront Ethnic Diversity," in *Russia's Orient*

\*Alexander Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman* and *The Blackamoor of Peter the Great* (selection)

### **March 11 Literary Petersburg**

\*Burton Pike, "The City as Image"

\*Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin* (book one)

\*Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat"

**Opera:** *Queen of Spades*

### **March 13 Late Imperial Petersburg**

\*Walter Benjamin, "Paris, Capital of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century," *Reflections*

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

Kappeler, Chapter 8 (The Late Tsarist Multi-Ethnic Empire between Modernization and Tradition," *The Russian Empire*;

\*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*

**Ballet:** *Sleeping Beauty*

## Spring Break March 15-23

### March 25 Dostoevsky's Petersburg

Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*

### March 27 Petrograd/Leningrad

Daniel R. Brower, "Urban Revolution in the Late Russian Empire," in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*, 319-54.

\*Andrei Bely, *Petersburg*, prologue and chapter one

\*Alexander Blok, "The Scythians" and *The Twelve*

\*Blair Ruble, *Leningrad* (selections);

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

## Unit 4. Odesa/Odessa: Jews in the Empire

### April 1 Odessa today

Reid, "The Russia Sea: Donetsk and Odessa," "A Meaningless Fragment: Chernivtsi," and "The Vanished Nation: Ivano-Frankivsk"

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

### April 3 Jews in Russia

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

Kappeler, "The National Challenge," "The Reaction of the State: Policy on Nationalities, 1831-1904," "The Nationalities Question and the Revolution."

\*Steven J. Zipperstein, *The Jews of Odessa: A Cultural History, 1794-1881* (selection).

\*Hans Rogger, "The Beilis Case: Antisemitism and Politics in the Reign of Nicholas II," in *Jewish Policies and Right-wing Politics in Imperial Russia*, pp. 40-55.

### April 8 Sholom Aleichem's Odessa

Sholem Aleichem, *The letters of Menakhem-Mendl and Sheyne-Sheyndl* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002)

### April 10 Babel's Odessa

\*Isaak Babel, *Odessa Tales*

## Unit 5. Moscow and the Modern/Soviet City

### April 15 Moscow Today

Boym, "Moscow, the Russian Rome"

\*Timothy Colton, *Moscow* (Introductions and selections)

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

**April 17 Building the Socialist City**

Joseph Bradley, "Moscow: From Big Village to Late Imperial Metropolis" in *The City in Late Imperial Russia*, 9-43.

\*Michel Foucault, "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias;"

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

\*Walter Benjamin, *Moscow 1927*

\*Slava Papernyi, *Kultura II* (selection)

\*Mikhail Bulgakov, "Housing crisis in 1920s," in *Notes on the cuff and other stories* (Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1991);

**April 22 Stalin's and Bulgakov's Moscow**

Mikhail Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita*

**April 24 Magnitogorsk**

John Scott, *Behind the Urals*

Reid, "The Great Hunger: Matussiv and Lukovytsyia" and "The Empire Explodes: Chernobyl"

**Unit 6. Brighton Beach: City, Empire, Diaspora**

**April 29 City and Diaspora**

\*George Steiner, "The City Under Attack"

\*Marc Raeff, *Russia Abroad* (Introduction, Ch. 1)

Svetlana Boym, "Exiles and Imagined Homelands"

\*Homi Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse"  
*October*, 28 (Spring 1984): 125-33;

\*Joseph Brodsky, "Flight from Byzantium," *Less Than One*

\*Saskia Sassen, "A New Geography of Centers and Margins: Summary and Implications"

**May 1 Brighton Beach Today**

## **The Eurasian City on Film**

Zhelyabuzhsky, *The Cigarette Girl of Mosselprom*, 1924 (Moscow)

Pudovkin, *The End of St. Petersburg*

Eisenstein, *Battleship Potemkin*, 1925 (Odessa)

Eisenstein, *October*, 1927 (Odessa)

Vertov, *Man with a Movie Camera*, 1928 (Moscow, Kiev, etc.)

Dovzhenko, *Arsenal*, 1928 (Kiev)

*The Overcoat* (St. Petersburg)

Heifitz, *The Lade with the Dog*, 1959 (Yalta, Saratov, Moscow)

Kalatozov, *The Cranes Are Flying*, 1957 (Moscow)

Paradzhanov, *Ashik Kerib*, 1988 (Tbilisi)

Menshov, *Moscow Doesn't Believe in Tears* (1979)

Mamin, *Window to Paris*, 1995 (St. Petersburg)

Krishtofovich, *A Friend of the Deceased*, 1998 (Kiev)

Balabanov, *Brother*, 1997 (St. Petersburg)