

## SYLLABUS

### SLAV168: RUSSIAN THOUGHT AND PHILOSOPHY

**SPRING 2004**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The class analyses texts by pivotal scientists and philosophers from Russia. The goal of the class is to explore the various intersections between the history of philosophy and the history of science in the context of Russian cultural history.

#### **LECTURES**

The primary material for which you are responsible in this course is presented in lecture and through the assigned readings (see below). All lectures are based on the assigned readings, but they do not repeat these readings. It is therefore essential not to miss class, not to arrive late, and to stay until the end of the class.

**Please note that three absences or more will definitely affect your grade.**

#### **READINGS**

Readings are assigned for each lecture. The readings are drawn from the Reader or from books you can purchase at the UCSB bookstore (see below, if applicable). The readings are necessary background for the lectures and must be completed before you come to class. Remember that I will not always repeat material from the reading in lecture. Our interpretations and discussions are based on a thorough knowledge of the assigned material.

#### **FILM SCREENINGS**

Films may be assigned for this class. These can be viewed about a week in advance of the class during which they are discussed. Please go to the second floor of Kerr Hall to view the assigned films. Alternatively, you may view them at home or elsewhere. Please remember that even if you already know a movie it will be absolutely necessary to see it again. Taking notes while watching a movie can be fun and will deepen your appreciation of the film and the issues it raises.

#### **EXAMINATIONS/IN-CLASS PRESENTATIONS**

Every student is responsible for one in-class **presentation**. These presentations involve the careful reading of a passage from an assigned reading. Up to two students may prepare a presentation together. Presentations will be of a maximum of 7 mins. In length, and they must be accompanied by a typed, photocopied handout summarizing all the major arguments made during the presentation.

The **midterm** exam will cover material presented during the first half of the course. It is possible that the midterm will be takehome. Please refer to the syllabus for the date of the midterm.

The **final** in this class will be a take home exam covering all the materials discussed and presented in class. The takehome final is due on the last day of classes, by 5pm in my mailbox (Phelps Hall, 6<sup>th</sup> floor).

**No makeup exams of any kind will be given.**

### **GRADING**

Your grade will be determined as follows: 30% midterm; 30% attendance and in-class presentation; 40% final paper. Credit will be given for demonstrated improvement in the course. You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

### **TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES**

Our textbook for this course is the **Course Reader**, to be purchased at Graphic Art in Isla Vista (next to police station).

Books may be placed on **reserve** in the Davidson (Main) Library Reserve Room, or at the Arts and Music Library (subject to in-class announcement).

### **INFORMATION**

Lectures: Tuesday and Thursday 12/30-1.45, Phelps 3523

Professor Spieker's Office: Phelps Hall #6218. Voice mail ++ 893.7626 [emergencies only].

Email: spieker@gss.ucsb.edu

Office hours: Tuesday 2-3.

Students with disabilities are welcome to speak with the professor beforehand regarding any desired arrangements for examinations.

## **TAKE-HOME FINALS**

### **WHAT IS CHEATING (PLAGIARISM)?**

The paper must be your own work. If you wish to use the words, or concepts of another person in your paper, then you must provide appropriate attribution. When using another person's written work, place all borrowed language in quotation marks and cite the source. Papers must contain a bibliography listing all sources used/quoted, including internet sites ("Miller, David. Death in Europe. New York: Macmillan Publishers, 1978"). Make sure that you acknowledge all sources used. This is particularly important with regard to internet sources. Do not copy material found on the internet without properly acknowledging your source. Do not use web-based paper writing services and/or download "ready to use" papers. Any such instance will be reported to the university without fail and may have very severe consequences. When paraphrasing another's work, whether it is from a book or from

the world wide web, acknowledge that you are doing so and, again, cite the source.<sup>1</sup> The preceding footnote is an example of how you can acknowledge the use of someone else's work, in this case my paraphrasing of university regulations concerning plagiarism. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, and need help in knowing when and how to quote and/or cite sources, please contact the writing tutors at CLAS.

Late papers will not under any circumstances be accepted.

### **HELP WITH WRITING**

Begin your paper early so that you have as much time as you need to write, re-write, edit, and polish the final text. You can get help with writing your paper at Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) in Building 304 (near the old gym). CLAS is open 9-9 Monday through Thursday, and 10-3 on Fridays. You may drop in, schedule an appointment, or sign up for a workshop. Students who work with CLAS tutors often write better papers!

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<sup>1</sup> These policies for paper-writing are adapted from *The University of California Santa Barbara Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students* (Nov. 1997), chap. VII, Section A, paragr.2: Academic Conduct.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

<b>W</b>	<b>LECTURE</b>	<b>READINGS</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 03/30/04</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 04/01/04</b></p>	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p><b>Mikhail V. Lomonosov, “Oration on the Use of Chemistry”; “Meditations on the Cause of Heat and Cold”</b></p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 04/06/04</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 04/08/04</b></p>	<p><b>Leonhard Euler, from <i>Letters of Euler on Different Subjects...</i></b></p> <p><b>Petr Y. Chaadaev, from his <i>Philosophical Letters</i> [III-IV]; “Apology of a Madman”</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 04/13/04</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 04/15/04</b></p>	<p><b>CATCH-UP CLASS</b></p> <p><b>From Alexander Nikolaevich Radishchev, <i>A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow</i></b></p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 04/20/04</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 04/22/04</b></p>	<p><b>Nikolay F. Fedorov, from <i>The Philosophy of the Common Task</i></b></p> <p><b>V. S. Soloviev, “On the Christian State and Society”; “On the State”</b></p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 04/27/04</b></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 04/29/04</b></p>	<p><b>Nikolai S. Trubetskoi, “The Legacy of Genghis Khan”</b></p> <p><b>Lev Shestov, <i>Thoughts on Religion</i></b></p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 05/04/04</b></p>	<p><b>[IN-CLASS MIDTERMS DUE]</b></p> <p><b>Mikhail Bakunin, “Revolutionary Anarchism”</b></p>

	<b>THURSDAY 05/06/04</b>	<b>Lev Tolstoy, “The Kingdom of God is Within You”</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>TUESDAY 05/11/04</b>  <b>THURSDAY 05/13/04</b>	<b>Pavel Florensky, “The Church Ritual as a Synthesis of the Arts”; “On Realism”; from <i>The Pillar and Ground of the Truth</i></b>  <b>V. M. Bekhterev, from <i>Collective Reflexology</i></b>
<b>8</b>	<b>TUESDAY 05/18/04</b>  <b>THURSDAY 05/20/04</b>	<b>I. P. Pavlov, “Physiology and Psychology...”</b>  <b>L. S. Vygotsky, “”Perception and its Development in Childhood”</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>TUESDAY 05/25/04</b>  <b>THURSDAY 05/27/04</b>	<b>From Trogemann et al., <i>Computing in Russia</i></b>  <b>V. Khlebnikov, “The Radio of the Future”</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>TUESDAY 06/01/04</b>  <b>THURSDAY 06/03/04</b>	<b>CATCH-UP CLASS</b>  <b>TAKE-HOME FINAL DUE</b>

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2. Leonhard Euler, from “Letters of Euler on Different Subjects...” ....
3. Petr Y. Chaardaev, from his Philosophical Letters [III-IV]; “Apology of a Madman” .....
4. From Alexander Nikolaevich Radishchev, A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow ....
5. Nikolay F. Fedorov, from The Philosophy of the Common Task ....
6. V. S. Soloviev, “On the Christian State and Society”; “On the State” ....
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13. I. P. Pavlov, “Physiology and Psychology...” ....
14. L. S. Vygotsky, “”Perception and its Development in Childhood” ....
15. On the History of Computing in Russia ....
16. V. Khlebnikov, “The Radio of the Future” ....

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

[The following texts appear in this bibliography in the order in which they are read in class]

Mikhail V. Lomonosov, "Oration on the Use of Chemistry"; "Meditations on the Cause of Heat and Cold". From: Mikhail Vasil'evich Lomonosov, *On the Corpuscular Theory*. Cambridge/Mass.: Harvard University Press 1970; pp. 99-118; 186-202

Leonhard Euler, from "Letters of Euler on Different Subjects...". From: *Letters of Euler on Different Subjects in Natural Philosophy Addressed to a German Princess*. New York: Harper 1833 [reprint], pp. 269-271; 324-346 [vol. I]; 39-64 [vol. II]

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Lev Shestov, *Thoughts on Religion*. From: *A Shestov Anthology*. Athens/Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1970, pp. 51-69

Mikhail Bakunin, "Revolutionary Anarchism". From: *The Essential Works of Anarchism*. New York: Quadrangle Books, 1972, pp. 123-154

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I. P. Pavlov, "Physiology and Psychology in the Study of the Higher Nervous Activity of Animals" From: I. P. Pavlov, *Experimental Psychology and Other Essays*. New York: Philosophical Library, 1957, pp. 391-408

L. S. Vygotsky, ""Perception and its Development in Childhood"; "Memory and its Development in Childhood". From: *The Collected Works of L. S. Vygotsky*. Vol. 1, New York: Plenum Press 1987, pp. 289-310

Pavel Florensky, "The Church Ritual as a Synthesis of the Arts"; "On Realism"; from *Beyond Vision. Essays on the Perception of Art*. London: Reaktion Books, 2002, pp. 95-111; 179-182

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G. Trogemann et al., *Computing in Russia. The History of Computer Devices and Information Technology Revealed*. Braunschweig: Vieweg 2001, pp. 22-38; 108-124; 222-255

Velimir Khlebnikov, The Radio of the Future. From: Velimir Khlebnikov, *The King of Time*. Cambridge/Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1985, pp. 155-159