

ARTH 303/002

Russian and Ukrainian Art

Spring 2013

Tuesdays/Thursdays, 10:30-11:45

Planetary Hall 212

Dr. Svitlana Shiells

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Course Description:

Deeply rooted millennia-old Russian and Ukrainian art was dramatically shaped by the turbulent history of its land. This course will introduce the main stages in the evolution of Russian and Ukrainian art from ancient times to the twenty first century. We will examine Scythian art, the medieval art of Kievan Rus', the rise of Moscow and its unique culture, and the establishment of a new Russian capital, St. Petersburg, and its role in the creation of national art. This course will also explore the role of major political and cultural figures--like Peter the Great, Leo Tolstoy, and others--in shaping the history of Russian and Ukrainian art. We will analyze the artistic heritage of many modern Russian artists--like Kandinsky, Malevich, Chagall, etc.--and their influence on the development of Western modern art. Discussing twentieth century Soviet art, we will closely investigate how the Stalinist terror destroyed and distorted many lives and artistic movements in the former USSR as well as how the collapse of the Communist regime inspired an unprecedented boom in the arts.

Office Hours:

Tuesday 11:45-12:45

Thursday 11:45-12:45

& by appointment

Grading:

Participation:	10%
Quiz #1	15%
Quiz #2	15%
Paper and presentation	30%
Final exam	30%

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82

C+	77-79
C	70-76
D	60-69
F	59 and lower

Field Trip:

Toward the end of this course, students will visit the National Gallery of Art, East Building. The details of the museum visit will be provided later in the term.

Class Policies:

Attendance is crucial. Most of the materials will be presented and discussed during the lectures. I will take attendance at each class session and reduce a student's grade by half a letter grade for each full week of missed classes.

The quizzes will consist of slide identification questions, short answer questions, and definition of terms. The final exam will be a longer version of the quizzes with a few essay questions.

The paper will be 6-10 double-spaced pages in length. Based on the paper, the students will be expected to make a 15-20 minute presentation.

Make-up tests and extensions will be given only in cases of emergencies or illnesses with proper documentation (doctor's note, etc.). In all other cases (family obligations, religious holidays, disabilities, etc.), extensions may be granted if I am informed in advance.

Academic honesty is expected on all tests and writing, according to the GMU Honor Code. For more information please see <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>. Cheating and plagiarism are strictly forbidden.

Plagiarism can be defined as: presenting as one's own the words, work or opinions of someone else without giving them proper acknowledgment. Plagiarism can also refer to borrowing the sequence of ideas, arrangement of material, or pattern of thought of someone else without giving them proper credit. Plagiarism can be avoided by proper use of footnotes.

Textbooks and Other Materials:

George Hamilton, *The Art and Architecture of Russia*.

Camilla Gray, *The Russian Experience in Art: 1863-1922*.

David Jackson, *The Wanderers and Critical Realism in the Nineteenth-Century Russian Painting*.

Supplemental Reading: Occasional handouts given by the instructor.

Course Outline:

Week 1

Introduction.

Prehistoric Trypillian culture.
The first acquaintance with Asian Nomads.
Reading: Hamilton, 15-20; handouts

Week 2

Scythian art in Ancient Ukraine: the interpenetration of cultures at the edge of Hellenistic world.
Slavic Culture. The rise of Kiev.
Reading: Hamilton, 23-35, 65-73; handouts

Week 3

Medieval art of Kiev Rus' and the dramatic role of the Mongol invasion in its development.
Icon painting. Icon as a window to the world.
Reading: Hamilton, 36-43, 51-64, 97-105, 107-118, 136-140

Week 4

The rise of Moscow. Kremlin and its traditions.
Between East and West: the development of Ukrainian and Russian art in the 14th-17th centuries.
Reading: Hamilton, 185-225

Week 5

St. Petersburg--new capital and new cultural orientations. Western influences.
Baroque art.
Reading: Hamilton, 258-270, 276-286, 289-293

Quiz 1

Week 6

Russian and Ukrainian art in the first half of the 19th century. The search for identity.
Reading: Hamilton, 315-319; 359-372; Jackson, 21-24

Week 7

Russian Realism in the second half of the 19th century.
Reading: Jackson, 24-56

Week 8

The Wanderers. Illia Repin and the scope of his art.
Reading: Jackson, 78-96, 97-118

Week 9

The Wanderers: the taste of freedom.
Reading: Jackson, 119-149

Week 10

Russian and Ukrainian fin de siècle art

Reading: Jackson, 150-165, 167-171; Gray, 9-36

Week 11

Avant-garde art: new dimensions.

Reading: Gray, 37-92

Quiz 2

Week 12

The international stage: Vassily Kandinsky, Mark Chagall, Kasimir Malevich, and others.

Reading: Gray, 93-183

Week 13

Russian revolutionary art: hopes and disappointments.

Reading: Gray, 185-243

Week 14

Socialist art and Stalinist terror.

Reading: Gray, 244-276

Week 15

Soviet Art in the second half of the 20th century.

Contemporary Movements in Russian and Ukrainian art and art theory.

Reading: handouts

Week 16

Final Exam