

21H326

Proposed Paper Topics on Kievan Rus

1. The impact of geography on early Russian history

Please be sure to consult both secondary sources and actual maps of the time.

Possible topics to consider within this topic: 1) geographical features such as mountains, seas, rivers; 2) trade routes and connections with other peoples; 3) the particular peoples inhabiting this region; 4) climate; 5) demographics; 6) the proximity/distance from other major civilizations; 7) the ways in which climate/geography/natural features were treated in Kievan source materials; 8) comparisons to geographical features in another civilization (preferably contemporary).

2. The Normanist controversy

3. The Conversion to Christianity

4. The Chronicles as source materials

5. Byzantium and its influence on early Rus'

6. Social structures and economic developments in Kievan Rus