

History 663/NORS 663
Imperial Russia, 1700-1917

Fall 2011

3 credits

TTh 11:30-1

Gruening 401

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Office Hours: Tu 3:30-5 or by appt.

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This course covers Russian history from the reign of Peter the Great (1682-1725) until the collapse of the Tsarist regime in February 1917. We will examine the political, social, economic, and cultural history of Russia, with a special focus on the problems arising from Russia's complex relationship with Western Europe during this period. The course is divided into 11 internal units, each covering a specific period or topic. Lectures will be mostly thematic, though some narrative will be included where the readings are thin. We will also discuss materials regularly in class.

Course goals and objectives:

This is a graduate course. Students should have graduate standing and be familiar with the basic concepts underpinning the modern historical studies. Students in this course are expected not only to master important names, concepts, and events, but also to place these in the broader context of Russian, European and Northern history, to explain why they are important, their relationship to one another, and the ways in which they shaped the development of Russian society and the state. Students will also learn about important historiographic debates and the implications of using different historical approaches to similar questions. You will also learn how to formulate historical questions.

In addition to specific knowledge of the period, students should develop or refine a number of skills, such as the critical reading of texts, both primary and secondary. Students will learn how to recognize the implications and significance of arguments, how different ideas interact and shape one another, and how different historiographic arguments fit together. They will also develop their skills evaluating the strengths and weakness of different historical approaches, the use of evidence by authors, and the significance of different narrative approaches to history. Students will work on their ability to formulate historical questions, gather evidence, construct an argument, and convey their ideas in oral and written form.

Evaluation: Students' work will be evaluated on a number of criteria, including attendance and participation in class discussions, formal writing assignments, and in-class and take-home quizzes and tests. Each element will be given the following weight in determining your final grade:

Attendance/in-class discussion: 20%

Students are expected to come to class having read and thought about the day's assigned readings, and to participate regularly in class discussion. See attendance policy below.

Map quiz: 5% September 22

mid-term exam: 10% October 22

take home final exam: 15% Due December 18

on-line discussion board. 5% Graduate students are expected to provide written responses to the supplementary graduate readings (these are marked by an asterisk on the syllabus) in a moderated discussion board on Blackboard. Each student will take turns formulating a question about the reading (how it relates to other course materials, what specific insights it provides to Russian history, or similar questions), and the others will respond with entries of at least 200 words. Questions will be due 5 days before the end of the unit—responses are due the last day of the unit.

Article analysis: 15%

Students will read and review a connected series of articles on a topic in Imperial Russian history. Your review should address the major historiographic issues at stake, provide an overview of each author's position, and explore the implications of their different approaches. Length--about 8 pp. Due October 5.

Research Paper: 30% Students will research and write a 20 pp. paper on an approved topic of their choosing. Graduate papers are expected to provide an exhaustive investigation of a relevant topic, to address historiographic issues, and demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of how to construct an historical narrative. The assignment consists of several components:

Topic and preliminary bibliography: due on 9/30

Annotated bibliography:, due on 11/4

Outline/rough draft: due on 11/23

Final draft: due on 12/1

Grades will be determined along the following guidelines:

A—indicates outstanding work, a thorough mastery of the material and a demonstrated ability to apply the ideas and material covered in class in an independent and original manner.

B—indicates an above average understanding of material and an ability to explain important concepts in a clear and cogent manner, to understand how different historical factors interacted.

C—indicates a satisfactory understanding of basic material with some sense of why some factors mattered more than others.

D—indicates a poor or flawed understanding of the material, difficulty in explaining the relative importance of different historical factors.

F—indicates an unsatisfactory performance in the course, an extremely poor understanding of material and/or a failure to meet basic expectations.

Grades are determined using standard rubrics—B+ 88-90; B 83-87; B- 82-80

Course policies:

Attendance and preparation: Students are expected to come to class having read all assigned materials and to be prepared to discuss them. Attendance is mandatory. Students can miss two classes without penalty—this includes classes missed for any reason. Starting with the third missed class, unexcused absences will be penalized at the following rate: first unexcused absence (third absence overall)—2.5% grade reduction; second to fourth unexcused absence—5% grade reduction. After your fifth unexcused absence, you will be dropped from the class.

Absences due to medical issues or serious personal emergencies will be excused if they are documented (a signed note by a physician, for example). This applies only to serious situations.

Please be on time—it is disrespectful both to me and to other students when you come into class late. Multiple instances of tardiness will be counted as an absence—if tardiness becomes a chronic problem, I will ask you not to enter if you are late.

A NOTE ON FLU AND ABSENCES. If you are sick and think you may have the flu, please stay home and notify me when possible by phone or email about your condition. If you do come down with the flu, accommodations will be made to deal with extended absences—please do not come to class when you are ill and possibly contagious.

Academic Honesty:

Students are expected to adhere to the student code of conduct (see Fall 09 Course Catalog, 117). Several issues are of particular concern for this course.

Cheating or dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course, including plagiarism or fabrication. Plagiarism is the appropriation of either specific passages of text or unique ideas from another source without proper attribution. Reusing your own work (without informing the instructor) is also unacceptable. Fabrication is the use of invented materials or the deliberate misrepresentation of materials in your work. Any form of cheating on a course assignment (paper or test) will result in a failing grade for the course and the case will be referred to the appropriate university authorities.

Discussion may sometimes touch on contentious issues. While you are encouraged to express your thoughts and opinions, please remain respectful of your classmates and their views.

Paper submissions, make-ups, and extra credit:

Late papers will only be accepted by prior agreement. You must request permission to submit the paper late before the time it is due—if you do not contact me by this time, the paper will not be accepted. There are no exceptions—please plan accordingly. Late papers will be graded down a full letter grade for each day they are late (i.e., a paper that is one hour late will be dropped one letter grade, one that is 25 hours late by two letter grades).

All papers must be submitted to me in hard copy. In extraordinary cases I will accept an electronic version of a paper as a time stamp, but you need to get an identical hard copy to me as soon as is possible. Further instructions will be included with each paper assignment.

Make-up exams. If an exam or quiz is missed for a legitimate reason (an excused absence), students must make up the test as soon as possible. Make-up exams will not be the same as the originals. Exams missed without an excused absence cannot be made-up.

Extra credit. Just like life, this class does not have extra credit. so don't ask.

Wikipedia—This has become a popular source for information. However, it is not peer-reviewed, and the information and ideas presented on it are often incorrect or unreliable. Wikipedia or other non peer-reviewed on-line sites are not acceptable sources for papers or assignments. It is occasionally useful for very basic information (dates of birth, for example) or as a starting point for an inquiry, but it is not an acceptable source for writing or class assignments.

Necessary accommodations will be made for any students with documented disabilities—if you have any kind of learning disability, please contact Mary Matthews at the Center for Health and Counseling (x7043) to obtain the necessary documentation. Please deal with this as soon as possible—I cannot make retroactive accommodations for assignments that have already been submitted.

In general, if there is something interfering with your work, it is better to contact me about this sooner than later, so we can determine the best way to help you succeed in the course. I encourage you to come speak to me about any potential problems that you may face in the course—I can't help you if I don't know about it.

REQUIRED TEXTS)

Nicholas Riasanovsky, A History of Russia (Oxford University Press). NOTE—this book is currently in its 6th ed. Use of the 4th or 5th editions (available used) is also acceptable.

James Cracraft, ed. Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia (Heath)

Thomas Riha, ed. Readings in Russian Civilization, Vol. II (University of Chicago Press)

Ivan Turgenev, Fathers and Sons (Signet edition preferred, though any is acceptable).

Unit 1 Geography, General Background, and 17th century Russia
Lectures 1-4 (September 1-10)

readings: Riasanovsky: pp. 3-10, all of Part IV
Cracraft: All of Part I

Unit 2 Peter the Great (1682-1725)

Lectures 5-9 (September 13-22)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 20

Cracraft: Ch. 3, essay by Cracraft and all documents;

P. P. Sharifov doc. in Ch. 6.

Riha: "Russia Under Peter the Great" (233-37)

*additional readings on Peter the Great--TBA

MAP QUIZ on 9/22

Unit 3 The Age of Palace Revolutions (1725-1762)

Lectures 10-12 (September 24-29)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 21

Cracraft: Ch. 4 (all), M. V. Lomonosov doc. in Ch. 6

Riha: Lomonosov (238-51)

*article on Enlightenment in Russia (on reserve)

Unit 4 Catherine the Great (1762-1796) and Paul I (1796-1801)

Lectures 13-15 (October 1-8)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 22-24

Cracraft: Ch. 5 (all), and remainder of Ch. 6

Riha: Catherine the Great's "Instructions" (252-55); Legislative Commission of 1767 (256-60);

*Radischev, Journey from Petersburg to Moscow (on-line text)

SHORT PAPER DUE October 8

Unit 5 Alexander I (1801-1825)

Lectures 16-21 (October 11-20)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 25 (except for final section on Decembrists)

Cracraft: Raeff essay and Karamzin doc. in Ch. 7

*Read Pushkin, Bronze Horseman (excerpts on reserve)

MID-TERM EXAM (10/22)

Unit 6 The Decembrists (1825)

Lectures 22-23 (October 25-27)

readings: Riasanovsky: Final section of Ch. 25

Riha: Decembrist docs. (295-302)

Unit 7 Nicholas I (1825-1855)

Lectures 24-26 (October 29-November 3)

readings: Riasanovsky: Chs. 26-28

Cracraft: remainder of Ch. 7; Herzen doc. in Ch. 8

Riha: Chaadaev excerpts (303-14); Belinsky's letter to Gogol (315-20);
Herzen's "Young Moscow" (321-331).

*Excerpts from Martin Malia, Alexander Herzen and the Birth of Russian Socialism (on reserve)

Unit 8 Alexander II (1855-1881) and the Great Reforms

Lectures 27-30 (November 8-15)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 29 (except section on "New Radicalism and
Revolutionary Movement")

Cracraft: remainder of Ch. 8

Riha: Dobroliubov doc. (332-43), Uspenskii doc. (358-67), Aksakov doc.
(378-82); Danilevsky excerpt (383-89)

*Feodor Dostoevsky, speech for Pushkin Centennial (on reserve)

Unit 9 The Radical Intelligentsia

Lectures 31-32 (November 17-19)

readings: Riasanovsky: section on "New Radicalism" from Ch. 29

Riha: Breskhovskaia doc. (344-357); "Killing an Emperor" (368-77)

Ivan Turgenev, Fathers and Sons, all.

Unit 10 Reaction and Unrest under Alexander III (1881-1894) and Nicholas I (through 1905)

Lectures 33-36 (November 22-December 1)

readings: Riasanovsky: Chs. 30; 32-33

Cracraft: Chs. 9-11 (all), Ignatieff and Kanatchikov docs. in
Ch. 12

Riha: Pobedonostev doc. (390-401); Reports on industrial workers (409-15);
Witte doc. (416-29), Pipes excerpt (430-44)

*Semen Kanatchikov, A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia (excerpts on reserve)

RESEARCH PAPER due on 12/1

Unit 11 The End of Imperial Russia, 1905-1917
Lectures 37-40 (December 3-10)

readings: Riasanovsky: Ch. 31

Cracraft: Hamburg and Glickman essays in Ch. 12; all of Ch. 13
(except Breshkovskaia doc.); all of Ch. 14

Riha: Milyukov excerpt (402-08); Nicholas II doc. (445-49); Duma material
(450-55); Stolypin excerpt (456-64); Durnovo doc. (465-78)

FINAL EXAM: Due DECEMBER 18. Students will meet with instructor during exam week to discuss their final paper.