Introduction

This course examines the history of the Russian Empire from the reign of Peter the Great to the end of the Romanov Dynasty in 1917. Its principal themes include the development and challenges to autocratic rule, social relations within Russia, the creation of a uniquely Russian cultural style, and the meeting between Russians and the many different people and environments along the borders of what became in this period the world’s largest empire.
Learning Outcomes

By the end of the term, you should be able to:

- Locate important locations in the Russian Empire on a map
- Describe the key developments in Russian imperial history from 1685 – 1917
- Recognize different interpretations of these developments
- Analyze and interpret primary sources of historical information
- Write and develop your own argument, supported by evidence

Required Books:

Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians*

Alexander Pushkin, *The Captain’s Daughter and Other Stories*

Vera Figner, *Memoir of a Revolutionist*

Anton Chekhov, *Sakhalin Island*

Classroom Policies

No electronic devices are to be used in class without the permission of the professor.

Assignments

1. One map quiz (5%)
2. Attendance and Participation (5%)
3. Eight (8) reading quizzes (20%)
   
   Reading quizzes will be administered at the beginning of class on Thursdays. They will consist of two short questions, one covering the previous Tuesday’s lecture and one covering that day’s readings. Your lowest quiz score for the quarter will be dropped.

4. Two review essays (30%) due April 26 and May 23

   Each review should be 3 pages long (double-spaced, 12-pt font) and address one of the class’s main themes as represented in the book
under consideration. Please use Chicago-style footnotes for both reviews.  
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/05/

5. Final exam (40%) or Final Essay (7 - 10 pages) Date TBD

You have the option either of sitting a final examination, which will consist of a mixture of term definitions and essays, or writing a research essay which examines the history of one location in the Russian Empire in the light of the developments and themes discussed in the course.
Map Quiz Terms:

1. Moscow
2. St. Petersburg
3. Kazan
4. Volga River
5. Arkhangelsk
6. Don River
7. Ukraine
8. Kazakhstan
9. Lake Baikal
10. Sakhalin
11. White Sea
12. Orenburg
13. Caucasus Mountains
14. Ural Mountains
15. Yakutsk
16. Chukhotka
17. Vladivostok
18. Kamchatka
19. Azerbaijan
20. Kiev
21. Smolensk
22. Baltic Sea
23. Kola Peninsula
24. Tobolsk
25. Caspian Sea
26. Amur River
27. Odessa
CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION and EMPIRE

April 4  Introduction / Russian Geography
        Read:  Hosking, Introduction

April 6  The Rise of Muscovy and the Romanovs
        Read:  Hosking, Chapter 3

WEEK 2 PETER I AND RUSSIA’ S CHANGES

April 11 Peter the Great Changes Russia … Or Does He?
        Read:  Hosking, Chapter 4

April 13 The War State and the Empire
        Read:  Darra Goldstein, “Gastronomic Reform under Peter the Great:
                Toward a Cultural History of Russian Food,” Jahrbücher für

                Yuri Krizhanich, “Observations on Russia’s Potential Strengths
                and Weaknesses”

WEEK 3 CATHERINE, ENLIGHTENMENT, and EMPIRE

April 18 Catherine and the Cultivation of Civility
        Read:  Hosking, Chapter 5

************** MAP QUIZ **************

April 20 Catherine and the Conquest of Cultivation
        Read:  Andreas Schönle, “Garden of the Empire: Catherine’s
                Appropriation of the Crimea,” Slavic Review 60:1 (Spring,


**WEEK 4  PUSHKIN and THE AUTOCRACY**

April 25  The Autocracy and Nationalism

  Read:  Hosking, Chapter 6

April 27  The Autocracy and Pushkin

  Read:  Alexander Pushkin, *The Captain’s Daughter*

*************** BOOK REVIEW 1 DUE ***********************

**WEEK 5  GROWTH and STABILITY IN THE 19TH CENTURY**

May 2  (Labor Day)  Serfdom and Autocracy

  Read:  Marquise de Custine, “The Dead Seemed Freer than the Living”

  Steven Hoch, “Punishment, Fear, and Control,” in *Serfdom and Social Control in Russia*

May 4  Economics and the Crimean War

  Read:  Charles King, “There Is Nothing National About Odessa”

**WEEK 6  REFORM and NATIONALISM**

May 9  Alexander II’s Reforms

  Read:  Hosking, Chapter 7

May 11  Russian Nationalism in the Empire

  Read:  Hosking, Chapter 8

WEEK 7 RUSSIAN RADICALISM

May 16  The Development of Anarchy

May 18  NO CLASS

WEEK 8 SOCIAL CHANGE IN LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

May 23  Read: Vera Figner, Memoir of a Revolutionist

+++++++++++++++++++ BOOK REVIEW 2 DUE ++++++++++++++++++++++++

May 25  Social Change

Read: Hosking, Chapter 9, pp 356 - 366

WEEK 9 THE PROBLEMS OF LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

May 30  Penal Colony

Read: Chekhov, Sakhalin

June 1  What Did the Russian Imperial Experience Mean?


WEEK 10 THE END OF THE ROMANOVS

June 6  Warfare

Read: Hosking, Chapter 9, pp 366 - 391

June 8  The End of the Romanovs (plus Finals Review)

+++++++++++++++++++ FINAL EXAM TBD ++++++++++++++++++++++++