

Tuesday / Thursday 10:00 - 11:20

125 McKenzie

Fall 2021

HIST 346 HISTORY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA

Professor Ryan Tucker Jones rtj@uoregon.edu

383 McKenzie Hall Office Hours: Tuesday, 12:00 - 2:00 pm

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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 nationalism and 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, on the following themes:
 1. The successes and failures of Russian autocracy
 2. Russia's unique forms of colonial expansion
 3. The vexing problem of serfdom
 4. The genius and vulgarity of Russian nationalism

Required Books

Valerie A. Kivelson and Ronald Grigor Suny, *Russia's Empires*. Oxford, 2017.

Alexander Pushkin, *The Complete Prose of Alexander Pushkin*. Vintage, 2017.

Barbara Alpern Engel, *Five Sisters: Women Against the Tsar*. Northern Illinois University Press, 2013.

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 (30%)

Reading quizzes will normally 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 and not counted against your final score.

4. Two review essays (30%) due October 21 and November 18

Each review should be 3-4 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 (30%) or Final Essay (7 - 10 pages) December 8

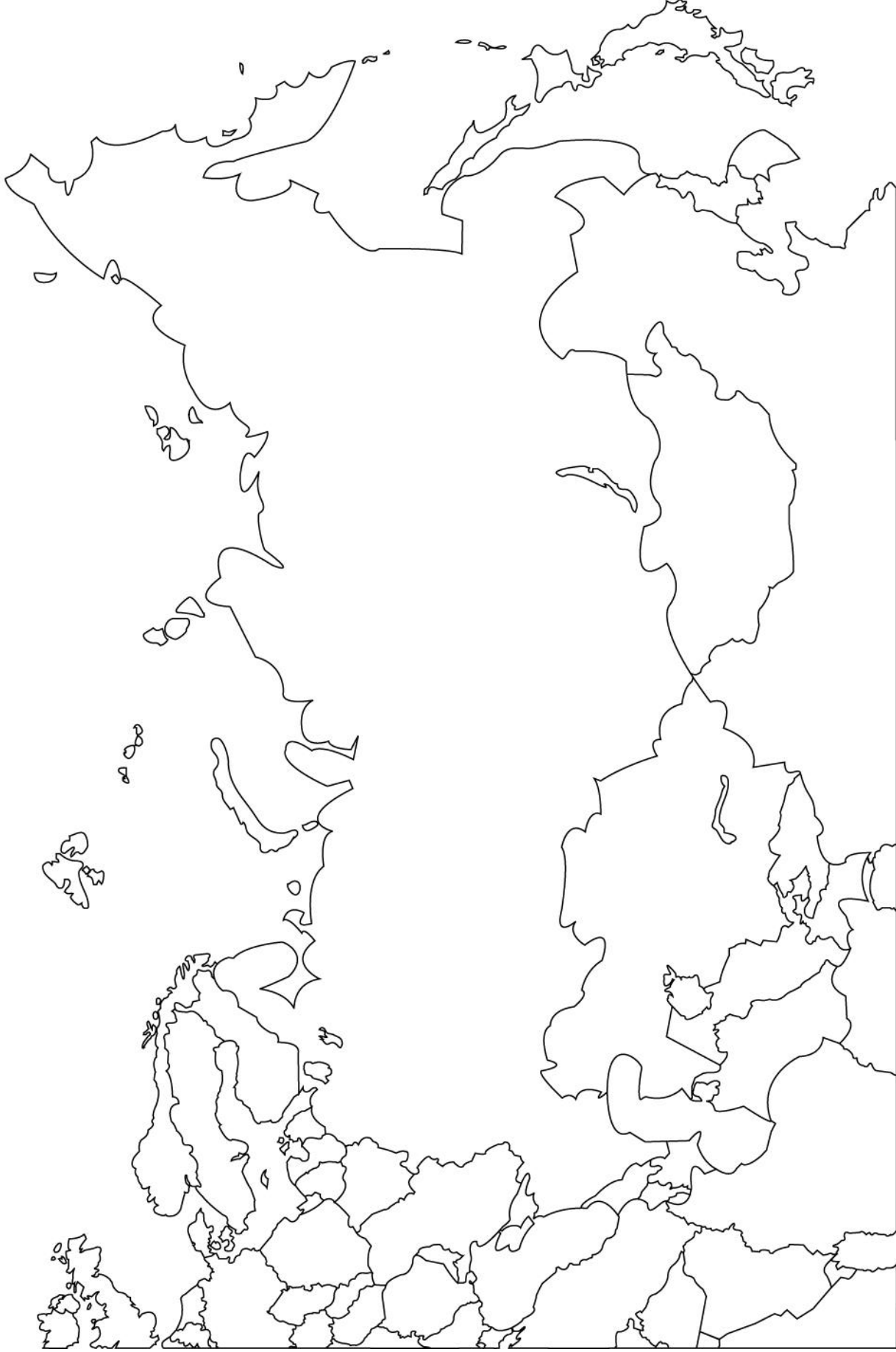
You have the option either of sitting a final examination, which will consist of either

- 1) a number of term definitions, a list of which we will compile during the quarter
- 2) 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. Please consult with the professor if you choose the second option.

Map Quiz Terms:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Moscow | 15. Yakutsk |
| 2. St. Petersburg | 16. Chukotka |
| 3. Kazan | 17. Vladivostok |
| 4. Volga River | 18. Kamchatka |
| 5. Arkhangelsk | 19. Azerbaijan |
| 6. Don River | 20. Kiev |
| 7. Ukraine | 21. Nizhnii Novgorod |
| 8. Kazakhstan | 22. Baltic Sea |
| 9. Lake Baikal | 23. Kola Peninsula |
| 10. Sakhalin | 24. Tobolsk |
| 11. White Sea | 25. Caspian Sea |
| 12. Orenburg | 26. Amur River |
| 13. Caucasus Mountains | 27. Odessa |
| 14. Ural Mountains | 28. Ob River |

Commonwealth of Independent States and Surrounding Countries



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CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION and EMPIRE

Sept 28 Introduction / Russian Geography

Read: Kivelson and Suny, *Russia's Empires*, Introduction

Sept 30 The Rise of Muscovy and the Romanovs

Read: Kivelson and Suny, Chapters 2, 3

Yuri Krizhanich, "Observations on Russia's Potential Strengths and Weaknesses"

Reading Quiz 1

WEEK 2 THE PETRINE REVOLUTION

Oct 5 Peter the Great Changes Russia ... or Does He?

Read: Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 4

Oct 7 Social Revolutions

Read: Read: Darra Goldstein, "Gastronomic Reforms under Peter the Great: Toward a Cultural History of Russian Food," *Jahrbücher für die Geschichte Osteuropas* 48:4 (2000): 481 - 510.

Reading Quiz 2

WEEK 3 THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Oct 12 Catherine' s Enlightened Empire

Read: Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 5

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

Oct 14 Empire in the East

Read: Georg Wilhelm Steller, "Irkutsk"

Reading Quiz 3

WEEK 4 PUSHKIN and THE AUTOCRACY

Oct 19 Reform and Reaction

Read: Kivelson and Suny, pp 140 - 166

Oct 21 The Autocracy and Pushkin

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

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/13511>

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

WEEK 5 NATIONALISM AND ECONOMY

Oct 26 Autocracy and Nationalism

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 166 – 182

Oct 28 The Economy and the Provinces

Read: Charles King, “There Is Nothing National About Odessa,” in King, *Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams*

Reading Quiz 4

WEEK 6 NATIONALISM and SERFDOM

Nov 2 Russian Nationalism in the Empire

Read: Lev Tolstoy, “Felling Wood”

Nov 4 Serfdom

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

Reading Quiz 5

WEEK 7 THE GREAT REFORMS

Nov 9 The Reforms of Alexander II

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 183 - 198

Reading Quiz 6

Nov 11 No Class - Veterans' Day

WEEK 8 REFORM AND RADICALISM

Nov 16 Radicalism

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 199 - 220

Film: *The Barber of Siberia*

Nov 18 The Anarchist Tradition

Barbara Alpern Engel, *Five Women against the Tsar*

***** BOOK REVIEW 2 DUE *****

WEEK 9 THE PROBLEMS OF LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

Nov 23 Culture, Science, and Environment

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 227 - 236

Read: David McDonald, "Petr Badmaev (1851 - 1920)," in Stephen M. Norris and Willard Sunderland, eds., *Russia's People of Empire: Life Stories from Eurasia, 1500 to the Present* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012).

Reading Quiz 7

WEEK 10 THE END OF THE ROMANOVS

Nov 30 War and Revolution(s)

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 236 - 255

Dec 2 The End of the Romanovs (plus Finals Review)

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 255 - 266

"A Tsar Is Born: Russia under Vladimir Putin," *The Economist*
October 26, 2017.

Reading Quiz 8

***** FINAL EXAM December 8, 8:00 am
