HIST 346    HISTORY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA

Associate Professor
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363 McKenzie Hall    Office Hours: Tuesday, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

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


Fyodor Dostoevsky, Notes from a Dead House. Vintage, 2016.


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 and not counted against your final score.

4. Two review essays (30%) due January 31 and Feb 28

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. Nizhni Novgorod
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

Jan 8  Introduction / Russian Geography
       Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Russia’s Empires, Introduction

Jan 10 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

Jan 15  NO CLASS  MLK DAY

Jan 17  Peter the Great Changes Russia … or Does He?
       Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 4

Reading Quiz 2
WEEK 3  THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Jan 22  Social Revolutions
    Read: Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 5

Jan 24  Catherine and Empire

WEEK 4  PUSHKIN and THE AUTOCRACY

Jan 29  The Autocracy and Reform
    Read: Kivelson and Suny, pp 141 – 156

Jan 31  The Autocracy and Pushkin
    Read: Alexander Pushkin, The Captain’s Daughter

WEEK 5  NATIONALISM AND SERFDOM

Feb 5  Autocracy and Nationalism
    Read: Kivelson and Suny, 157 – 182

Feb 7  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
Steven Hoch, “Punishment, Fear, and Control,” in Serfdom and Social Control in Russia

Reading Quiz 4

WEEK 6 NATIONALISM, EMPIRE, EXILE

Feb 12 Russian Nationalism and Exile
   Read: Fyodor Dostoevsky, Notes from the House of the Dead
Feb 14 Russian Nationalism in the Empire
   Film: The Barber of Siberia
   Reading Quiz 5

WEEK 7 REFORM AND THE PROVINCIAL ECONOMY

Feb 19 The Reforms of Alexander II
   Read: Kivelson and Suny, 183 – 198
Feb 21 Serfdom
   Reading Quiz 6

WEEK 8 REFORM AND RADICALISM

Feb 26 Radicalism
   Read: Kivelson and Suny, 199 – 220
Feb 28 The Anarchist Tradition
   Read: Barbara Alpern Engel, Five Women against the Tsar

*************** BOOK REVIEW 2 DUE ******************
WEEK 9  THE PROBLEMS OF LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

March 5  Modernization

Read:  Kivelson and Suny, 227 - 236

March 7  Culture, Science, and Environment

Read:  Jane Costlow, “Geographies of Loss: The ‘Forest Question’ in Nineteenth-Century Russia,” in Costlow, Heart-Pine Russia: Walking and Writing the Nineteenth-Century Forest

Reading Quiz 7

WEEK 10  THE END OF THE ROMANOVS

March 12  War and Revolution(s)

Read:  Kivelson and Suny, 236 - 255

March 14  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 TBA ******************