HISTORY 267: Imperial Russian History
Tue / Thur. 2:00-3:15pm, ISE 307

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Office Hours: Tue. / Thur. 11:00-12:00pm, at 30 W. Delaware Ave.

This course focuses on major events and trends in the history of the Russian Empire from the 10th Century down to the 1917 Revolution. Topics include: Russia's origins and development as the center of the world's largest land empire; the attempts of Russian rulers to maintain control over a geographically vast empire filled with multiple ethnicities, languages, customs, laws and religions; the obsession of Russian thinkers and artists with their country’s path, and its relationship to Europe, as well as Asia.

To explore these themes we will turn to classic Russian literary works, as well as images of Russian art and architecture. The only prerequisite for this course is curiosity about Russian history. No prior knowledge is assumed.

**Required texts, available for purchase and on reserve at Morris Library:**


**Course requirements:**

Written coursework includes a midterm, one 6-7 page research paper, and a final exam. The midterm and final will draw from lectures and readings. Late papers will not be accepted and will receive a failing grade unless you notify me and receive permission to submit the paper after the due date. All students are expected to read the University's policy on academic honesty and integrity. The work you submit must be your own. When in doubt about citing sources, please check with me. Finally, students are required to attend class and actively participate on a regular basis in order to pass the course.

The grade for this course will be calculated as follows:

- Midterm: 20%
- Paper: 30%
- Final: 30%
- Attendance and Participation: 20%
PART I: RUS TO MUSCOVY: RUSSIA'S ORIGINS AS EMPIRE, 10-17th C.

Week 1. Russia and the Russians

8/26. Introduction
8/28. Hosking, Introduction (26 pp.)
       Figes, Introduction (9 pp.)

Week 2. Origins: Kievan Rus and Muscovy, 10th-16th Centuries

9/2. Hosking, pp. 27-70 (43 pp.)
9/4. Hosking, pp. 70-107 (37 pp.)

Week 3. Russia's First Tsar: Ivan The Terrible, 16th-17th Centuries

9/9. Hosking, pp. 107-127 (20 pp.)
       *Michael Cherniavsky, "Ivan the Terrible as Renaissance Prince," (17 pp.)
9/11. Hosking, Ch. 3 (42 pp.)

PART II: EURASIAN EMPIRE TO EUROPEAN POWER: 17th-EARLY 19th C.

Week 4. The Revolutions of Peter the Great: 17th Century

9/16. Hosking, Ch. 4 (34 pp.)
9/18. Figes, pp. 4-38 (34 pp.)

Week 5. Empress Catherine: Russia as European Empire, 18th Century

9/23. Hosking, Ch. 5 (32 pp.)
       Figes, pp. 38-68 (30 pp.)
Week 6. Tsars Paul, Alexander I, Nicholas I: 1796-1855

9/30. Hosking, pp. 244-268 (24 pp.)

10/2. In-class midterm

PART III: 19TH CENTURY RUSSIA

Week 7. "Children of 1812": Literature and the Russia Question

10/7. Hosking, pp. 269-279 (10 pp.)

Reader: Pushkin, "The Bronze Horseman: A Tale of Petersburg" pp. 8-21 (12 pp.)

": Aleksandr Herzen, "Recollections of Russian Intellectuals," pp. 393-400 (8 pp.)


Week 8. Moscow and Petersburg: Two Russian Cities

10/14. Figes, pp. 150-182, 204-216 (44 pp.)


Week 9. Reform and Rebellion: Alexander II, 1855-1881


10/23. Hosking, pp. 306-313 (7 pp.)

Figes, pp. 220-243 (23 pp.)

Week 10. Nationalism and Empire, 1880s-1900s

10/28. Hosking, 320-344 (24 pp.)

10/30. Figes, pp. 358-366, 411-426 (24 pp.)
**Week 11. The "Russian Soul"**


11/6. Figes, pp. 292-318, 325-340 (52 pp.)

Reader: Dostoevsky, "On Russian Distinctiveness and Universality," pp. 433-436 (3 pp.)

**Week 12. What Is to Be Done? Revolutionary Currents, 1890-1905**


Reader: Tolstoy, "How Literature Teaches Us..." pp. 529-531 (2 pp.)


Reader: Maksim Gorky, "Twenty-six Men and One Girl," pp. 618-629 (12 pp.)

*V. I. Lenin, Programme of the Social-Democratic Party, 1895; Tasks of the Russian Social Democratic Party, 1897 (excerpts)*

**PART IV: REVOLUTION AND WAR, 1905-1917**

**Week 13. The Revolution of 1905**

11/18. *Reginald Zelnik, "Revolutionary Russia, 1890-1914" (34 pp.)*


**Week 14. Russia's Great War, 1914-1917**

11/25. Hosking, pp. 386-391 (5 pp.)

*Mark Von Hagen, "World War I" (20 pp.)*

*Primary documents: Soldiers' letters, Durnovo Memorandum (8 pp.)*

11/27 No class. Thanksgiving Break

**Week 15. The End: The Revolutions of February and October 1917**

12/2. Hosking, pp. 391-400