

History 3614

Fall 2009

Imperial Russia

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Derring 1090

Office hours: Tuesday 10-11, Thursday 12-1, and by appointment

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This course examines the history of Russia from Peter the Great through the first Russian Revolution. Particular attention will be devoted to the formation of the Imperial state, changing relations between and within social classes, attempts to modernize in response to European models, the critical intellectual movement of the nineteenth century, the role of the Orthodox Church, the relationship between nationalities within and bordering on the Imperial state, and the social and political pressures that led to the revolution in 1905 and the ensuing demise of the Russian Empire.

This course is designed to encourage students to pursue three objectives:

- 1) To become familiar with important events, people, and processes of Russian history during the Imperial periods of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- 2) To understand the causal relationship between these events, people, and processes and the problems and patterns of contemporary Russia and the world.
- 3) To develop the analytical skills necessary to understand processes of change in terms of both the experiences of individuals and the development of broader communities.

Assigned Books:

Gregory Freeze, ed., *Russia: A History*

James Cracraft, ed., *Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia*

George Gibian, ed., *Portable Nineteenth Century Russian Reader*

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*

Simon Dixon, *Catherine the Great*

Course Requirements:

		Optional research paper
Exam, September 23	25%	20%
Exam, November 12	25%	20%
Writing Assignments (in class, approximately 15 during semester)	25%	20%
Final essay, due December 3	25%	20%
Research paper (15 pages, Optional)		20%

This course is designed to encourage active learning, in which students' engagement with the material, with the instructor, and with each other is essential to the process of learning. Most of the course will be taught in a lecture format, but with ample time for questions and occasional periods of discussion. In order to understand the lectures, ask questions, and participate in the discussions, students should do the reading ahead of time, following the schedule outlined below. Students are encouraged to ask questions during class, either to clarify lectures and readings or to explore connections between class materials and contemporary events. Students are also welcome to ask questions and pursue further discussion with the instructor during office hours or via email. Questions on the exams will be taken from readings, lectures (including examples, illustrations, and topics not necessarily included in readings), discussions, and films. The final essay is a cumulative account of the Imperial period and will be based entirely on assigned readings, lectures, and other assignments. Students are strongly encouraged to reflect on the final essay throughout the semester. All work must conform to the Virginia Tech Honor Code. The History 3614 page on Scholar will include the following materials: syllabus, daily reading assignments, writing assignments, and lecture materials, made available on Scholar following each class. Whenever possible, changes in schedules and assignments will be made in class, and announcements will be made through Scholar and by email only when circumstances require. Graded work will be returned in class.

Writing assignments may be announced ahead of time and due in a designated class session, or may be conducted during the class. Writing assignments will not be given an individual letter grade, but some take-home assignments may be graded on a point scale. Make up writing assignments must be turned in by the next class meeting. A cumulative grade for writing assignments will be used to calculate the final grade.

Students choosing to write the optional research paper will need to adhere to the following deadlines: topic statement due September 17, preliminary annotated bibliography due October 15, outline and thesis statement due October 29, rough draft due December 1, and final paper due December 8. Students choosing this option are required to consult with the instructor on choice of topic, selection of source materials, and schedule for completion of the project. Students must demonstrate adequate progress toward completion of the paper in order to retain the right to pursue this option. The research paper option is particularly recommended for Russian studies minors, for students with backgrounds in Russian history or European history in the Medieval/Renaissance eras, and for History majors pursuing the "Options" track. Students interested in completing a Russian studies thesis under the auspices of this course should consult with the instructor regarding topic, Russian language sources, and other matters.

Date	Topic:	Assignments:
August 25	Introduction	
August 27	Pre-Petrine Russia	Kollman, "Muscovite Patrimonialism" Hellie, "Enserfment in Muscovite Russia" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Alexander, "Petrine Era and After, 1689-1740" <i>Russia: A History</i>
September 1	Peter the Great	Anisimov, "Peter I: Birth of the Empire" Cracraft, "Kliuchevsky on Peter the Great" "Petrine Reform Legislation" "Reforming the Church" "Feofan Prokopovich Eulogizes Peter the Great" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
September 3	Empresses in Power	"Shcherbatov Laments Corruption at Court" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Aksakov, "Mikhail Maximovich Kurolesov" <i>Russian Reader</i> Marker, "Age of Enlightenment, 1740-1801" <i>Russia: A History</i> Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 1-90
September 8	The Age of Nobility	Anisimov, "Empire of the Nobility" "Peter III's Manifesto Emancipating Russian Nobility" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 91-107
September 10	Catherine the Great	"Catherine Instructs the Legislative Commission" "Catherine's Charter to the Nobility" Raeff, "Imperial Policies of Catherine II" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 108-183

September 15	Imperial Power	"Shafirov Justifies the Empire" "Lomonosov Extolls Russian Greatness" "Russia Annexes Crimea" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 184-214
September 17	Challenges to Catherine	Raeff, "Pugachev's Rebellion" "Radishchev Excorciates Russia's Social System" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 215-292
September 22	End of an Era	Dixon, <i>Catherine</i> , pp. 293-335
September 24		Exam
September 29	Russia at War	Ransel, "Pre-Reform Russia, 1801-1855" <i>Russia: A History</i> "N. N. Karamzin Defends the Established Order" Raeff, "The 'Constitutionalism' of Alexander I" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
October 1	Age of Reactions	Riasanovsky, "Supreme Commander: Nicholas I" "Marquis de Custine is Dazzled by the Imperial Court" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
October 6	Russian Society	"Haxthausen Discovers the Russian Peasant Commune" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
October 8	Literary Interventions	Pushkin, "The Shot," "The Bronze Horseman" Gogol, "The Overcoat" Pavlova, "A Double Life," "Strange, the Way We Met" <i>Russian Reader</i>
October 13	Family Life	Turgenev, "First Love" <i>Russian Reader</i> Turgenev, <i>Fathers and Sons</i>
October 15	Rise of the Intelligentsia	"Alexander Herzen Defends the 'Hidden Russia'" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Herzen, "Recollections of Russian Intellectuals" Goncharov, "Oblomov's Dream" <i>Russian Reader</i>
October 20	Literature and Culture	Tolstoy, "The Death of Ivan Ilych," and "Master and Man" <i>Russian Reader</i>
October 22	Russia in Crisis	Freeze, "Reform and Counter-Reform, 1855-1890" <i>Russia: A History</i>
October 27	Great Reforms	Wcislo, "Dilemmas of Emancipation" Wortman, "Toward the Rule of Law" <i>Imperial Russia</i>

October 29	European Colonialism	Kappeler, "The Multi-Ethnic Empire" Thaden, "Russification" "Gorchakov Circular on Russia's Mission" "James Bryce Describes Tiflis" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
November 3	Russia's Mission	Dostoyevsky, "Grand Inquisitor," "On Russian Distinctiveness" <i>Russian Reader</i> Pipes, "Towards the Police State" "Constantine Pobedonostsev Attacks Democracy" Hamburg, "The Nobility in Crisis" Rieber, "The Fragmented 'Middle Ranks'" "Michael Ignatieff Describes Life Among High Nobility" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
November 5	Populism and Reaction	"Vera Figner Defends Assassination" "Manifesto of Alexander III Affirming Autocracy" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
November 10	Modernizing Russia	Kahan, "The Government's Role" "Gurko Recalls Sergei Witte's Years in Power" Bonnell, "The Labor Force" "Pavlov Depicts Life in a Textile Mill, 1890s" Glickman, "Women Workers" "Kanatchikov's Adventures as Peasant-Worker-Activist" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
November 12		Exam
November 17	Urban Society	Gorky, "Twenty Six Men and One Girl" <i>Russian Reader</i>
November 19	Liberalism and Bolshevism	Stites, "The Feminist Movement" Emmons, "The Constitutional Movement" "V. I. Lenin Exhorts the Proletariat to Revolution" <i>Imperial Russia</i> Zelnik, "Revolutionary Russia, 1890-1914" <i>Russia: A History</i>
November 30	Revolution of 1905	"Father Gapon Describes Bloody Sunday, 1905" "The October Manifesto of Nicholas II, 1905" "Katerina Breshkovskaia Evokes the Struggle" <i>Imperial Russia</i>
December 3		Final essay due
December 8	War and Empire	Schapiro, "Stolypin" <i>Imperial Russia</i>