

Fall 2014: History 510:375:01  
Class held in Armitage 225  
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Office hours:

LB until September 30: Tues 11am-12pm, 1:30-2:30pm; Wed 9am-12noon; Thurs 8:30-9am, 11am-12pm  
RW as of October 2: Thurs 8-9

## SYLLABUS – RUSSIA UNDER THE TSARS



Russian noblemen gambling away their slaves. From an 1854 cartoon by Gustave Doré.

Since the collapse of communism in 1991, observers have been struck by the similarities between contemporary Russia and the society that existed before the Revolutions of 1917. With Russian literature and first-hand accounts as our guides, we shall explore pre-revolutionary Russian history from the emergence of the Romanov dynasty in 1613 until the first revolution to shake the tsarist state in 1905. En route we shall encounter the lives not only of tsars like Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, and the last Romanov, Nicholas II, but of peasants, workers, and revolutionaries. Why did autocracy emerge as the form of rule in Russia? What was the relationship between Russia and the West? Why did Imperial Russia fall in the early twentieth century? What are the historical roots of the contemporary struggle between Russia and Ukraine? Finally, what was unique and what was not about Russia's historical path?

### Required reading:

Nicholas V. Riasanovsky and Mark D. Steinberg, *A History of Russia*, (8<sup>th</sup> edition only) (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010) ISBN 9780195341973

Anton Chekhov, *Five Plays* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2008) ISBN 9780199536696

Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009) ISBN 9780199538645

All additional required reading is posted on [Sakai Resources](#)

### **Course requirements:**

**Attendance and participation** (10 points) – Students are expected to attend each and every scheduled class, to arrive on time, to come prepared in terms of the reading and writing assignments, and to participate in class discussions. There will be no use of cell phones or other handheld devices during class: students are to turn off their handheld devices *before* they come into the classroom. If students use laptops in class, they are to sit in the back row so that what is on their screen does not distract other students, and they are expected to use their laptops *only* for taking notes or viewing materials for the course. There are no excused absences: students simply lose one point every time they are absent and when they leave class without informing me in advance. Students also lose fractions of points when they are late. Courtesy dictates that students should not walk in and out of the room during class time, and also that those who cannot attend a scheduled class should let me know via email or voicemail *prior* to that class.

**Responses to chapters in *A History of Russia*** (1 point each for a total of 10 points) – Ten times over the course of the semester on the dates specified in the syllabus prior to that day's 9:30 a.m. class, students are to submit through Sakai typewritten and double-spaced short response papers on that day's assignment in the text. Responses must include (1) a reference, *in each student's own words*, to one particularly striking historical fact or phenomenon from the pages assigned in Riasanovsky and Steinberg (with specific page references); (2) an observation about what was so interesting in relation to that fact or phenomenon; and (3) a question about a relevant *historical* problem from the chapter. (\*There are twelve opportunities for turning in responses to our text. Students are welcome to avail themselves of all these for possible extra credit, or they may choose to write only a total of ten responses.)

**Comments on our secondary sources** (3 points each for a total of 30 points) – Ten times over the course of the semester on the dates specified in the syllabus prior to that day's 9:30 a.m. class, students are to submit through Sakai typewritten and double-spaced comments on that week's assigned secondary source. Students will (1) *in their own words* summarize the author's main point, i.e., the author's overall historical argument, in one or two sentences; (2) write a sentence about the specific kinds of primary (not secondary) sources the author relied on as evidence for the article; and (3) comment in

one or two sentences on the relevance of the article to what we've been studying about Russian history. (\*There are eleven opportunities for turning in comments on our secondary sources. Students are welcome to avail themselves of all these for possible extra credit, or they may choose to write only a total of ten comments.)

**Quizzes** (10 points) – There will be two short quizzes worth five points each on the reading assignments by Pushkin and Chekhov.

**Midterm examination** (10 points) – The midterm will cover the first half of the course, and it will consist of historical identifications and a primary source requiring historical annotations.

**Final paper** (15 points) – Students will write and submit via Sakai prior to our final class a four-to-five page review of a monograph published by a university press that treats some specific aspect of Russian history from 1613-1905. Specific guidelines for this assignment will be posted on Sakai Resources. Students must commit to a book by November 13 and may not proceed to write a review without my written approval.

**Final examination** (15 points) – The final, held on December 18 from 8-11 am, will focus on the second half of the course and follow the structure of the midterm, but it will also include an essay question relevant to the class as a whole.

### **When you complete this course, you will know how to:**

- understand the rise and fall of autocracy and serfdom in tsarist Russia
- identify the ruling members of the Romanov dynasty
- identify other key historical figures in Russia
- identify the rise of the Russian *intelligentsia*
- trace the expansion of Muscovy and the Russian Empire
- trace the development of Russian civil society
- understand tsarist policy toward non-Russian nationalities, including Jews
- understand the origins of Russia's terrorist movement
- understand Russian economic development, especially industrialization
- trace the rise of the Russian working class
- understand the development of Russia's revolutionary movement
- trace the origins of class antagonisms leading to the Russian revolutions
- distinguish among oppositional ideologies, including Marxism and Populism
- distinguish between Bolsheviks and Mensheviks
- understand Russia's relationship with Europe and the West
- understand Russia's role in several international conflicts, including the Napoleonic, Crimean, and Russo-Japanese wars
- understand two classic works of Russian literature in terms of their historical context
- interpret primary sources about Russia in their historical context
- read and assess secondary sources according to the discipline of history
- cite sources according to the discipline of history
- raise questions about existing historical narratives of Russia's development

## **Introduction to the course and Russian history**

*Tuesday, September 2*

## **The rise of autocracy in Russia**

*Thursday, September 4*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reigns of Michael, 1613-45, Alexis, 1645-76, and Theodore, 1676-82" and "Muscovite Russia: Economy, Society, Institutions" and "Muscovite Russia: Religion and Culture," pp. 173-209

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 173-209 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Tuesday, September 9*

Read on Sakai Resources: Nancy Shields Kollmann, "The Quality of Mercy in Russian Legal Practice," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* v. 7, no. 1 (Winter 2006): 5-22

Read on Sakai Resources: document #1 (Krizhanich's Observations on Russia's Potential Strengths and Weaknesses)

\*Comments on Kollman's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

## **Peter the Great and his legacy**

*Thursday, September 11*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reign of Peter the Great, 1682-1725," pp. 211-238

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #2 (Von Korb's Diary) and #3 (Peter's Relations with His Son Alexei)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 211-238 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Tuesday, September 16*

Read on Sakai Resources: Lindsey Hughes, "Nothing Is Too Small for a Great Man': Peter the Great's Little Houses and the Creation of Some Petrine Myths," *The Slavonic and East European Review* v. 81, no. 4 (October 2003): 634-658

\*Comments on Hughes's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

## **Eighteenth-century Russia**

*Thursday, September 18*

Read *A History of Russia*, "Russian History from Peter the Great to Catherine the Great: the Reigns of Catherine I, 1725-27, Peter II, 1727-30, Anne, 1730-40, Ivan VI, 1740-41, Elizabeth, 1741-62, and Peter III, 1762" and "The Economic and Social Development of Russia in the Eighteenth Century," pp. 239-250 and pp. 272-279

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #4 (The 'Conditions' of Anna Ivanovna's Accession to the Throne), #5 (Synod Decree on Underage Marriages, December 1756), and #6 (Peter III's Manifesto)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 239-250 and 272-279 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Tuesday, September 23*

Read on Sakai Resources: Paul W. Werth, "Coercion and Conversion: Violence and the Mass Baptism of the Volga Peoples, 1740-55," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* v. 4, no. 3 (Summer 2003): 543-569

\*Comments on Werth's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, September 25*

No class today (Rosh Hashanah)

### **Catherine the Great and Russia's Enlightenment**

*Tuesday, September 30*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reigns of Catherine the Great, 1762-96, and Paul, 1796-1801" and "Russian Culture in the Eighteenth Century," pp. 251-271 and 280-295

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #7 (Catherine the Great's "Nakaz"), #8 (The Pugachev rebellion), and #9 (Radishchev)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 251-271 and 280-295 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, October 2*

Read on Sakai Resources: Sara Dickinson, "Russia's First 'Orient': Characterizing the Crimea in 1787," *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History* v. 3, no. 1 (Winter 2002): 3-25

\*Comments on Dickinson's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **The two faces of Alexander I**

*Tuesday, October 7*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reign of Alexander I, 1801-1825" and "The Economic and Social Development of Russia in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century," pp. 296-318 and 337-343

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #10 (Alexander I's Proclamations During the War of 1812) and #11 (Karamzin)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, 296-318 and 337-343 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, October 9*

Read on Sakai Resources: Alexander Martin, "Lost Arcadia: The 1812 War and Russian Images of Aristocratic Womanhood," *European History Quarterly* v. 37 (2007): 603-621

\*Comments on Martin's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **Midterm exam**

*Tuesday, October 14*

### **Nicholas I, the "iron tsar"**

*Thursday, October 16*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reign of Nicholas I, 1825-55" and "Russian Culture in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century" up to the section entitled "Ideologies," pp. 319-336 and 344-354

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #12 (Bestuzhev) and #13 (Project for a

Constitution)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 319-336 and 344-354 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Tuesday, October 21*

Read on Sakai Resources: Adina Ofek, "Cantonists: Jewish Children as Soldiers in Tsar Nicholas's Army," *Modern Judaism* v. 13, no. 3 (October 1993): 277-308

\*Comments on Ofek's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **The emergence of the intelligentsia**

*Thursday, October 23*

Read Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*

Quiz on Pushkin

*Tuesday, October 28*

Read *A History of Russia*, the remaining sections in "Russian Culture in the First Half of the Nineteenth Century" beginning with "Ideologies" through the chapter's end, pp. 354-362

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #14 (Russia and the World) and #15 (Belinskii's Letter)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 354-362 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, October 30*

Read on Sakai Resources: Rebecca Friedman, "Romantic Friendship in the Nicholaevan University," *Russian Review* v. 62 (April 2003): 262-280

\*Comments on Friedman's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **Alexander II and his Great Reforms**

*Tuesday, November 4 - Make use of your precious citizenship and be sure to vote today!*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reign of Alexander II, 1855-81," up to the section entitled "The Difficult Sixties," pp. 363-373

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #16 (Description of the Clergy) and #17 (Alexander II's Abolition of Serfdom)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 363-373 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, November 6*

Read on Sakai Resources: Louise McReynolds, "Witnessing for the Defense: The Adversarial Court and Narratives of Criminal Behavior in Nineteenth-Century Russia," *Slavic Review* v. 69, no. 3 (Fall 2010): 620-644

\*Comments on McReynold's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **The emergence of the revolutionary movement**

*Tuesday, November 11*

Read *A History of Russia*, the remaining sections in "The Reign of Alexander II, 1855-81," beginning with "The Difficult Sixties," pp. 373-384

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #18 (Catechism of the Revolutionary), #19 (Death of Alexander II), and #20 (Killing an Emperor)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 373-384 must be submitted via Sakai before

9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, November 13*

Read on Sakai Resources: Lynne Hartnett, "The Making of a Revolutionary Icon: Vera Nikolaevna Figner and the People's Will in the Wake of the Assassination of Tsar Aleksandr II," *Canadian Slavonic Papers/Revue Canadienne des Slavistes* v. 43, no. 2-3 (June-September 2001): 249-270

\*Comments on Hartnett's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

\*Submission of full reference for final paper book review (author, title of book, publisher, year of publication), along with a statement about why you chose this particular book. No final papers will be accepted unless I have provided permission to review the selected monograph in advance.

### **Autocracy's last stand**

*Tuesday, November 18*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Reign of Alexander III, 1881-94, and the First Part of the Reign of Nicholas II, 1894-1905," pp. 385-399

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #21 (Alexander III's manifesto) and #22 (Pobedonostsev)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 385-399 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, November 20*

Read on Sakai Resources: James von Geldern, "Life In-Between: Migration and Popular Culture in Late Imperial Russia," *Russian Review* v. 55 (July 1996): 365-383

\*Comments on Geldern's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **The decline of the Russian gentry**

*Tuesday, November 25*

Read Chekhov, "The Cherry Orchard"

Quiz on Chekhov

*Thursday, November 27*

No class today - Thanksgiving

### **Revolution!**

*Tuesday, December 2*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Last Part of the Reign of Nicholas II: The Revolution of 1905 and the Constitutional Period" up to the section entitled "The Fundamental Laws," and "The Economic and Social Development of Russia from the 'Great Reforms' until the Revolution of 1917," pp. 400-405 and 421-438

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #23 (Lenin's "What Is To Be Done?"), #24 (Gapon's Petition), and #25 (October Manifesto)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 400-401 and 421-438 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

*Thursday, December 4*

Read on Sakai Resources: Bruce W. Menning, "Miscalculating One's Enemies:

Russian Military Intelligence before the Russo-Japanese War," *War in History*  
v. 13, no. 2 (April 2006): 141-170

\*Comments on Menning's article must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **Whither goes Russia?**

*Tuesday, December 9*

Read *A History of Russia*, "The Last Part of the Reign of Nicholas II: The Revolution of 1905 and the Constitutional Period" from the section entitled "The Fundamental Laws" up to the section entitled "Stolypin's Policy," pp. 405-409

Read on Sakai Resources: documents #26 (The Speech from the Throne), #27 (The Reply of the State Duma), #28 (The Government's Declaration to the First Duma), and #29 (The Duma's Vote of No Confidence in the Government)

\*Responses to *A History of Russia*, pp. 405-409 must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

\*Final papers must be submitted via Sakai before 9:30 a.m.

### **Final exam**

*Thursday, December 18 from 8-11am in Armitage 225*