

History 328
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RISE OF RUSSIA

This course examines the history of Russia from medieval Rus' until reforms of tsar Alexander II. From its very beginning, Russia existed within a broad Eurasian context; consequently, this course will have comparative elements. You will strive to gain familiarity with the Russian past, while developing facility in analyzing primary sources (in translation), evaluating historical interpretations, conducting research, and writing effectively. Class meetings will consist of lecture and discussion, complementing the reading and expanding upon it.

Assignments:

Midterm and Final Exams will count for 70% of your final grade. They will consist of several short and one long essay covering material from class and assigned readings. The Midterm and Final exams will each roughly deal with half of the material covered the semester.

You will be assigned two primary documents from your textbook to analyze. You will choose one of them and produce an analytical paper based on your selected material. The papers should be about 3 pages (double spaced, 12pt font, and default margins) and will each count for 15% of your total grade.

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Primary Source Analysis Papers (15% each)
Midterm Examination (35%)
Final Examination (35%)

Like many of my colleagues, I really enjoy talking with students, so don't be shy about stopping by to get acquainted during office hours. At that time, I will be able to give you my full attention--unlike before and after class, when I have other duties that have to come first. If my regular office hours don't fit into your schedule, we can set up a different appointment time. I also answer questions via email (but please don't anticipate a quick turn-around). If you're facing a challenge in this course, I can help you to thrive. If you'd like to think about a major or a career in History or Russian studies, I can advise you.

Academic misconduct:

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Be sure to acquaint yourself with the expectations for honest conduct in your academic endeavors, and follow them fully. You can find official policies towards academic misconduct on the university website. It is my policy to report all incidents of academic misconduct so that they are handled through official procedures.

Plagiarism. Scholars are meticulous about documenting the words and ideas of others, whether they come from printed sources, electronic media, or personal conversation. You need to be careful about this, too. If you use someone else's words (direct quotations), or substitute other words to say the same thing (paraphrases), or even just present someone else's ideas, you need to acknowledge this intellectual debt appropriately. Historians use footnotes or endnotes to do this, and for this course, you are required to adopt this form of citation for work in this course. In the first exercise for this course, you will practice proper paraphrasing and footnoting. After that, you are responsible for using quotations, paraphrases, and citations correctly in your written work at all times.

Collusion. Although I encourage my students to study together, collaboration must cease when you begin to write your assignments—before you draw up outlines of answers or select examples. You must complete every assignment for this course yourself. If you ask someone else to do assignments for you, you are not only cheating--and that is a serious violation of university rules, subject to penalties up to expulsion from the university--but you are also depriving yourself of an opportunity to learn. Also, don't share drafts of your answers for exercises and exams with classmates. If they hand your answers in as their own, you will get in trouble, too!

Required reading:

The following book is assigned for this course. You should purchase your own copies--you will need to bring this book to class every time we meet. The book is available at campus bookstore, and on-line. Used copies are okay; just ignore anything a prior owner might have written into the margins.

David G. Rowley, Exploring Russia's Past: Narratives, Sources, Images. Volume I, to 1856. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson/Prentice Hall, 2006.

You will notice that the required book is a collection of primary sources (first-hand accounts, documents, treaties...etc) accompanied by a very brief historical overview. It is my belief that history is best learned not through reading of dense textbooks, which are soon forgotten, but through in class study and participation. Therefore it is absolutely essential that you show up to class. Majority of your exams in this course will be based on material we discuss in class.

There will be additional readings. I will post these on the class website. It is your responsibility to make sure you are up-to-date on required material for each class period.

If you are interested in more substantial readings in Russian history, below are several textbooks that are quite informative and relatively easy to read.

Janet Martin, *Medieval Russia, 980-1584* 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)

Nicholas Riasanovsky, *A History of Russia*. latest edition (New York: Oxford University Press)

Attendance:

Attendance is not required. You are grown adults in an institution of higher learning. However, as I mentioned before, vast majority of information on course exams will be from class lecture and discussion. If you want to do well in this class, attendance is a must! If for some reason you miss a class, please talk to one of your classmates in order to obtain notes from that day. I will not provide these to you.

Class and Readings Schedule:

Week 1 (January 23, January 25) – Geography, Slavs and regional situation. Read: Rowley, pp. 1-18. Rise of Kievan Rus. Read: Rowley, pp. 19-39.

Week 2 (January 30, February 1) – Society and culture of Kievan Rus. Read: Rowley, pp. 40-60. Russia and the steppe, Mongols. Read: Rowley, pp. 61-80. William of Rubruck's Account of the Mongols (sections I-VIII) - <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/rubruck.html>.

Week 3 (February 6, February 8) - Mongols, Novgorod. Read: Novgorod Chronicles - <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/novgorod1.asp>

Week 4 (February 13, February 15) – Rise of Muscovy, Lithuania. Read: Rowley, pp. 82-103.

Week 5 (February 20, February 22) – Muscovy expansion - Ivan III. Muscovy – society and culture. Read: Rowley, pp. 104-126. Herberstein - <http://special.lib.gla.ac.uk/exhibns/month/aug2007.html>

Feb. 22 – First Primary Source Analysis Paper due in class.

Week 6 (February 27, March 1) – Ivan IV (the Terrible). CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN PRINCE ANDREW KURBSKY AND IVAN IV -
<http://www2.stetson.edu/~psteeves/classes/kurbskyivan.html>

Week 7 (March 6, March 8) – Empire building – Going East.

Midterm – March 8.

Week 8 (March 13, March 15) – Spring Break - No Class

Week 9 (March 20, March 22) - Russian society and culture on the eve of Time of Troubles.

Week 10 (March 27, March 29) – Boris Godunov. Time of Troubles. Read: Rowley, pp. 127-147.

Week 11 (April 3, April 5) – First Romanovs.

April 5 - Second Primary Source Analysis Paper due in class.

Week 12 (April 10, April 12) – Peter the Great

Week 13 (April 17, April 19) – Catherine the Great

Week 14 (April 24, April 26) – Alexander I. Golden Age of Literature

Week 15 (May 1, May 3) – Nicholas I

Final Exam: Please consult university webpage for exact times. I will also announce it in class. The exam will take place in our regular classroom.