Beginning with an overview of Kievan Rus’ and the period of Mongol overlordship, this course explores the history of Russia from its origins to the mid-19th c. We will examine the rise of Muscovy and the ‘gathering’ of the Rus’ lands; the establishment of serfdom and the consolidation of a centralized, absolutist state; secularization and the nature of westernization in the 17th and 18th centuries; and relations between state and society in the first half of the 19th century. Throughout the course we will study the nature of social, economic and political change within the parameters of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious empire and patterns of settlement and colonization along a vast frontier. We will also examine the vexed question of Russian national identity: Russia as part of European civilization? Russia as Asiatic? Russia as uniquely Eurasian?

Course Objectives
- to introduce students to the major actors, events and institutions which have shaped Russia’s history and thereby lay the foundation for further study of Russian history, politics and culture;
- to provide opportunities to engage important interpretative debates;
- to gain experience in analyzing primary documents.

Course Requirements and Expectations

1) Students are expected to attend all class sessions and stay current with the reading. Active and regular participation is an essential part of the course. You are encouraged to ask questions at any time during the lecture and to meet with me during office hours or by appointment. If you are having trouble with any aspect of the course please see me sooner rather than later.

2) Quizzes, Papers and Examinations

Geography Quiz [10% of grade] – to be given early in the semester.
Quiz on terms [10% of grade] – to be given before fall break.

First essay is based on assigned readings concerning the nature of Muscovite political culture. Approx. 5-6 pages [20% of grade] – due in class, October 16. [Assignment is posted on BB]

Document analysis on an assigned primary document -not longer than 2 pages. [10% of grade] – due in class Nov. 6 [Assignment is posted on BB]
Second essay is based on assigned readings concerning serf-landlord relations. Approx. 5-6 pages [20% of grade] --due in class, Dec. 9. [Assignment is posted on BB]

Final exam [30% of grade] Thursday, December 17, 2:00-4:00pm.

Attendance and participation [priceless]

Credit for the course will not be given if all written work is not turned in.

All written work is governed by the Honor Code, see: http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/honorcode.html [This link will take you to a pdf of student rules and regulations.]

3) Late paper policy: For an extension to be considered, the student must consult me in advance of the due date. Unexcused late papers will be penalized a grade step for each day (24 hours) late, that is, A goes to A-, etc.

4) Reading Assignments: All books and articles assigned in this course are available on Blackboard (BB), ERes or regular Reserve. The following books have been ordered at the bookstore:

C. Evtuhov, et. al. eds., A History Of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces
J. Cracraft, The Revolution of Peter the Great

A final note: Please turn off cell phones, pagers, beeping watches and the like for the entire class period. Please arrive for the class on time; once class has begun, please refrain from taking breaks and leaving the room.

Lectures and Readings
(Approximate Schedule)

August 31: Introduction

Sept. 2-14 Kievan Rus’
No class Sept 7: Labor Day

Reading:

Dmytryshyn, Medieval Russia; a source book, pp. 26-35, 45-64 [Bb under the title “Medieval Russia”]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 1-56
Monday, Sept. 14: Discussion: Christian and Dmytryshyn docs

Sept 16 – 23  Appanage Russia/The Mongol Overlordship
Reading:

Morgan, The Mongols, pp. 136-145. [Bb – the entire chapter has been scanned]

Dmytryshyn, Medieval Russia; a source book pp. 146-152, 174-177 [Bb under the title “Readings on Mongols”]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 56-97

Sept 25-Oct 16   The Rise and Consolidation of the Muscovite state
No Class Sept. 28: Yom Kippur

Readings to be completed by Sept. 30
Stevens, Russia’s Wars of Emergence pp, 13-40 [Bb]


Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 98-117

Readings to be completed by Oct. 7


Rowland, “Did Muscovite Literary Ideology Place Limits on the Power of the Tsar (1540s-1660s)?” Russian Review, 49 (April 1990), 125-155. [pdf in Bb]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp 118-157

Wednesday, Oct 7 : Discussion: Kollmann, Poe, Rowland

Readings for Oct. 9-16


Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp 159-202

Friday, Oct. 16   Essay #1 due in class
Break Week: Oct. 17-Oct. 25

Oct. 26 – Nov. 6: New Directions? Peter Alekseevich and his legacy

Readings for Oct 26- Oct. 30
Cracraft, The Revolution of Peter the Great (entire)

Pushkin, The Bronze Horseman [Bb]

“Feofan Prokopovich Eulogizes Peter the Great, 1725” in Cracraft, James, ed. Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia [Bb]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 203-245

Readings for Nov 2-6

Anisimov, “Empire of the Nobility” and Gorodetzky, “St. Tikhon Zadonsky” in Cracraft, James, ed. Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia [BB – under the title of “Mid-18th c Russia”]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 246-266

Document analysis due in class: Nov. 6

Nov. 9-16: The Catherinean Era
Readings for Nov. 9-16

Shcherbatov “Petition of the City of Moscow on Being Relegated to Oblivion” in Raeff, ed. Russian Intellectual History, pp. 50-55. [Bb]

Aksakov, “A Russian Gentleman” (Forward) and “Fragment II: M. M. Kurolyesoff” [Eres]

Radishchev, “Mednoe” and “Gorodnya” A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow [Bb]

Text: Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 267-308

Nov. 18-Nov. 25: Alexander I and the Decembrist Response
Readings for Nov. 18-Nov 25
Karamzin, Memoir on ancient and modern Russia [Bb-Excerpts in 3 parts.] ---- pp.120-140, 147-167, 190-205.

Nov. 26-29: Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 30-Dec 9 Nicholean Russia
Readings for Nov. 30 - Dec. 4


Kolchin, Unfree Labor, pp. 68-78 and pp. 157-172 (top) [This links to an e-book]

Readings for Dec. 7-9


Second Essay due in class on Dec. 9

Friday, Dec. 11 – Last Class

Final Exam – Dec. 17, 2-4pm