History #107
Russian History I

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

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

Quiz on terms [10% of grade] – to be given before fall break.

First essay on a topic distributed by the instructor - approx. 5-6 pages [20% of grade] – due in class, October 17. [Posted on BB]

Document analysis on an assigned primary document -not longer than 2 pages. [10% of grade] – due in class, Nov. 7. [Posted on BB]

Second essay on a topic of your own choosing but based on a close reading of the primary documents of the late 18th-early 19th c. that are assigned for the course -approx. 5-6 pages [20% of grade] – due in class, Dec. 3. [Posted on BB]
Final exam [40% of grade] Thursday, December 18, 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), Electronic Reserve (ERes), or regular Reserve. The following books have been ordered at the bookstore:

Kappeler, The Russian Empire
Cracraft, The Revolution of Peter the Great
G. Freeze, Russia, A History
C. Evtuhov, et. al. eds., A History Of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces

Additional textbook on reserve:
N. Riasanovsky, A History of Russia

A note on the textbooks: In the past I have simply placed several textbooks on reserve as recommended reading. More recently, and following comments from student evaluations, I am strongly encouraging students to select a textbook and read it consistently throughout the semester. My own preference is for C. Evtuhov, et. al. eds., A History Of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces because it is the most up to date and comprehensive, and because it includes commentary on social and cultural history. Freeze, Russia, A History is also reasonably up to date, treats social and cultural topics, but is substantially shorter. N. Riasanovsky, A History of Russia is a more traditional text although some sections have been revised in light of current scholarship. You will see below that I have put in page numbers for the various textbooks that roughly correspond to the periods/topics we will be studying; however, these are only roughly matched and I ask you to read along chronologically as appropriate.

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.
Approximate Schedule

Sept. 3: Introduction

Sept. 5–17 Kievan Rus’
Reading:
  Dmytryshyn, Medieval Russia; a source book, pp. 26-35, 45-64 [Eres]
Text:
  Freeze, pp. 1-12.
  Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 1-56
  Riasanovsky, pp. 3-60

Friday, Sept. 12: Discussion: Christian and Dmytryshyn docs

Sept. 19 – 22 Appanage Russia/The Mongol Overlordship
Reading:
  Kappeler, The Russian Empire, pp.14-19
  Morgan, The Mongols, pp. 136-145. [Eres]
  Dmytryshyn, Medieval Russia; a source book pp. 146-152, 174-177. [Eres]
Text:
  Freeze, pp. 13-26
  Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 56-97
  Riasanovsky, pp. 63-94

Sept 24-Oct 17 The Rise and Consolidation of the Muscovite state
Reading for Sept. 24-Sept. 26
  Stevens, Russia’s Wars of Emergence pp, 13-40 [BB]

Over the next several weeks be reading:
  Kappeler, The Russian Empire, Read Ch. 2
Text:
  Freeze, pp. 27-86.
  Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 98-202
  Riasanovsky, pp. 95-209.

Reading for Sept 29- Oct. 3

Friday, Oct. 3 Discussion: Stevens, Kollmann, Poe,
Readings for Oct. 6- Oct. 10


Reading: Complete the Kappeler and text assignments by Oct. 17

Friday, Oct. 17 Essay #1 due

Break Week: Oct. 18-Oct. 26

Oct. 27 – Nov. 7: New Directions? Peter Alekseevich and his legacy

Readings for Oct 27- Oct. 31

Cracraft, *The Revolution of Peter the Great* (entire)

Pushkin, *The Bronze Horseman* [Eres]

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

To be completed by Nov. 7

Kappeler, *The Russian Empire*, pp. 60-113

Text:

Freeze, pp. 87-113

Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 203-266

Riasanovsky, pp.213-253

Readings for Nov 3-7

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”]

Document analysis due in class: Nov. 7

Nov. 10-14: The Catherinean Era

Readings for Nov. 10-14

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

Shcherbatov, *On the Corruption of Morals in Russia* [Excerpts/Eres]

Radishchew, “Mednoe” [Eres]

Radishchew, “Gorodnya” [Eres]


Text:
Nov. 17-Dec. 1: Alexander I and the Decembrist Response

Readings for Nov. 17-Dec.1
- Begin reading Figes, “Children of 1812” in *Natasha’s Dance: A Cultural History of Russia*, pp. 72-146. [Eres]
- Kappeler, *The Russian Empire* pp.114-167
- Text:
  - Freeze, pp. 143-157
  - Evtuhov, et. al. eds., pp. 309-346
  - Riasanovsky, pp. 300-322

Nov. 27-30 : Thanksgiving Break

**Second Essay due in class on Dec. 3**

Dec 3-Dec 10 Nicholean Russia

Readings for Dec. 3-10
- Finish reading Figes, “Children of 1812” in *Natasha’s Dance: A Cultural History of Russia*, pp. 72-146. [Eres]
- Text:
  - Freeze, pp. 157-169.
  - Riasanovsky, pp. 323-367,

Friday, Dec. 12 – Last Class

**Final Exam – Dec. 18, 2-4pm**