CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course title: Russian History I: Rise, Consolidation and Progress
Course code: HIST 3003 RASP
Programs offering course: Russian Area Studies
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The course will analyze the key themes in the history of Russia, from the emergence of the Kievan Rus’ in the ninth century to the Revolution of 1917. It will provide a survey of economic, political, social, religious and intellectual history of the country during this period. The primary emphasis will be given to political, social and cultural changes and transformations. We will discuss the emergence of Kievan and Novgorodian states, the rise of the Muscovite autocratic state and its transformation into the Russian Empire beginning with Peter the Great. Themes covered include the introduction of Christianity, the Mongolian invasion, the emergence of Muscovy under Ivan III and the institutionalization of autocracy under Ivan the Terrible; the great church schism of the seventeenth century, the westernization of Russia under Peter I, the Enlightenment and the despotism of Catherine the Great; the Russian increased intrusion into European politics in the nineteenth century, the era of the great reforms of the 1860s and, finally, the end of Russian Empire in 1917. The major political problems of the Russian state will be analyzed based on the corpus of first and secondary texts, as well as on visual materials, such as films, photos and posters.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- describe key sociopolitical developments in the Russian history since the emergence of Russian state in the ninth century till the collapse of Russian Empire in 1917;
- examine the essential historiographic debates in Russian history;
- evaluate the role of orthodoxy and autocracy in the development of Russian state;
- analyze the relationship of Russia and Europe during various periods of Russian history;
- analyze and discuss primary and secondary historiographic sources.

Course Prerequisites

None.

Methods of Instruction

The course will consist of lectures and seminar discussions on materials read at home and included in the lecture. Students are expected to participate actively in classroom discussions and prepare all written assignments in a timely manner.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Quizzes 30%
2. Essay 15%
3. Tests 40%
4. Participation 15%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Quizzes
Two quizzes will be given during the semester. These quizzes will test your knowledge of course concepts, theories and facts, and they will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and several open questions.

**Essay**

The format and the genre of the essay could be best described as “historiographic essay.” The goal of the essay is to analyze and compare several historiographic concepts of a particular event, episode or period in the Russian history. After having analyzed and compared the concepts developed by other historians, students are expected to build their own argument exploring the significance of the historical events and processes under consideration. Please, see the instructor during office hours in order to discuss the choice of topic for your essay.

Your essay should be between 1200 – 2000 words long, must be Word processed, follow one of the conventional citation styles, such as MLA, APA or Chicago Manual style.

**Tests**

A midterm and a final test will be a combination of short answers and problem-oriented questions. They will be based on the quizzes, lectures, readings, and homework assignments. The goal of the tests is to assess students’ knowledge of facts and historic events covered in the class, as well as understanding of important concept and historiographic theories under analysis. Students are expected to demonstrate both their in-depth knowledge of historic facts and data and their critical thinking in presenting historiographic resources and bodies of scholarship on a particular topic or historic event.

**Participation**

Taking part in class discussions is essential for learning. It is important that all students prepare course readings for the assigned date and come to class ready to analyze and debate issues raised by the readings. All reading materials will be made available to students in electronic form (pdf), so having a convenient device to read .pdf files (a laptop, a pdf-capable e-book reader, etc.) would be of great help. If necessary, paper copies of the readings will be available upon your request.

**Attendance**

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor's note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities.

Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student’s grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A-) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

**Weekly Schedule**

**Week 1**

Class: 1.0


Class: 2.0

Modest beginning: Kievan Rus and Novgorod State. The first major transformation of Russia: the introduction of Christianity and law. Christianization of Kievan Rus.

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 17-60; 74-83

**Week 2**

Class: 3.0

The Novgorod state and Russia’s ‘proto-democracy.’ Prince Alexander Nevsky (1221-1263) and the “Alexander Nevsky myth” in Russian culture.

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 60-85
Invasion and consolidation. The Mongols: invasion, suzerainty and the impact.
Reading: Riasanovsky and Steinberg, pp. 19-55.

**Week 3**

Class: 5.0

The rise of Moscow and the unification of Russia. The patterns of Moscow expansion. The forced union.
Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 85-133

**Week 4**

Class: 7.0

From social revolt to national revival: the “time of troubles.” Dynastic struggle, social revolt, foreign invasion and national revival.
Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 134-145

**Quiz 1**

Class: 8.0

Years of recovery: 1613-1682. The rulers and the Zemskii Sobor. Annexation of Eastern Ukraine.
Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 145-171

**Week 5**

Class: 9.0

The Orthodox church reforms, religious controversies and heresies
Reading: Robert Crummey, “The Orthodox Church and the schism,” in *The Cambridge History of Russia*, pp.618-639

Class: 10.0

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, And Beyond*, pp. 171-209
*Wirtschafter, Russia’s Age of Serfdom*, pp. 60-100

**Week 6**

Class: 11.0

The Era of Empresses, 1725-1762. Westernization of Russian culture: politics, society and economy. The rise of St. Petersburg
Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, And Beyond*, pp. 171-209
*Wirtschafter, Russia’s Age of Serfdom*, pp. 60-100

Class: 12.0

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 211-247

Wirtschafter, *Russia’s Age of Serfdom*, pp. 107-167

**Week 7**

Class: 13.0

Catherine the Great (continued). Russia and Western revolutions: France and the United States. The annexation of Crimea. The Greek project.

Reading: Ryasanovsky and Steinberg, *A History of Russia*, pp. 239-250.

Class: 14.0

Russia’s bureaucratic monarchy. The reign of Paul I. Paul I as ‘the Russian Hamlet.’ The problem of succession. Paul I and Napoleon.

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 243-267

**Mid-term test**

**Week 8**

Class: 15.0

War and peace. Russia at war: the Napoleon invasion. Political reforms in Poland and Finland.


Class: 16.0

The Decembrist revolt. The society of educated.

Reading: Ryasanovsky and Steinberg, *A History of Russia*, pp. 296-318.

**Week 9**

Class: 17.0

Russia and revolution Russia as the main continental land power. The anti-revolutionary and anti-European patterns: Russia as the ‘gendarme of Europe.’ The Crimean war.

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 247-295

Class: 18.0

**Quiz 2**

**Week 10**

Class: 19.0

The era of great reforms. The emancipation of the serfs. Zemstvo reform and the institution of local self-government.

Class: 20.0

The era of great reforms (continued). Judicial reforms: on the way to the modern court system. Problems of Russian autocracy.

Reading: *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*, pp. 299-331, 347-363

**Week 11**

Class: 21.0
From political opposition to terrorism. Ideologies of opposition: Slavophiles, Westernizers, pan-Slavists, anarchists and Marxists. The emergence of political terrorism. The assassination of Alexander II.

Reading: A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond, pp. 332-360

Class: 22.0

The age of counter-reforms. The first wave of Russian industrialization. Imperial expansion in the Central Asia. Russian society, culture and education in the second half of the nineteenth century.

Reading: Evtuhov and Stites, A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces, Chapters 9, pp. 158-178; A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond, pp. 382-397.

Your essay is due today

Week 12

Class: 23.0

The Duma monarchy. The parliament and the revolution. Political radicals: from Bund to the Bolsheviks. World War I, the crisis of tsarism and the revolution of 1917.

Reading: A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond, pp. 369-380. 408-414.

Class: 24.0

The revolutions of 1917. Political radicalization and Lenin.

Final Exam

Course Materials

Readings

List all course readings using complete citations following an appropriate style guide for the subject area (e.g., APA, MLA, etc.). Refer to SOP and Academic Manual for instruction to populate this field.


Online Resources

List all online resources using complete citations following an appropriate style guide for the subject area (e.g., APA, MLA, etc.). Refer to SOP for instruction to populate this field.
