



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course title:	Russian History: Perestroikas in Russia from the 9th to 20th Century
Course code:	HIST 3002 RASU
Programs offering course:	Summer Russian Area Studies
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3
Contact hours:	45
Term:	Summer Session III 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 collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. 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. 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;
- examine 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.

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.	Tests	50%
3.	Participation	20%
	TOTAL	100%

Course Requirements

Quizzes

Three 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.



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.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1.1 Introduction

Topics:

Syllabus, practical matters. Main sources for the
Russian History Studies. Problems of Russian Historiography

Class 1.2 Modest Beginning: Kievan Rus And Novgorod State

Topics:

The first major transformation of Russia: the introduction of
Christianity and Law. Baptism of

Russia and Russian-Ukrainian problem.

An attempt to develop Russian "proto-democracy".

"Alexander Nevsky myth" in Communist and Modern

Russia.

A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond pp. 17-60, 74-83

Class 1.3 The Rise of Moscow The unification of Russia.

Topics:

The nature of Muscovy.

The Mongols.

The patterns of Moscow expansion. The forced union.

Ivan the Terrible: his personality and character. The reforms. The Oprichnina.

“Time of Troubles” and the Romanovs.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 60-74, 85-133

Class 1.4 The Petrine Revolution

Topics:

Peter the Great: total reforms. The birth of the Empire. On the way to European legitimacy. Russian society molding.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 171-209

Wirtschafter “Russia’s Age of Serfdom” pp. 30-59

- Quiz 1

Week 2

Class 2.1 Catherine the Great: Coup and Expansion

Topics:

Despot/ Dictator: the concept map. The Law on Colonization. Russian Enlightenment. Russia and Revolutions (France, The United States).

Wars in Crimea. Greek Project.

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

Wirtschafter “Russia’s Age of Serfdom” pp. 107-167

Class 2.2 The Main Continental Landpower

Topics:

Russia at War: Napoleon invasion.

The gendarme of Europe: anti-revolutionary pattern.

The Crimean War: the birth of Anti-European pattern.

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

Class 2.3 Russia: Imperial Expansion

Topics:

Imperial expansion to Asia and Caucasus.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 332-346

Class 2.4 The Era of Great Reforms

Topics:

The Great Reform.

The Emancipation of the Serfs. Problems of local self-government.

Judicial reforms: on the way to the modern court.

Problems of Russian Autocracy.

Revolutionary Terrorism.

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

- Quiz #2

Week 3

Class 3.1 War and The Crisis of Tsarism

Topics:

Revolutions of 1905 and 1917: from monarchy to communist dictatorship.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 364-445

Class 3.2 Communist Russia between Lenin and Stalin: fears, hopes and failures.

Topics:

“Former people”

State atheism

Soviet propaganda and Revolutionary Art.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 447-462

Dmytryshyn Basil "USSR: A Concise History" pp.433-454

- Midterm test

Class 3.3 Stalinism: politics, bureaucracy and economy

Topics:

The Building of State Mechanism. The Soviet Oligarchy. The mobilized labor. Terror as an instrument of control. The Great Purge.

The Gulag.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 462-517

Class 3.4 Russians at war

Topic:

The siege of Leningrad

"Falsification of History" problem

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 520-562

Lowe, Norman *Mastering twentieth-century Russian history* pp. 267-340

- Quiz #3

Week 4

Class 4.1 From The Thaw to Stagnation

The Soviet Mind.

Soviet Afghan war.

Problems of Soviet Society.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 562-627

Lowe, Norman *Mastering twentieth-century Russian history* pp. 342-375

Class 4.2 The Gorbachev Revolution

Topics:

Glasnost', Perestroika and the new political language. The Actors of the Reforms.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 627-655, 679-695

Lowe, Norman *Mastering twentieth-century Russian history* pp. 401-446

Class 4.2 The Gorbachev Revolution

Topics:

Boris Yeltsin: how to shock the nation.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 695-725

Lowe, Norman Mastering twentieth-century Russian history pp. 453-479

Class 4.3 Disputed Legacy

Topics:

Boris Yeltsin: how to shock the nation.

Reading: *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* pp. 695-725

Lowe, Norman Mastering twentieth-century Russian history pp. 453-479

Class 4.4 Russia after the Collapse of Communism

Topics:

New Russians.

The First Chechen war.

Problems of terrorism.

Reading: Politkovskaya Anna "A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya" pp. 32-115

- Final test

Course Materials

Readings

Required for purchase:

Mackenzie, David; Curran, Michael *A History of Russia, The Soviet Union, And Beyond* Wadsworth Group, 2002

The following sources will be made available as printable pdf documents:

- Evtuhov et al, eds. *A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces*. Boston: Wadsworth, 2004.

- Figes, Orlando. *Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2014.
- Kivelson & Neuberger, eds. *Picturing Russia: Explorations in Visual Culture*. New Heaven and London: Yale University Press, 2008.
- MacKenzie, David, Curran, Michael. *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond* Wadsworth Group, 2002.
- Moss, Walter. *A History of Russia Vol. 1: To 1917*. Anthem Press, 2005.
- Perrier Maureen. *The Cambridge History of Russia. Vol.I: From early Rus to 1689. Vol. II: Imperial Russia: 1689 – 1917*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Pouncy, Carolyn (trans). *The Domostroi: rules for Russian households in the time of Ivan the Terrible*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1994.
- Politkovskaya Anna. *A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003
- Ryasanovsky, Nicholas, Steinberg, Mark. *A History of Russia. Seventh edition*. Oxford University Press, 2005
- Seton-Watson, Hugh. *The Russian Empire 1801-1917*. Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1988.
- Sherman, Russell and Pearce, Robert. *Access to History: Russia 1815-1881*. Hodder Education 2002
- Suny, Ronald Grigor. *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Suny, Ronald Grigor, ed. *The Cambridge History of Russia. Volume III. The Twentieth Century*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Wirtschaffer Elise Kimmerling, *Russia's Age of Serfdom 1649-1861*. London: Blackwell Publishers, 2008.

Online Resources

- “The Prokudin-Gorskii Photographic Record Recreated: The Empire That Was Russia,” accessed July 1, 2017. <http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/>
- “Alexander Palace Time Machine,” accessed July 1, 2017. <http://www.alexanderpalace.org/palace/mainpage.html>
- “History of Russia in photographs,” assessed July 1, 2017. <https://russiainphoto.ru/>
- “International Institute of Soviet history. Soviet posters,” June 25, 2017.
- <http://www.iisg.nl/exhibitions/chairman/sovintro.php>