

Fall, 2011
Professor Robert Edelman
H&SS 6056
X44096
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Hours: Tues-Thurs 10-11

HIEU 134 - The History of Russia and its Empire, Origins to 1855

This is a survey course that covers the major events, personalities and trends from the rise of the first Russian state in Kiev during the ninth century up to the death of tsar Nicholas I and defeat in the Crimean War in 1855.

There will be a mid-term and take-home final. The mid-term can be replaced by a focused research paper of 12-15 pages. This will due the same day as the final. If you choose this option you must discuss it with me and produce a list of questions and preliminary bibliography by the time of the mid-term. No topics will be approved after that. It is crucial that this paper be your own work. Plagiarism is a very serious violation of academic codes of conduct and can result in severe penalties.

Books to be purchased at book store

Nicholas Riasanovsky – History of Russia volume 1
Gary Marker and Daniel Kaiser – Reinterpreting Russian History
Marc Raeff – The Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia
Mikhail Lermontov – Hero of Our Time

Week One: Introduction and the Kievan state

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 1-6 Marker, pt. 1

Week Two: Religion and Agriculture

Readings: Riasanovsly, chs. 7-10 Marker, pt. 2

Week Three: The turbulent seventeenth century

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 11-14 Marker, pt. 3

Week Four: Consolidation

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 15-16 Film - Alexander Nevsky

Week Five: Peter the Great (mid-term)

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 17-19 film – Peter the Great

Week Six: The rise of the Russian Empire

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 20-21 Marker, pt. 4 ch. 1

Week Seven: The end of Dynamism

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 22-24 Marker, pt. 4 ch. 2

Week Eight: The rise of the intelligentsia

Readings: Raeff - The Rise of the Russian Intelligentsia

Week Nine: Slavophiles and Westernizers

Readings: Riasanovsky, chs. 25-28 Marker, pt. 4 ch. 3

Week Ten: Defeat and devolution

Readings: Lermontov, Hero of Our Time Marker, p. 4 ch. 4