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HIEU 134: Formation of the Russian Empire from 800 to 1894 (fall 2013)

This is an upper-division lecture/discussion survey course on the history of medieval and imperial Russia, from the foundation of Kievan Rus' to the twilight of the Tsarist empire. We will study political, economic, social, and cultural developments by adopting an interdisciplinary approach. Course readings will be supplemented by film clips, music, and in-class discussions.

Course Requirements

- Midterm exam (40 %)
- Oral presentation and short paper (20 %)
- Final exam (40 %)

My Teaching Philosophy

Regular attendance is essential to your success in this class. I expect you to be there, to pay attention, and to contribute to the best of your ability. Genuine learning does not happen in isolation or while surfing the net! In my view, the advantages of using an electronic device in class are outweighed by serious disadvantages. Hence, I *strongly recommend* that you try to do *without a laptop (cell phones are not allowed in class!)*. As a university student you need to be able to take notes by hand. The idea is not to commit every single word to paper (I am not dictating after all), but to sift through what you hear and determine what merits writing down. This is the first step in all solid learning. I am here to facilitate this process by every possible means, but in the final reckoning you need to take responsibility for your own education. On my part, I pledge to make this course as informative and worthwhile as possible, in keeping with my adage: there is no excuse for boring history!

I have created a class website on TED where I will post instructions for the paper and study guides before exams. If you run into problems at any time, talk to me, and I will be glad to help you out. Feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions for additional topics or improvements.

Plagiarism

It is your responsibility to know what constitutes plagiarism. If you have trouble determining if something is a breach of academic integrity, talk to me. Suspected plagiarism will be reported to the academic integrity office.

Required Readings

- Paul Avrich, *Russian Rebels, 1600 to 1800*
- James Cracraft, *The Revolution of Peter the Great*
- George Gibian, ed., *The Nineteenth Century Russian Reader*
- Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians: A History*
- Natalia Pushkareva, *Women in Russian History*
- *Russian Magic Tales*

Books are available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve in the library. Please do the readings *before*, or in preparation for, the date they are assigned.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 0

27 Sept. Introduction: Major Themes in Russian History
Reading: Hosking introduction

WEEK 1

30 Sept. The Emergence of the Kievan Rus'
Reading: Hosking pp. 29-48

2 Oct. Christianity Comes to Russia
Reading: Pushkareva ch. 1
Film clip: *Peter the Great* (wedding ceremony)

4 Oct. Decline of Kiev and the Mongol Conquest
Reading: Hosking pp. 48-61
Film Clip: *Andrei Rublev*

WEEK 2

7 Oct. Lord Novgorod the Great; the Appanage Period
Reading: Hosking pp. 61-99
Film Clip: *Alexander Nevsky*

9 Oct. Moscow the Third Rome
Reading: Hosking pp. 99-107; Pushkareva ch. 2

11 Oct. The Reign of Ivan IV (Grozny or the Terrible)
Reading: Hosking pp. 107-127

WEEK 3

14 Oct. Life in Terrible Times: Serfs and Boyars
Film clip: *Ivan the Terrible*

16 Oct. Steppe, Cossacks, and Colonization
Music: Hun Hoor-Tu

18 Oct. The Time of Troubles
Reading: Hosking pp. 131-148; Avrigh introduction and ch. 1

WEEK 4

21 Oct. The Romanovs Come to Power
Reading: Hosking pp. 148-165
Music: Glinka, "A Life for the Tsar"

23 Oct. The Great Schism
Reading: Hosking pp. 165-174; Avrigh ch. 2
Film clip: *Kovanshchina*

25 Oct. Women in Russian History
Reading: Pushkareva ch. 1-2; Chandler: "Vasilisa the Fair," "The Wise Girl," "Baba Yaga" (2)

WEEK 5

28 Oct. **Midterm Exam – please bring a blue book!**

30 Oct. Peter I (the Great), Revolutionary Autocrat
Reading: Avrigh ch.3; Cracraft entire

1 Nov. Russia Looks to the West: St. Petersburg / Cracraft discussion
Film clip: *Peter the Great*

WEEK 6

4 Nov. The post-Petrine Period (Catherine I, Anne, Elisabeth, Peter III)
Reading: Pushkareva ch. 3

6 Nov. Catherine II (the Great), Enlightened Despot
Reading: Hosking pp. 213-244
Music: from the court of Catherine the Great

8 Nov. Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia
Reading: Gibian (Pushkin, “The Bronze Horseman,” “The Shot”)

WEEK 7

11 Nov. Veterans Day – no class!

13 Nov. Unruly Peasants: the Pugachev Rebellion
Reading: Avrich ch. 4 and 5

15 Nov. Alexander I: Russia in the Age of Napoleon
Reading: Hosking ch. 6
Film Clip: *Love and Death*
Music: Tchaikovsky “Overture of 1812”

WEEK 8

18 Nov. The Decembrists and the Reign of Nicholas I
Reading: Pushkareva ch. 4

20 Nov. The Golden Age of Russian Literature: Superfluous Men
Reading: Gibian (Lermontov; Gogol; Oblomov)
Film clip: *Oblomov*

22 Nov. Wither Russia? Slavophiles versus Westernizers
Reading: Gibian (Aksakov; Tyutchev, “Is Russia Distinct from the West?”; Pavlova; Turgenev; Dostoyevsky)

WEEK 9

25 Nov. The Caucasian Campaigns
Film clip: *Prisoner of the Mountains*

27 Nov. The Crimean War and Alexander II’s Revolution from Above
Reading: Hosking ch. 7; Gibian (Herzen)

29 Nov. Thanksgiving Holiday – no class!

WEEK 10

2 Dec. Radical Unrest: Nihilists, Populists, Terrorists
Reading: Hosking ch. 8; Gibian (Tolstoy)

4 Dec. Alexander III, Reactionary Tsar
Reading: Gibian (Chekhov; Saltykov-Shchedrin; Gorky)

6 Dec. Overview

13 Dec. 3-6 pm **FINAL EXAM!**