

Spring, 2009 – Professor Robert Edelman
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History HIEU 156 – The Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, 1855-1991

This is a survey course that covers the history of the late Russian Empire and the now completed Soviet period. Its midway point is the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917. There will be an in-class mid-term with the option of a research paper and a take-home final.

There are two ways to approach this course:

Those who want to maximize their chances of an “A” should write a 12-15 page research paper on a focused topic and attend sections where the TA will help you develop your topics, outline your work and advise you on sources. You can also discuss your ideas with fellow students. Sections will also be used to clarify points in the lecture or talk about anything else that might be useful. Topics must be agreed upon with the TA and the instructor before the date of the mid-term. At that time, students will be expected to submit a list of the questions they want their research to answer and a preliminary bibliography. No paper proposal will be accepted after the mid-term. Papers have usually received higher grades, but doing the paper does not guarantee an “A.” These requirements are to make sure the work is your own. Plagiarism or the purchase of papers is the highest crime a historian or undergraduate can commit and will be treated accordingly.

Those who are content to get a “B” or have other priorities should take the mid-term. This does not, of course, rule out the possibility of getting an “A.”

Those taking it pass/fail should do the mid-term and final.

Books (hopefully available at the bookstore)

N. Riasanovsky – *A History of Russia* (any edition)
Barbara Engel – *Mothers and Daughters*
Ronald Suny ed. – *The Russian Revolution and the Bolshevik Victory* (I)
Suny – *Revenge of the Past* (II)
Richard Stites – *Russian Popular Culture*
R. and Z. Medvedev – *Khrushchev*

Lectures	Readings
Week 1	
March 30 – Introduction	Riasanovsky – chs. xxix-xxxi*
April 1 – The Emancipation of the Peasants	
April 3 – Reforms of Alexander II	
Week 2	
April 6 – Revolutionary Populism I	Riasanovsky – chs. xxxii-xxxiii begin Engel
April 8 – Fall of St. Petersburg I	
April 10 – Fall of St. Petersburg II	
Week 3	
April 13 – Revolutionary Populism II	Finish Engel Suny (I), pp. 7- 115
April 15 – Industrialization	
April 17 – The Workers’ Movement	
Week 4	
April 20 – 1905	Riasanovsky – ch. xxxiv Suny – pp. 116-339
April 22 – Stolypin Reform	
April 24 – The Crisis of the Elites	
Week 5	
April 27 – The Crisis of the Working Classes	Suny (I) – pp. 339-493 Stites – pp. 1-36
April 29 – 1917	
May 1 – mid-term exam	
Week 6	
May 4 – Civil War	Riasanovsky – chs. xxxv-xxxviii Stites – pp. 37-63
May 6 – The Peasants and NEP	
May 8 – Politics and Culture in the NEP city	
Week 7	
May 11 – The Great Turn	Riasanovsky – chs. xxxix-xl Suny (II)
May 13 – The Greats (Retreat and Terror)	
May 15 – Nationalities under Lenin and Stalin	

Week 8

May 18 – Soviet Popular Culture?

Stites – pp. 64-209

May 20 – The Great Patriotic War

May 22- - The Soviet Postwar

Week 9

May 27 – The Origins of the Cold War

R. and Z. Medvedev

May 29 – Khrushchev and his Thaw

Week – 10

June 1 – Change amid Stagnation

Riasanovsky – chs. xli-xlii

June 3 – Perestroika

June 5 – Collapse

*Chapter numbers in Riasanovsky vary from edition to edition. You are responsible for everything before 1917 on the mid-term. The rest goes up to week ten. The final will be comprehensive. Research papers are due the same day as the final.