

Spring, 2009 – Professor Robert Edelman  
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Hours: T-Th 11-12  
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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 replacing it with a 10-15 page research paper and a take-home final. The research paper can be on a topic of the student's choosing. You must come and discuss the topic and get guidance. A brief bibliography and set of questions must be handed in. Only then will approval be given. This must all be done before the date of the mid-term. No papers will be accepted that have not gone through this process, and no subject changes will be permitted.

Books (hopefully available at the bookstore)

N. Riasanovsky – *A History of Russia*, volume 2

Barbara Engel – *Women in Russia*

Steven Smith – *Red Petrograd*

Ronald Suny – *Revenge of the Past*

Richard Stites – *Russian Popular Culture*

R. and Z. Medvedev – *Khrushchev*

There are various editions of Riasanovsky with different chapter numbering. Use any edition. You are responsible for the material from 1855 to 1917 for the mid-term. The rest of the course will cover the Soviet period.

Lectures	Readings
Week 1	
T – Emancipation	Riasanovsky – chs. xxix-xxxi*
Th – View Konets St. Peterburga	Available on You Tube
Week 2	
T – Revolutionary Populism	Riasanovsky – chs. xxxii-xxxii
Th – Industrialization	

Week 3

T – Russian Marxism Engel – 68-147  
Th– The All-Nation Opposition Movement  
and The First Russian Revolution

Week 4

T– Stolypin Reform Riasanovsky – ch. xxxiv  
Th - The Crisis of the Elites

Week 5

T – The Crisis of the Working Classes Smith  
Th - 1917 Stites – pp. 1-36

Week 6

T- Mid-term exam Riasanovsky – chs. xxxv-xxxviii  
Th – NEP Stites – pp. 37-63  
Engel – 148-268

Week 7

T – The Great Turn Riasanovsky – chs. xxxix-xl  
Th– The Other Greats (Retreat and Terror) Suny

Week 8

T – Soviet Popular Culture? Stites – pp. 64-209  
Th – The Great Patriotic War

Week 9

T – The Origins of the Cold War R. and Z. Medvedev  
Th – Khrushchev and his Thaw

Week – 10

T- Change amid Stagnation  
Th – Perestroika and Collapse Riasanovsky - finish