

Fall 2008

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### History HIEU 134: Formation of the Russian Empire, 800-1855

This course will survey the main themes and events in the development of the Russian Empire during the thousand years between the formation of Kievan Rus' in the ninth century and the era of the "Great Reforms" in the 1860s. Because of the length of the period covered and the brevity of the time allowed, the lectures and readings will focus on political and intellectual developments.

Required readings:

Nicholas Riasanovsky, A History of Russia  
Serge Zenkovsky, ed., Medieval Russia's Epics Chronicles and Tales  
James Cracraft, The Revolution of Peter the Great  
Marc Raeff, Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia: The Eighteenth-Century Nobility  
Mikhail Lermontov, Hero of Our Time

Students are expected to attend lectures and do the readings as indicated on the syllabus. There will be a take-home mid-term and a final in the scheduled examination period.

Riasanovsky's A History of Russia will be the primary textbook (any of the many editions will do). By the mid-term students should have read through chapter XIX; by the end of the course you should have read through chapter XXVIII. Other readings should be completed as indicated on the syllabus.

### Topics to be Covered

Introduction: The formation of Rus'

Emergence of Rus'

Christianization

The Russian polity

Russian Culture

Class discussion: The Lay of Igor's Campaign

Read Riasanovsky, chapters I-VI; Zenkovsky, items 4-12; 18-21, 25, 31, 33.

The Mongol Conquest

The Rise of Moscow

Ivan III and the formation of the Great Russian State

Moscow the "Third Rome: The Ideology of the new state

Read: Riasanovsky, chapters VII – XIV; Zenkovsky, items 34-36, 38-39, 41-42, 45-46, 50-51.

Ivan IV (1)

Ivan IV (2)

The Time of Troubles

Serfdom

The Church Schism

Read Riasanovsky, chapters XV –XIX; Zenkovsky, items 53-57, 59, 62.

Peter the Great (1)

Peter the Great (2)

Between the “Greats”

Catherine II (1)

Catherine II (2)

Russian Culture in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century

The Emergence of Critical Thought

Alexander I: Reform and Disappointment

Read Riasanovsky, chapters XX-XXV; Cracraft, Revolution of Peter the Great; Raeff, Origins.

The Decembrists

Nicholas I

The Intelligentsia

Slavophiles and Westerners

Alexander Herzen

Russia in Crisis

Review

Read Riasanovsky, chapters XXVI-XXVIII; Lermontov, Hero.