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HIEU 134: Formation of the Russian Empire from 800 to 1894 (winter 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, pictures, and in-class discussions.

Course Requirements

- Midterm exam (30 %)
- Two short papers (15 % each)
- 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, this class upholds a *strict non-laptop/cell phone policy*. You will be asked to put your device away if using it anyway. 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 papers 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

- James Cracraft, *The Revolution of Peter the Great*
- Valerie A. Kivelson and Joan Neuberger, *Picturing Russia: Explorations in Visual Culture* [KN]
- S. F. Platonov, *The Time of Troubles*
- Carolyn Johnston Pouncy, ed., *The Domostroi* (required sections on e-reserves)
- Willard Sunderland, *Taming the Wild Field: Colonization and Empire on the Russian Steppe*
- Leo Tolstoy, *The Cossacks and Other Stories*
- *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*, ed. Serge A. Zenkovsky [MR]

Books are available for purchase at the bookstore and on reserve in the library. Students need to enter the password sh132 (not case sensitive) to access materials placed on electronic reserves. Please do the readings *before*, or in preparation for, the date they are assigned.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK 1

7 Jan. Introduction: Major Themes/Forces in Russian History

9 Jan. The Emergence of Kievan Rus'
Reading: MR 4, 7

11 Jan. Christianity Comes to Russia
Film Clip: *Peter the Great* (wedding ceremony)
Reading: MR 11, 20, 21, 25, 31

WEEK 2

14 Jan. Discussion of the *Lay of Igor's Campaigns*; reading visual "texts"
Reading: MR 33; KN ch.1-4

16 Jan. Decline of Kiev and the Mongol Conquest
Reading: MR 36, 41; KN ch. 5-7
Film Clip: *Andrei Rublev*

18 Jan. Lord Novgorod the Great; the Appanage Period
Reading: MR 38, 39; Sunderland intro. and ch. 1
Film Clip: *Alexander Nevsky*

WEEK 3

21 Jan. **Martin Luther King Day – no class!**

23 Jan. Ivan III (the Great) and the Rise of the Patrimonial State

25 Jan. Moscow the Third Rome; the Reign of Ivan IV (Grozny or the Terrible)
Reading: *MR* 45, 46, 53, 54; *KN* ch. 8 and 40

WEEK 4

28 Jan. Life in Terrible Times: Serfs and Boyars
Reading: sections from *Domostroi* on e-reserves; *KN* ch. 9
Film Clip: *Ivan the Terrible*

30 Jan. Steppe, Cossacks, and Colonization
Reading: begin Platonov

1 Feb. The Time of Troubles – **first short paper due!**
Reading: finish Platonov; *MR* 55, 56, 57

WEEK 5

4 Feb. Discussion of Platonov; the state of the course

6 Feb. The Romanovs Come to Power

8 Feb. The Great Schism
Reading: *MR* 58, 59; begin Cracraft
Film Clip: *Khovanshshina*

WEEK 6

11 Feb. **Midterm Exam – please bring a blue book!**

13 Feb. Peter I (the Great), Revolutionary Autocrat
Reading: *KN* 10-12

15 Feb. Russia Looks to the West: St. Petersburg
Reading: finish Cracraft
Film clip: *Peter the Great*

WEEK 7

18 Feb. **President's Day – no class!**

20 Feb. The post-Petrine Period (Catherine I, Anne, Elisabeth, Peter III)
Reading: KN ch. 12

22 Feb. Catherine II (the Great), Enlightened Despot
Reading: Sunderland ch. 2; KN ch. 13-15; begin Tolstoy *The Cossacks*

WEEK 8

25 Feb. Origins of the Russian Intelligentsia: Novikov, Radishchev, and Beyond

27 Feb. Unruly Peasants: the Pugachev Rebellion

1 March Alexander I: Russia in the Age of Napoleon
Reading: begin Tolstoy *Hadji Murat*; KN ch. 16-17
Film Clip: *Love and Death*

WEEK 9

4 March The Decembrists and the Reign of Nicholas I
Reading: Sunderland ch. 3

6 March The Caucasian Campaigns
Reading: finish Tolstoy *The Cossacks* and *Hadji Murat*; KN 20-21
Film Clip: *Prisoner of the Mountains*

8 March Whither Russia? Slavophiles versus Westernizers – **second short paper due!**
Film Clip: *Oblomov*

WEEK 10

11 March The Crimean War and Alexander II's Revolution from Above
Reading: Tolstoy *Sevastopol Tales*; Sunderland ch. 4

13 March Radical Unrest: Nihilists, Populists, Terrorists
Reading: Sunderland ch. 5 and conclusion; KN 22-24

15 March Alexander III, Reactionary Tsar

FINAL EXAM !