

History 377
Fall 2001

The HISTORY of RUSSIA to 1900 (www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia)

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Office Hours: M 10-10:50; T 1-1:50; W 1-1:50

Russia today is one of the most influential countries in the world, and it has had a fascinating and difficult history. The primary goal of this course is to introduce students to the issues and debates raised in that history from its origins in roughly the 9th century until the eve of the 20th century. We will examine Russia's history, as much as possible, from the point of view of those living it, trying to understand events through their eyes and to thereby acquire a fuller understanding of Russia today.

An underlying theme in the study of history is the importance of the past in shaping the way people see themselves and the world today, including students in this class. We inherently judge other cultures from the perspective of our own; today we tend to view "Russia" as a formerly "communist totalitarian" society undergoing a difficult transition to "democracy." This course contextualizes that process historically and introduces students to alternative ways of interpreting Russian history by weighing the evidence and the merits of differing points of view.

The course is divided into three sections: Early Russia to 1600; Imperial Russia 1600-1800; and 19th century Russia. Relying on primary historical sources, we will approach the subject material from several perspectives, including political, social, economic, and cultural, with a number of themes in mind: ideology/religion; family/gender; war and peace; society and government; and technology.

By the end of the class students will understand, firstly, that history is not just the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the interpretation of the past; and, secondly, that we tend to see Russia and the world through a number of basic assumptions that are not always accurate. Students will take from the class the skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and to clearly express their own interpretations.

Readings:

Nikolai Gogol, *Inspector General*

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*

Reserve articles and online material designated below

Optional Text: MacKenzie and Curran, *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union and Beyond*

Course Web Page: The course web page is at www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia
The page has course readings, summaries of the notes, links to Internet Resources, and other features relevant to the course.

Assignments:

Participation	30 %
2 Midterm Exams	20 % each
Final Exam	30 %

Participation: Your 30 % class participation grade consists of several worksheets to be turned in at the beginning of the class periods designated below; several random and announced in-class quizzes; and several Reaction Pieces, 1-2 pages double-spaced. These are intended to be your *reaction to or opinion of* the assigned readings designated below, *not* a summary of the reading material. The total sum of these assignments is 60 points, which will be divided by two for the final participation grade. Students who miss an in-class quiz can *only* make it up with a legitimate reason. Inform me beforehand if you know you have to miss a quiz and we will schedule a make-up.

Exams: There are two midterm exams (worth 20 % each) and a final (worth 30 %). Each of the exams covers *only* the part of the course for which they are designated (1st: Early Russia-1600; 2nd: Imperial Russia 1600-1800; Final: 19th century Russia), so they are *not cumulative*. However, the final exam includes a comprehensive essay question (worth 10 % of the overall grade) that draws on broad themes dealt with all semester.

Grading: Grades are compiled on a point system. For example, if you make 80 on the 1st midterm (16/20) + 87 on the 2nd midterm (17.4/20) + 84 on the final exam (25.2/30) + 88 on participation (26.4/30) your final grade = **85** or B. Keep up with your grades on the chart at the end of the syllabus to know what grade you have going into the Final Exam.

Class Schedule

Monday, August 20. Introduction: The Study of History and Perceptions of Russia

- Reading for next class: Why Study History Through Primary Sources?

Wednesday, August 22. The Geography of Russia and Early Settlements

- Reading for next class: Excerpts from *The Russian Primary Chronicle*
- **Worksheet 1** due at the beginning of the next class

Part I: Early Russia to 1600

Friday, August 24. The “Norman Theory”: Discussion of Reading

- Reading for next class: “An Arab Traveler to Kiev” & “The Lay of Igor’s Campaign”
- Reaction Piece to these readings due in class Monday

Monday, August 27. Kievan Rus: Discussion of Readings

Wednesday, August 29. The Fall of Kiev

Friday, August 31. The Rise of Novgorod

- Reading for next class: *The Novgorod Chronicle*
- **Worksheet 2** due at the beginning of class

Wednesday, September 5. The Fall of Novgorod: Discussion of Reading

- Reading for next class: Accounts of the Mongol Invasion of Russia
- Reaction Piece to this Reading due in class

Friday, September 7. Lithuania and the Mongol Invasion

- Reading for next class: e-reserve article “The Mongol Impact on Russia”

Monday, September 10. The Mongol Invasion and its Aftermath: Discussion of Reading

- Reading for Friday: “Ivan the Terrible as Renaissance Prince” & Excerpts from “The Correspondence Between Tsar Ivan IV and Prince Andrei Kurbsky”

Wednesday, September 12. Ivan III and the Rise of Muscovy

Friday, September 14. Early Modern Russia and Ivan IV: Discussion of Readings

Monday, September 17. Ivan IV (the “Terrible”) (cont’d)

- Reading for Friday: e-reserve reading from *Russian Rebels*, pp. 1-47

Wednesday, September 19. Ivan IV (the “Terrible”) (conclusion)

Friday, September 21. The “Time of Troubles”: Discussion of Reading

- Reading for next class: A German Merchant’s Account of Famine in Russia

Monday, September 24. The “Time of Troubles” (cont’d)

Wednesday, September 26. FIRST MIDTERM EXAM

Part II: Imperial Russia 1600-1800

Friday, September 28. The Reestablishment of Autocracy

- Reading for Wednesday: Excerpts from The Law Code of 1649
- Reaction Piece to this reading due in class Wednesday

Monday, October 1. The Origins of Serfdom

Wednesday, October 3. The Origins of Serfdom (cont’d): Discussion of Reading

Friday, October 5. Russia’s Religious Culture: In-class viewing of “Faces of Russia”

- Reading for next Friday: Excerpts from *Avvakum’s Autobiography*
- **Worksheet 3** due at the beginning of class next Friday

Wednesday, October 10. Religious Crisis in Russia

Friday, October 12. The Church Schism: Discussion of Reading

Monday, October 15. Prelude to Peter the Great: Russia in the 17th Century

- Reading for Friday: e-reserve article “The Artisan Tsar”

Wednesday, October 17. Peter the Great

Friday, October 19. Peter the Great (cont'd): Discussion of Reading

Monday, October 22. Russia in the mid 18th century

- Reading for next class: Excerpts from “Catherine the Great’s Instructions”
- Reading for Friday: Excerpts from Alexander Radishchev’s “A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow”
- Reaction Piece to this reading due in class Friday

Wednesday, October 24. Catherine the Great: Discussion of Reading

- Optional: listen to the NPR Report “From St. Petersburg to Moscow—Retracing a Centuries-old Route Through a New Russia”

Friday, October 26. Catherine the Great (cont'd): Discussion of Reading

Monday, October 29. The Pugachev Rebellion

Wednesday, October 31. The Pugachev Rebellion (cont'd)

Friday, November 2. SECOND MIDTERM EXAM

Part III: 19th century Russia

Monday, November 5. Paul and Alexander I

- Reading for Friday: e-reserve “The Decembrists” & “Apology of a Madman”
- **Worksheet 4** due at the beginning of class Friday

Wednesday, November 7. Napoleon in Russia

Friday, November 9. The Decembrist Uprising of 1825: Discussion of Readings

Monday, November 12. The “Iron Tsar”: Nicholas I

- Reading for next Monday: N. Gogol, *Inspector General* & e-reserve reading “Letter to Gogol”
- Reaction Piece to these readings due in class next Monday

Wednesday, November 14. The Emergence of the Russian Intelligentsia

Friday, November 16. Gogol & Russian Society: in-class viewing of “Faces of Russia”

Monday, November 19. Russian Literature as Social Critique: Discussion of Readings

Monday, November 26. Alexander II and the Emancipation of the Serfs

- Reading for Friday: e-reserve excerpts from *Russia Through Women’s Eyes*
- Reaction Piece to this reading due in class on Friday

Wednesday, November 28. The Position of Women in 19th Century Russian Society

- Reading for next Wednesday: Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*

Friday, November 30. Women in 19th Century Russia: Discussion of Reading

Monday, December 3. 19th Century Russian Literature & Art

Wednesday, December 5. Russia's Generation Gap: Discussion of *Fathers and Sons*

Friday, December 7. The Rise of Socialism in Russia

Monday, December 10. Russia on the Eve of the 20th Century

Final Exam: Wednesday, December 12 8:00-11:00 AM

GRADE RECORD for History 377

Participation Grade (WS = Worksheet; RP = Reaction Piece; Q= Quiz)

{Note: All Worksheets & Reaction Pieces are worth 4 pts.; all Quizzes are worth 5 pts.}

{Note: These assignments add up to a possible final grade of 32.5 points}

Add your scores on these assignments:

	RP 1 _____			
WS 1 _____	RP 2 _____	Q 1 _____		
WS 2 _____	RP 3 _____	Q 2 _____		
WS 3 _____	RP 4 _____	Q 3 _____		
WS 4 _____	RP 5 _____	Q 4 _____		
	RP 6 _____	Q 5 _____		
_____ +	_____ +	_____ = _____/2 =	<input type="text"/>	Part. Grade
				+
				<u>1st Midterm (20 pts.)</u>
		(letter grade) _____ x .20 =	<input type="text"/>	
				+
				<u>2nd Midterm (20 pts.)</u>
		(letter grade) _____ x .20 =	<input type="text"/>	
				= _____*

*This is your numerical grade for the course going into the Final Exam, which covers the remaining 30 % of the grade, including a Take Home Essay Question worth 10 % of the overall course grade. To convert the number to a letter grade, divide it by 70, which is the total number of points possible prior to the Final Exam.