

HIS 340: RUSSIAN HISTORY TO 1900 SYLLABUS--FALL 2018

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Hours: whenever

Course Description

This is part one of a two semester survey of Russian history from the ninth century to the present. In this semester we will emphasize the early history of Russia and the process by which it became a great state, with an eye to understanding the interaction of different nationalities and cultures in the formation of the Russian empire. While this course attempts to deal with most of the “big” events in Russian history down to 1900, it makes no claims to being comprehensive. Instead, I plan to emphasize the different aspects of Russian history that interest me: the role of religion, imperial expansion, political and social reforms, terrorism, vodka, and war.

Course Outcomes

Russia is huge, and so is its history. Therefore, as noted, we cannot hope to adequately cover every possible subject during one semester. My goal is to introduce you to some of the persistent big questions/issues in Russian history (most of which I cannot answer). I hope that by exploring these problems you will continue to develop your own analytical skills as they relate to historical issues. You will also gain experience reading carefully and reflecting on the various types of primary source materials used by historians to reconstruct the past. Finally, you should gain a better understanding of some of the current problems that Russia now faces (for example, the persistent economic, ethnic, and leadership difficulties) by looking at the origins of some of these issues.

Texts

The following required texts are available for purchase in the bookstore:

Moss, Walter G. *A History of Russia. Volume I: To 1917*. Second Edition. London: Anthem Press, 2002.

Pushkin, Alexander. *The Queen of Spades and Other Stories*. Translated by Alan Myers. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Tolstoy, Leo. *Hadji Murad*. Translated by Aylmer Maude. New York: Modern Library, 2003.

Turgenev, Ivan. *Fathers and Sons*. New York: Signet Classics, 2005.

Assignments and Expectations

1. Regular class attendance and active participation in discussions is essential for your success in this course. You should complete the reading assignments as indicated on the course calendar before coming to class, and be prepared to discuss them. Failure to do so will adversely affect your grade.
2. Numerous (at least once a week) quizzes and/or one-page exploratory “thinking pieces” will be given. Quizzes will be in class covering basic names, dates, events, geography, etc. “Thinking pieces” will be informal, one-page, typed, single-space exploratory responses to a prompt I provide based on assigned reading or other sources. Due at the beginning of class.
3. A mid-term and a final examination will be given. Both of these will consist of a mix of objective and essay questions.
4. Each student will produce a research paper of 13-15 pages, based on a primary source (historical memoir, travel account, etc.) chosen individually (see separate handout).
5. Your grade will be calculated approximately as follows:

Attendance, participation	--10%
Quizzes & “thinking pieces”	--10%
Mid-term	--25%
Final Exam	--25%
Research Paper	--30%

Course Calendar

(Note: This is subject to change-- You are responsible for any and all changes announced in class.)

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
T	AUG 28	Course Introduction	None assigned
W	29	Land and People	Moss 1; Poe
F	31	Kievan Rus	Moss 2
M	SEP 3	Labor Day—No Class	
W	5	Eastern Orthodoxy	Moss 3
F	7	Shifting Power Centers	Moss 4
M	10	The Mongol Yoke	Moss 5
W	12	Rise of Muscovy	Moss 6
F	14	The Unification of Great Russia	Moss 7
M	17	Ivan the Terrible	Moss 8
W	19	Time of Troubles	Moss 9
F	21	The Early Romanovs	Moss 10

M		24	Rise of Serfdom	Moss 11
W		26	The Great Schism	Moss 12
F		28	Peter the Great: Politics	Moss 13
M	OCT	1	Peter the Great: Society	(Pushkin)
W		3	Peter's Revolution	
F		5	[Catch-up/Review]	
M		8	The Era of Palace Revolutions	Moss 14
W		10	Catherine II (the 'Great')	Moss 15
F		12	18 th Century Economic & Social Life	Moss 16; Pushkin
M		15	18 th Century Religion & Culture	Moss 17
W		17	Mid-Term Examination	
F		19	Fall Break—No Class	
M		22	Alexander I	Moss 18
W		24	(cont.)	
F		26	Nicholas I (the "Iron Tsar")	Moss 19
M		29	(cont.)	
W		31	Caucasus & Crimean War	Tolstoy
F	NOV	2	Early 19 th Century Economy & Society	Moss 20
M		5	Slavophiles vs. Westernizers	Moss 21
W		7	(cont.)	
F		9	Alexander II and the Great Reforms	Moss 22
M		12	(cont.)	
W		14	"To the people..."	Turgenev
F		16	Reaction and Counter-Reform	Moss 23
M		19	(cont.)	
W		21	Thanksgiving Recess--no class	
F		23	Thanksgiving Recess--no class	
M		26	Opposition to Tsarism	
W		28	(cont.)	
F		30	Empire Building	Moss 24
M	DEC	3	Late 19 th Century Economy & Society	Moss 26
W		5	Late 19 th Century Religion & Culture	Moss 27
F		7	[Catch-up/Review]	

Final Examination: Friday, December 14, 7:30-10:00 a.m.

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To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

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If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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Regular and punctual attendance at all classes is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent from more than 10 percent of class meetings, the faculty member can file a written report which may result in de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation. See [Academic Policies](#) in the Undergraduate Academic Catalog.