HIST 4262.004   RUSSIAN EMPIRE (1700-1917)   Velikanova Olga

Office hours: Thu 1.00-2.00 pm or by appointment, #237WH
Velikanova@unt.edu

The course examines the history of Russian empire from Peter the Great and his early eighteenth-century modernizing reforms to Russia’s last tsar Nicholas II ousted by the revolution of 1917. The course will provide a survey of key events and processes of social change while emphasizing in particular political thought and ideologies such as nationalism, socialism, as well as Russian culture of that period with its great achievements. This course has been conceived out of love for Russia and the desire to convey this to students who often have little idea of Russia’s sufferings and contributions to humanity. To introduce the student to major controversies and stimulate them to probe more deeply, I’ll present contrasting views and interpretations of key events and compare the Russian development with other imperial projects.

The course is multi-media based: we will draw not only on text and documents, but on photos, paintings, films and audio clips. All lectures are based on Power Point presentations available after the class at the Blackboard https://ecampus.unt.edu/webct/entryPage.dowebct

Readings include the textbook: C. Evtuhov, D. Goldfrank, L.Hughes, R.Stites, A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces.2004 (University bookstore)
Reader distributed by the instructor
O.Figes, Natasha’s Dance. Russian Cultural History (on reserve) ( check index for specific topic)
N.Gogol, The Overcoat (Bookstore)
Storey, Writing History ( wonderful guide) —in the library on reserve

Recommended Reading: De Custine, Journey for Our Time, (Memoirs, 1839)
Dostoevsky, Grand Inquisitor, in: The Brothers Karamazov(online or in the library)

Videos: Oblomov, Rasputin, The Russian Ark (in class).
Assignments (subject to change):  

Map quiz (10%) February 24.  

Mid-term test (30%) March 10  

Final Exam (30%) TBA  

Essay (30%) Due date April 28, Thursday. 5 double space pages including bibliography. Topics will be provided. See writing guide in the library. One page outline is mandatory on March 31.

Tests will cover the class lectures, reading materials, and videos. Make-ups will be given ONLY in the case of a true emergency with all necessary documentation and the instructor being contacted as soon as possible. The tests will have different types of questions including multiple choice, identifications, definitions, short answers, and chronology questions. Students will be given more information in advance.

SETE: The Student Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness is a requirement for all organized classes at UNT. At the end of the semester, it will provide you a chance to comment on how this class is taught. I am very interested in the feedback, as I work to continually improve my teaching. I consider the SETE to be an important part of your participation in this class.

Tentative outline:

1 Week. Introduction. Historical Geography. "Geo-schizophrenia"- indeterminacy between East and West. Mysteries of Russia’s destiny.  


+ Challenge and Response; Summary of Russian History in the Reader

2 Week  

Peter the Great: from Tsar to Emperor. Turn to the West. Ch. 11  

- Document: How Russians Celebrated the Year 1700  
  http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/new%20year-1700.htm  
  The new world of St. Petersburg. Virtual tour. Ch. 12  

- Visit to England  
  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/petergreat.html  

- Document  
  http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Miliukov--Peter%20I.htm  

- A poem: A. Pushkin, The Bronze Horseman (Introduction)  
  http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/pushkin/pushkin_ind.html

3 Week  


- Catherine II, Letter to Poniatovski (her lover) in the Reader  

- Document: Catherine on a New Law Code  
  http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/18catherine.html  

- Documents:  
  http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/pugachev.htm  
  http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/radishchev.htm  

- Movie Russian Ark. Discussion
4 Week. 
Russia in the age of Napoleon. Alexander I. War of 1812. Ch. 16. The December Uprising (1825) Ch. 17, 341-344.

- Map [http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/maptext_n2/napoleon.html](http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/maptext_n2/napoleon.html)
- Video clips “War and Peace” by S. Bondarchuk.
- The Decembrists: Extracts from the Documents, in the Reader
- Start reading Gogol’s story The Overcoat

5 Week. 
Nicholas I: Orthodoxy, Autocracy, and Nationality. Ch. 18
- De Custine, Journey for Our Time, (Memoirs) in the Reader

6 Week 
MAP QUIZ: February 24. Study maps in the textbook and online. p.209, 277, 281,312

DISCUSSION
- Read N. Gogol “The Overcoat” and Pushkin’s poems online: [http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/~mdenner/demo/poetpage/pushkin.html](http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/~mdenner/demo/poetpage/pushkin.html)

7 Week: 
- Document [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/chaadeav.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/chaadeav.htm)
- Movie: Oblomov by N. Mikhalkov

8 week. MID–TERM: March 10
- O.Figes, Natasha’s Dance (on reserve) (search index)
- A. Genis, The Evolution of Russian Cooking in the Reader

SPRING BREAK
9 week.
- Alexander II. Serfdom. Great reforms. Emancipation Ch.21
- T. Emmons, The Emancipation and the Nobility, in Reader
- S. Hoch, The peasant commune, in Reader
- Document: Reaction on Manifesto
- [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/nikitenko.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/nikitenko.htm)

10 week.
Great Realists: Culture in the second part of the 19 century.
- pp.422-423, 434-442; Figes, *Natasha’s Dance* (on reserve)

Dostoevsky *The Grand Inquisitor*. (Recommended) Read online:
- [http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pol116/grand.htm](http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/pol116/grand.htm)
- OUTLINE of the essay due on March 31

11 week.
Liberalism and Radicalism. Terrorists and Revolutionaries.
- Document: [http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/docemnets/lartsev.htm](http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/docemnets/lartsev.htm)
- Justification of terrorism (document) [http://www.uea.ac.uk/his/webcours/russia/documents/plehve1.shtml](http://www.uea.ac.uk/his/webcours/russia/documents/plehve1.shtml)

12 week
- See photos of Late Imperial Russia at [http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/ethnic.html](http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/ethnic.html)
- (people at work, transportation)

13 week
Crisis of Autocracy.

14 week ESSAY DUE APRIL 28
Russia in WWI. Ch 29 p. 563-577
- Map [http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/map01eu.htm](http://www.fsmitha.com/h2/map01eu.htm)

15 week:
End of Russian Empire. Revolutions of 1917. Ch. 30
- Document: Lenin on his program: [http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1899lenin-program.html](http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1899lenin-program.html)
- R. Pipes, Why Did Tsarism Fall? In the *Reader*

16 week: Review