

History 377  
Fall 2005

## The HISTORY of RUSSIA to 1900

([www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia](http://www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia))

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Office Hours: M 11-11:50; T 2-3:30; W 1-1:50; and by appointment

### Course Description

Russia today is one of the most influential countries in the world, and it has had a fascinating and difficult history. This course introduces students to the issues and debates raised in that history from its origins in roughly the 9th century until the eve of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We will examine Russia's history, as much as possible, through the eyes of those who lived it, trying thereby acquire a fuller understanding of Russia today.

The course is divided into two sections: Early Russia to 1700; and Imperial Russia 1700-1900. Relying on primary sources, we will approach the subject material from several perspectives, including political, social, economic, and cultural, with a number of themes in mind: state and society; ideology/religion; family/gender; class; war and peace, and others as well.

### Goals and Objectives:

- By the end of the class students will understand that history is not just the memorization of dates and facts, but rather the *interpretation* of the past
- Students will acquire a knowledge of the key terms, facts, and events in the history of Russia to 1900 and thereby gain an informed historical perspective
- Students will take from the class the skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and to clearly express their own interpretations
- Students will experience "hands-on" work with primary source material throughout the course and will gain an understanding of how to read history through such sources
- Students will gain a clear understanding of the concept of historiography and the fact that not all historians working on the same issues share the same conclusions
- Students will develop analytical skills and the ability to apply principles and generalizations learned in this class to other problems and situations
- Students will develop the ability to synthesize and integrate information and ideas as well as to distinguish between fact and opinion
- Students will be encouraged to develop an openness to new ideas and, most importantly, the capacity to think for themselves

### Readings:

Dmitrii Ivanovich Rostislavov, *Provincial Russia in the Age of Enlightenment: The Memoir of a Priest's Son*

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers & Sons*

Reserve articles and online material designated below

Optional: MacKenzie-Curran, *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union & Beyond*

**Course Web Page:** The course web page is at [www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia](http://www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia) The page has course readings, summaries of the notes, a timeline, and other features relevant to the course.

**Assignments:**

Participation	25 %	Midterm Exam	25 %
Review Essay	25 %	Final Exam	25 %

**Participation:** Your 25% class participation grade consists of worksheets and 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.

**Exams:** There is a midterm exam and a final exam (each worth 25%) for the class. The in-class exams are comprised of Identifications and Short Answer Questions based on course material and readings. The exams cover *only* the part of the course for which they are designated (Midterm: Early Russia-1700; Final: Imperial Russia 1700-1900), so they are *not cumulative*. Each exam includes a Take Home Essay, worth 10% of the overall exam grade, the topic for which will be distributed prior to the exam, with the essay to be turned in on exam day.

**Review Essay:** The Review Essay (worth 25%) requires you to define the issues and arguments involved in a topic of historiographical debate related to the course, i.e. the nature of early Slavic society and culture; the impact of the Mongols in Russian history; the role of Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, or some other ruler in Russian history; the rise of capitalism in Russia, etc. For the essay (double-spaced, 5-7 pages), you should summarize the opposing sides of an historical debate for a topic chosen ahead of time and approved by the instructor, identifying 3-5 major books or articles on that topic in a bibliography. **The essay is due Monday, November 28**, but can be turned in at any point of the semester after September 21; **be forewarned: we have a lot of reading toward the end of the semester, so you need to work on this assignment well before it is due.**

**Grading:** Grades are compiled on a point system (**keep up with your grades on Blackboard**). For example, if you make 80 on the midterm (12/15) + 87 on the midterm Take Home Essay (8.7/10) + (22/25) on participation + 85 on the Review Essay (21.3/25) + 84 on the final exam (12.6/15) + 90 on the final Take Home Essay (9/10) your final grade = **85.6** or **B**

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Monday, August 15. Introduction: Images of Russia

- Reading for Wednesday, August 17: Why Study History Through Primary Sources?  
Wednesday, August 17. Early Settlements in Russia & Daily Life of the Early Slavs

**Part I: Early Russia to 1700**

- Reading for Monday, August 22: Excerpts from *The Russian Primary Chronicle*; **Worksheet 1** due in class

Monday, August 22. Daily Life of the Early Slavs (cont'd) & the "Norman Theory": Discussion of Reading

- Reading for Wednesday, August 24: "A Woman of Words: Pagan Ol'ga in the Mirror of Germanic Europe" by Francis Butler

Wednesday, August 24. Kievan Rus & the Christianization of Russia: Discussion of the Reading

- Reading for Monday, August 29: “An Arab Traveler to Kiev” and “Russians Flip out over Flapjacks as Lent Nears”; Optional: “Lay of Igor’s Campaign”; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to the Arab Traveler reading due in class

Monday, August 29. The Decline of Kiev: Discussion of the Readings

- Reading for Wednesday, August 31: Accounts of the Mongol Invasion of Russia; and “The Mongol Impact on Russia” by George Vernadsky; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class

Wednesday, August 31. The Mongol Invasion & its Aftermath: Discussion of the Readings

Wednesday, September 7. The Rise of Novgorod

- Reading for Monday, September 12: *The Novgorod Chronicle*; **Worksheet 2** due in class

Monday, September 12. The Decline & Fall of Novgorod: Discussion of the Reading

Wednesday, September 14. The Rise of Muscovy

- Reading for Monday, September 19: “Ivan the Terrible as Renaissance Prince” by Michael Cherniavsky; “The Correspondence Between Tsar Ivan IV and Prince Andrei Kurbsky”; and “Ivan IV’s Rampage Against Novgorod”; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class

Monday, September 19. Ivan IV (the “Terrible”): Discussion of the Readings

- Reading for Wednesday, September 21: Ivan IV’s *Oprichnina*

Wednesday, September 21. The Latter Reign of Ivan IV & the Roots of the “Time of Troubles”

- Reading for Monday, September 26: “A German Merchant’s Account of Famine in Russia”; “An English Account of the Bolotnikov Uprising”; and “Who was Tsar Dmitrii?” by Chester Dunning; **Worksheet 3** due in class; Optional: excerpt of *Russian Rebels*

Monday, September 26. The “Time of Troubles”: Discussion of the Readings

Wednesday, September 28. The Reestablishment of Autocracy & the Origins of Serfdom

- Reading for Monday, October 3: Excerpts from The Law Code of 1649; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class; Optional: “Ballad to Stenka Razin” and “Tsar’s Edict Concerning Stenka Razin”

Monday, October 3. The Revolt of Stenka Razin & Religion in Russia

- Reading for Wednesday, October 5: Excerpts from *Avvakum’s Autobiography*; **Worksheet 4** due in class

Wednesday, October 5. Religious Crisis & the Church Schism: Discussion of the Reading

Wednesday, October 12. **MIDTERM EXAM**

## **Part II: Imperial Russia 1700-1900**

Monday, October 17. Peter the Great: Childhood & Early Reign

- Reading for Wednesday, October 19: “The Artisan Tsar” by V. O. Kliuchevsky; and “Personal Observations and Recollections of Peter the Great”

Wednesday, October 19. Peter the Great (cont’d): Discussion of the Readings

Monday, October 24. Russia in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century

- Reading for Wednesday, October 26: Views of Catherine the Great & Catherine the Great's Views; Optional: Excerpts from "Catherine the Great's Instructions";

Wednesday, October 26. Catherine II (the Great): Enlightened Despotism?

- Reading for Monday, October 31: "Petition from a Russian noblewoman to Empress Catherine II, 1768"; and Excerpts from Alexander Radishchev's "A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow"; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class

Monday, October 31. Catherine II & Alexander Radishchev: Discussion of the Readings

BEGIN READING: *Provincial Russia in the Age of Enlightenment*; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to the book due in class Monday, November 14

- Reading for Wednesday, November 2: Edicts from and Petitions to Emelian Pugachev
- Wednesday, November 2. The Pugachev Rebellion: Discussion of the Reading

Monday, November 7. Paul & Alexander I

- Optional Reading: "The Decembrists" & "Apology of a Madman"

Wednesday, November 9. Napoleon in Russia & the Decembrist Uprising of 1825

Monday, November 14. The "Iron Tsar" Nicholas I & Discussion of *Provincial Russia in the Age of Enlightenment*

BEGIN READING: *Fathers & Sons* by Ivan Turgenev; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) to the book due in class Wednesday, November 30

- Reading for Wednesday, November 16: *Inspector General* by Nikolai Gogol & "Letter to Gogol"; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class

Wednesday, November 16. Russian Literature as Social Critique: Discussion of the Readings

- Reading for Monday, November 21: excerpts from *Russia Through Women's Eyes*; Reaction Piece (1-2 pages) due in class

Monday, November 21. Women in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russia: Discussion of the Reading

Monday, November 28. Alexander II's Great Reforms

- **RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT DUE**

Wednesday, November 30. Nineteenth Century Russian Literature & Art: Discussion of *Fathers & Sons*

- Reading for Monday, December 5: "A Little Jewish Girl in the Russian Pale, 1890"

Monday, December 5. Opposition to Tsardom & Russia on the Eve of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Final Exam: Monday, December 12 Noon-3:00**