

HISTORY 418: IMPERIAL RUSSIA, 1801-1914

1131 Humanities, TR 9:30-10:45, Location TBA

Prof. D. McDonald, 5134 Humanities, 263-0489.

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Office Hours: Monday, 10-12; Tuesday, 1-4 OR by appt.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

N. Riasanovsky, *A History of Russia*, (hardcover or paper, various editions).

T. Riha, T.(ed.), *Readings in Russian Civilization*, vol. II, (pb).

B. Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia: A Source Book* (pb)

Recommended:

Robin Bisha *et alii*, compilers, *Russian Women, 1698-1917: Experience and Expression*, in paperback OR available as an e-book through MadCat

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

History 418 addresses the main themes of Russia's history from the accession of Emperor Alexander I in 1801 through the empire's entry into World War I. Offered for three or four credits, this class pursues several related educational objectives through a mixture of lectures, weekly section meetings, and written assignments. First and foremost, through participation in all components of the course, students should gain knowledge and understanding of the various processes and forces that shaped the history of the Russian empire during the "long" nineteenth century, a period of sweeping transformation in virtually all realms of social, cultural, and political life for all inhabitants of that state. Second, students should develop their skills in critical reading and thinking, chiefly through preparation for and participation in weekly discussion sections. In these meetings, students will discuss readings from primary source materials for two related purposes: identifying and explaining the persistence of certain themes and arguments across the time-period covered in the course; and appreciating the Russian experience on its own terms or, when relevant, in comparative context. Finally, in completing the written work for the course, students should enhance their skills in making clear arguments supported by pertinent evidence.

This class consists of two main components, lectures and section meetings. Lectures build on or add to the materials contained in the assigned textbook readings [for assigned readings, see schedule below]. They take as their starting-point the assumption that students will have read the appropriate texts before coming to lecture. The second part of the course is the weekly section meeting. Attendance at section meetings is **mandatory**. To encourage attendance, preparation, and participation, work in the section meetings will make up **20%** of the **final grade**.

The nature of the written work for this course varies, depending on the number of credits for which the class is being taken. **All students** will write a brief (5-7pp.) **paper** on a topic chosen from an assigned list. Due on **Thursday, Oct. 18**, this paper will account for **15% of the**

final grade. All students will also write a **take-home midterm** test due on **Tuesday, Nov. 6**; this test will be worth **15%** of the final grade. All students will write the **final examination**, scheduled for **Tuesday, Dec. 18**; the final will make up **25%** of the grade.

Written work for the course also includes a second paper, whose requirements vary according to the number of credits taken [NB—PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOUR REGISTRATION RECORD REFLECTS THE CREDIT-LOAD YOU WISH TO TAKE!!!]:

Three credit students will write a **second brief (5-7pp.) paper**, following the same procedure as the first. This paper will count for **25%** of the final grade, and is due on **Thursday, Dec. 6**.

Four credit students will write a research paper of approximately 15 pages in length, on a topic of the student's own choosing, outlined in a research proposal that requires the instructor's approval. In the interests of prudent time-management, students should submit these proposals *no later* than Thanksgiving week; ideally, you will do so before or just after the mid-term. Like the second paper for three-credit students, this paper will make up 25% of the final grade; it falls due, too, on **Thursday, Dec. 6**.

FINALLY, all students should make every effort to familiarize themselves thoroughly with definitions of *plagiarism*. University instructors and authorities regard plagiarism as an extremely grave offense. In this class, willful plagiarism will result in severe sanctions. Should students have any questions about how to acknowledge their sources or to include others' work in their writing without running the risk of plagiarism, they should contact the instructor or the teaching assistant.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Week 1 (Sept. 4): INTRODUCTION—THE MAKING OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.
- READINGS: **Class:** Riasanovsky, chapters XXIII, XXIV.
Discussion: No meeting.
- Week 2 (Sept. 11): THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE—
SOSLOVIA, RELIGION, ETHNOS .
- READINGS: **Class:** Dmytryshyn, pp. 113-121, 137-142 [Catherine's
Charter and materials on schools]. **Discussion:** Riha: Radishchev; Bisha,
Russian Women, "Religious Rituals of Daily Life," 125-134, 235-241.
- Week 3 (Sept. 18): GREAT EXPECTATIONS--THE REIGN OF ALEXANDER I (1801-
1825).
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias., XXV; Dmyt., pp. 153-164, 166-172
[Czartoryski and Karamzin on patriotism]. **Discussion:** As for class and
Riha: Karamzin.
- Week 4 (Sept. 25): ALEXANDER "THE BLESSED."
- READINGS: **Class and discussion:** Dmytryshyn, pp. 175-194 [Franco-
Russian relations, Speranskii's reform project and materials on "Great War
of the Fatherland.".]
- Week 5 (Oct. 2): "THE APOGEE OF AUTOCRACY"—NICHOLAS I (1825-1855).
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVI; Dmyt., pp. 201-229. [Materials on
succession crisis of 1825 and Decembrist rising]. **Discussion:** As for class
and Riha: Decembrists.
- Week 6 (Oct. 9): CHALLENGES TO THE "NICHOLAS SYSTEM"
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVII; Dmyt., pp. 196-200, 234-237, 261-270
[Documents on Poland, Nicholas I's "reactionary and repressive" policies,
and Ukraine]. **Discussion:** Riha: Chaadaev.
- Week 7 (Oct. 16): NICHOLAS'S DEFEATS, 1848-1855. [NB: **First term-papers due
before class on Thursday, October 18**]

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVIII; Dmyt., pp. 286-293 [Materials on Crimean war]. **Discussion:** Riha: Belinskii, Herzen.

Week 8 (Oct. 23): ALEXANDER II AND THE ERA OF THE GREAT REFORMS, 1855-1881—MAKING THE REFORMS, 1855-1874.

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXIX; Dmyt., pp. 304-320. [Documents on reforms, Katkov on Poland.]. **Discussion:** Riha: Aksakov, Dobroliubov.

Week 9 (Oct. 30) THE “FAILURE” OF REFORM: IMPLEMENTATION AND THE BEGINNINGS OF ORGANIZED DISSENT, 1863-1870.

READINGS: **Class:** Dmyt., pp. 345-354. [Turgenev on “nihilism,” revolutionary “catechism.”]. **Discussion:** As for class, as well as Riha, Uspenskii and Bisha, *Russia’s Women*, pp. 340-343

Week 11 (Nov. 6): RUSSIA AFTER THE REFORMS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES, 1874-1881 [NB: **Take-home mid-term due at beginning of class, Tuesday, Nov. 6]**

READINGS: **Class:** Dmyt. Pp. 362-381. [San Stefano and pan-Slavism.] **Discussion:** Riha: Breshko-Breshkovskaia. Bisha: pp. 181-191.

Week 12 (Nov. 13): THE SWAN-SONG OF AUTOCRACY—ALEXANDER III (1881-1894).

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXX (1881-1894), XXXII; Dmyt., pp. 355-362 [*Narodnaia volia* documents]. **Discussion:** Riha: Assassination of Alexander II, Pobedonostsev.

Week 13 (Nov. 20): MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS: STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXXII, XXXIII. **Discussion:** Riha: Excerpts from Witte and on work-conditions; Bisha, pp. 81-97

Week 14 (Nov. 27): THE LAST AUTOCRAT—NICHOLAS II (1894-1917).

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXX (1894-1905); Riha: Miliukov.

Week 15 (Dec. 4): WAR, REVOLUTION, AND THE "CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERIMENT" (1900-1906) [NB: **Second papers due at beginning of class, Thursday, Dec. 6]**

READING: **Class:** Rias. XXXI; Dmyt., pp. 409-466. [Materials on 1905, October Manifesto, Fundamental Laws, Duma, Parties, Witte.]
Discussion: Riha: Throne speech and reply, first Duma, Stolypin. Bisha, pp. 51-55, pp. 346-353.

Week 15 (Dec. 11): AUTOCRACY'S LAST CHANCE? THE STOLYPIN ERA AND THE COMING OF THE GREAT WAR, 1906-1914.

READING: **Class:** Dmyt., pp. 468-472, 479-490, 510-519, 522-525. Foreign relations and World War I]; Riha, Pipes and Durnovo.

FINAL EXAMINATION: DEC. 18, 2:45PM