Introduction

This course examines the history of the Russian Empire from the reign of Peter the Great to the end of the Romanov Dynasty in 1917. Its principal themes include the development and challenges to autocratic rule; social relations within Russia; the creation of a uniquely Russian nationalism and cultural style; and the meeting between Russians and the many different people and environments along the borders of what became in this period the world’s largest empire.

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the term, you should be able to:

- Locate important locations in the Russian Empire on a map
- Describe the key developments in Russian imperial history from 1685 – 1917
- Recognize different interpretations of these developments
- Analyze and interpret primary sources of historical information
- Write and develop your own argument, supported by evidence, on the following themes:
  1. The successes and failures of Russian autocracy
  2. Russia’s unique forms of colonial expansion
  3. The vexing problem of serfdom
  4. The genius and vulgarity of Russian nationalism

**Required Books**


**Classroom Policies**

No electronic devices are to be used in class without the permission of the professor.

**Assignments**

1. One map quiz (5%)
2. Attendance and Participation (5%)
3. Eight (8) reading quizzes (30%)
Reading quizzes will normally be administered at the beginning of class on Thursdays. They will consist of two short questions, one covering the previous Tuesday’s lecture and one covering that day’s readings. Your lowest quiz score for the quarter will be dropped and not counted against your final score.

4. Two review essays (30%) due October 21 and November 18

Each review should be 3-4 pages long (double-spaced, 12-pt font) and address one of the class’s main themes as represented in the book under consideration. Please use Chicago-style footnotes for both reviews.  https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/05/

5. Final exam (30%) or Final Essay (7 – 10 pages) December 8

You have the option either of sitting a final examination, which will consist of either

1) a number of term definitions, a list of which we will compile during the quarter

2) or writing a research essay which examines the history of one location in the Russian Empire in the light of the developments and themes discussed in the course. Please consult with the professor if you choose the second option.
**Map Quiz Terms:**

1. Moscow  
2. St. Petersburg  
3. Kazan  
4. Volga River  
5. Arkhangelsk  
6. Don River  
7. Ukraine  
8. Kazakhstan  
9. Lake Baikal  
10. Sakhalin  
11. White Sea  
12. Orenburg  
13. Caucasus Mountains  
14. Ural Mountains  
15. Yakutsk  
16. Chukotka  
17. Vladivostok  
18. Kamchatka  
19. Azerbaijan  
20. Kiev  
21. Nizhnii Novgorod  
22. Baltic Sea  
23. Kola Peninsula  
24. Tobolsk  
25. Caspian Sea  
26. Amur River  
27. Odessa  
28. Ob River
CLASS SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEEK 1  INTRODUCTION and EMPIRE

Sept 28  Introduction / Russian Geography
        Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Russia’s Empires, Introduction

Sept 30  The Rise of Muscovy and the Romanovs
        Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Chapters 2, 3
        Yuri Krizhanich, “Observations on Russia’s Potential Strengths and
        Weaknesses”

Reading Quiz 1

WEEK 2  THE PETRINE REVOLUTION

Oct 5  Peter the Great Changes Russia … or Does He?
        Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 4

Oct 7  Social Revolutions
        Read:  Read:  Darra Goldstein, “Gastronomic Reforms under Peter the
        Great: Toward a Cultural History of Russian Food,” Jahrbücher für die

Reading Quiz 2
**WEEK 3  THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

Oct 12  Catherine’s Enlightened Empire

   Read:  Kivelson and Suny, Chapter 5

   **********************  MAP QUIZ  **********************

Oct 14 Empire in the East

   Read:  Georg Wilhelm Steller, “Irkutsk”

   Reading Quiz 3

**WEEK 4  PUSHKIN and THE AUTOCRACY**

Oct 19  Reform and Reaction

   Read:  Kivelson and Suny, pp 140 - 166

Oct 21  The Autocracy and Pushkin

   Read:  Alexander Pushkin, The Captain’s Daughter
   https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/13511

   **********************  BOOK REVIEW 1 DUE  **********************
WEEK 5  NATIONALISM AND ECONOMY

Oct 26    Autocracy and Nationalism
          Read:  Kivelson and Suny, 166 - 182

Oct 28    The Economy and the Provinces
          Read:  Charles King, “There Is Nothing National About Odessa,” in King, Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams

Reading Quiz 4

WEEK 6  NATIONALISM and SERFDOM

Nov 2    Russian Nationalism in the Empire
          Read:  Lev Tolstoy, “Felling Wood”

Nov 4    Serfdom
          Read:  Steven Hoch, “Punishment, Fear, and Control,” in Serfdom and Social Control in Russia

Reading Quiz 5
WEEK 7  THE GREAT REFORMS

Nov 9  The Reforms of Alexander II

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 183 – 198

Reading Quiz 6

Nov 11  No Class - Veterans’ Day

WEEK 8  REFORM AND RADICALISM

Nov 16  Radicalism

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 199 – 220

Film: The Barber of Siberia

Nov 18  The Anarchist Tradition

Barbara Alpern Engel, Five Women against the Tsar

*************** BOOK REVIEW 2 DUE ***********************
WEEK 9 THE PROBLEMS OF LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA

Nov 23 Culture, Science, and Environment

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 227 – 236


Reading Quiz 7

WEEK 10 THE END OF THE ROMANOVS

Nov 30 War and Revolution(s)

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 236 – 255

Dec 2 The End of the Romanovs (plus Finals Review)

Read: Kivelson and Suny, 255 – 266


Reading Quiz 8

***************** FINAL EXAM December 8, 8:00 am
*****************