

History 048: Imperial Russia, 1689-1905

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In the mid-seventeenth century, Muscovite Russia was one of many mid-tier states in Europe struggling to survive, having just experienced political implosion and foreign occupation during the Time of Troubles (1604-1613). By the mid-eighteenth century, Russia had become a great empire and emerged as one of the great powers of Europe. Down to 1917, the Russian Empire continued to play a precocious role in Europe's—and the world's—military, political, and cultural developments. How and why did Russia become the center of the world's largest land empire? What was the cost of the Russian empire's "greatness," both to its own population and to other peoples? Why did so many Russians have doubts about their country's path and so obsess about their relationship to Europe? What constants determined this trajectory—and what has changed in Russian culture and society?

The only prerequisites for this course are a curiosity for Russian history and a willingness to explore its drama and complexity. No prior knowledge of the subject is assumed.

Russian history, like the history of any entity, is multifaceted and complex. No account can cover all its nuances and variety. This course will focus in particular on Russia's growth as an empire, in political and diplomatic terms; on the consolidation of the autocracy that accompanied this growth; and, the responses of Russians to these two developments. In examining these responses, we will focus especially on aspects of Russian culture: literature, painting, and music.



Vasilii Surikov, *Morning of the Execution of the Strel'tsy* (1881). Tret'iakov Gallery, Moscow.

GRADING:

Participation in discussion:	25%
Six-page paper (Mon., Oct. 12):	25%
In-class exam (Mon., Nov. 2):	25%
Take-home final exam (Weds., Dec. 16):	25%

FORMAT AND EXPECTATIONS:

Each week students will attend two lectures and one discussion section (“recitation”). If you cannot attend a lecture or recitation, *it is your responsibility* to find out what you have missed. Please come to each lecture class having completed the readings for that day. “To complete the readings” means allowing yourself sufficient time both to read through the assigned materials and to think about them. Bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. Much of lecture time will be devoted to lectures, but I will be calling on students occasionally and will hold impromptu discussions of key issues. And I welcome questions during the course of the lectures. Recitations will explore the assigned readings—including primary source material in translation—as well as the lectures.

Please enroll in the course’s BLACKBOARD site. Materials will be distributed via this site.

Recitations: Enrollment in a recitation section is required; attendance is mandatory.

- 405: Thursday 4:30 – 5:30 (COLL 217)
- 402: Friday 10:00 – 11:00 (COLL 315A)
- 403: Friday 12:00 – 1:00 (COLL 318)
- 404: Friday 1-2 (WILL 2)

READING: Reading assignments average ca. 105 pp. per week. That is an average, however. On certain weeks, esp. in the first half of the semester, the reading will be closer to 180 pp. (Of course, that means the reading on certain other weeks—esp. in the second half of the semester—will be correspondingly less.) Please plan your reading schedule accordingly.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: All students are expected to adhere to the University of Pennsylvania’s Code of Academic Integrity. Please consult the Code of Academic Integrity, available at: <http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/osl/acadint.html>

REQUIRED TEXTS (available at the Penn Book Center, 34th and Sansom Streets):

- Paul Bushkovitch, *Peter the Great (Critical Issues in History Series)*
- Anton Chekhov, *Five Plays: Ivanov, the Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters, and the Cherry Orchard (Oxford World's Classics)* [we will read *The Cherry Orchard*]
- James Cracraft, *Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia (Major Problems in European History Series)*
- Fedor Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground: A Norton Critical Edition*
- Nikolai Gogol, *The Overcoat and Other Short Stories (Dover Thrift Edition)*
- Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia: People and Empire*
- Isabel De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great: A Short History*
- Marc Raeff, *Understanding Imperial Russia*
- Leo Tolstoy, *Great Short Works of Leo Tolstoy (Perennial Classics)* [we will read only *Hadji Murad*; the price of this edition of collected works, however, was cheaper than the version of *Hadji Murad* published as a separate volume.]

WEEK 1 [17 pp.]

Weds., Sept. 9: Lecture 1: INTRODUCTION [read the following assignment for recitation sections] [17 pp.]

- Pipes, “The Environment and its Consequences” in *Major Problems* [17 pp.]
- Maps: Hosking, pp. viii-xv; Cracraft, p. 5
- Look over Hosking, “Chronology,” pp. 485-492; Bushkovich, Chronology, xi-xii; Raeff, *Understanding*, pp. 227-29.

WEEK 2: [181 pp.]

Mon., Sept. 14: Lecture 2: THE MUSCOVITE HERITAGE

- Bushkovich, *Peter the Great*, Introduction, chs. 1-2 [68 pp.]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 1 [33 pp.]

Weds., Sept. 16: Lecture 3: PETER THE GREAT

- Bushkovich, *Peter the Great*, chs. 3-4 [60 pp.]
- Hosking, part II, ch. 2 (“The Secular State of Peter the Great”) [20 pp.]

WEEK 3: [183 pp.]

Mon., Sept. 21: Lecture 4: THE PETRINE REVOLUTION

- Bushkovich, *Peter the Great*, chs. 5-6 [33 pp.]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 2 [20 pp.]
- Petrine Reform Legislation and Prokopovich’s Eulogy, in *Major Problems* [12 pp.]
- Anisimov, “Peter the Great: Birth of Empire” in *Major Problems* [17 pp.]
- View the website of the Hermitage: <http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/> and tour, via the “Virtual visit” (upper right-hand corner) the MENSHIKOV PALACE:
 - Ground floor: The Courtyard; the Main Vestibule; the Large Chamber
 - First floor: the Reception Room; the Walnut Study; the Grand Hall.

Weds., Sept. 23: Lecture 5: AN AGE OF NOBILITY?

- Hosking, part II, ch. 3 (“Assimilating Peter’s Heritage”) [25 pp.]
- Hosking, part III, ch. 1 (“The Nobility”), pp. 153-171 [18 pp.] [**NB: not entire chapter**]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 3 (30 pp.)
- Anisimov, “Empire of the Nobility” in *Major Problems* [18 pp.]

WEEK 4: [126 pp.]

Mon., Sept. 28: Lecture 6: THE SOCIAL ORDER: OR, HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVED

- Hosking, part III, ch. 3 (“The Peasantry”) [26 pp.]
- De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*, chs. 2, 12 [28 pp.]

Weds., Sept. 30: Lecture 7: GREAT CATHERINE

- De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*, chs. 1, 3-5 [53 pp.]
- “Catherine Instructs the Legislative System” Cracraft, *Major Problems* [4 pp.]
- “Catherine’s Charter to the Nobility” in Cracraft, *Major Problems* [7 pp.]
- Alexander Radishchev excoriates Russia’s Social System in *Major Problems* [8 pp.]

*****PAPER TOPICS DISTRIBUTED*****

WEEK 5: [146 pp.]

Mon., Oct. 5: Lecture 8: ENLIGHTENED ABSOLUTISM

- De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*, chs. 8, 10-11, 15-16 [67 pp.]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 4 (22 pp.)

Weds., Oct. 7: Lecture 9: EMPIRE IN THE WEST AND IN THE EAST

- Hosking, part I (“The Russian Empire: How and Why”) [42 pp.]
- De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great*, chs. 7, 13 [24 pp.]
- Cracraft, “Empire versus Nation” in *Major Problems* [9 pp.]
- “Russia Annexes the Crimea” in *Major Problems* [2 pp.]

WEEK 6: [98 pp.]

Mon., Oct. 12: Lecture 10: REFORM AND REACTION UNDER ALEXANDER I

- Hosking, Part II, ch. 4 (“The Apogee of the Secular State”) [30 pp.]
- Marc Raeff, “The ‘Constitutionalism’ of Alexander I” in *Major Problems* [12 pp.]
- N. M. Karamzin defends the Established Order (1811) in *Major Problems* [9 pp.]

***** SIX-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS *****

Weds., Oct. 14: Lecture 11: THE NAPOLEONIC WARS AND 1812: RUSSIA SAVES EUROPE?

- Hosking, Part III, ch. 2 (“The Army”) [15 pp.]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 5 [32 pp.]
- View the website of the Hermitage: <http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/> and tour the Hermitage (the Winter Palace) via the “Virtual Viewings”:
 - Ground Floor: The Jordan Gallery
 - First Floor: The Main Staircase, ascending from the Jordan Gallery; the Memorial Hall of Peter the Great; the Raphael Loggias; the Large Italian Skylight Hall; the Rembrandt Room; the St. George Hall; the Concert Hall.
 - Second Floor: The Matisse Room
 - View from the Roof: View of Palace Square; View of the Neva.
 - Outside views.
- Via the “Virtual Viewings” (the button immediately beneath the “Virtual Visit”), view the 1812 War Gallery, located on the First Floor.

WEEK 7: [70 pp.]

Mon., Oct. 19: FALL BREAK

Weds., Oct. 21: Lecture 12: NICHOLAS I: CAUTIOUS REFORMER OR CAUTIOUS REACTIONARY?

- Hosking, Part III, ch. 1 (“The Nobility”), pp. 171-182 [11 pp.]
- Hosking, Part III, ch. 4 (“The Orthodox Church”) [21 pp.]
- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 6 [24 pp.]
- Nicholas Riasanovsky, “The Supreme Commander” in *Major Problems* [14 pp.]

WEEK 8: [94 pp.]

Mon., Oct. 26: Lecture 13: “A REMARKABLE DECADE” (1830s): THE ORIGINS OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA

- Hosking, pt. III, ch. 6 (“The Birth of the Intelligentsia”) [22 pp.] [OVER]

- Hosking, Part II, ch. 7 (“Literature as Nation-BUILDER”) [25 pp.]
- Nikolai Gogol, “The Overcoat” and “The Nose” in *The Overcoat and Other Short Stories*
- Alexander Herzen defends the “Hidden Russia” in *Major Problems* [11 pp.]

MIDTERM STUDY SHEET DISTRIBUTED

Weds., Oct. 28: Lecture 14: ALEXANDER II: THE TSAR LIBERATOR?

- Hosking, part 4, ch. 1 (“The Reforms of Alexander II”) [30 pp.]
- Francis Wcislo, “The Dilemmas of Emancipation” in *Major Problems* [1 pp.]
- Alexander II’s Manifesto Freeing the Serfs in *Major Problems* [4 pp.]

WEEK 9: [26 pp.]

Mon., Nov. 2: *** IN-CLASS EXAM ***

Weds., Nov. 4: Lecture 15: PARADOXES OF THE REFORM PERIOD

- Richard Wortman, “Towards the Rule of Law” [13 pp.]
- Hosking, part III, ch. 5 (“Towns and the Missing Bourgeoisie”) [16 pp.]

WEEK 10 [175 pp.]

Mon., Nov. 9: Lecture 16: EMPIRE

- Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad* in *Great Short Works of Leo Tolstoy* [120 pp.]

Weds., Nov. 11: Lecture 17: THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT

- Hosking, Part 4, ch. 2 (“Russian Socialism”) [21 pp.]
- Vera Figner Defends Assassination in *Major Problems* [6 pp.]
- Manifesto of Alexander III affirming Autocracy in *Major Problems* [1 pp.]
- Constantine Pobedonostsev attacks Democracy in *Major Problems* [7 pp.]
- S. I. Kanatchikov recounts his Adventures, in *Major Problems* [20 pp.]

WEEK 11: [99 pp.]

Mon., Nov. 16: Lecture 18: MOSCOW AND ST. PETERSBURG AS CULTURAL AND POLITICAL SYMBOLS

- Fedor Dostoevsky, *Notes from the Underground* [pp. 1-91]

Weds., Nov. 18: Lecture 19: : ALEXANDER III: REACTION, OR REFORM BY A DIFFERENT PATH?

- Richard Pipes, “Toward the Police State,” in *Major Problems* [8 pp.]

WEEK 12: [53 pp.] (NB: Week of Thanksgiving. We will hold class on Weds., Nov. 25.)

Mon., Nov. 23: Lecture 20: RUSSIAN CULTURE IN THE LATE EMPIRE: THE ITINERANTS AND RUSSIAN MUSIC

- Fedor Dostoevsky, “A Speech Delivered on June 8, 1880 at the Meeting of the Society of Lovers of Russian Literature” [on-line]

Weds., Nov. 25: Lecture 21: MULTICONFESSIONAL EMPIRE: OR, JEWS IN THE LAND OF THE TSARS

- Hosking, Part 4, ch. 3 (“Russification”) [30 pp.] [OVER]

- Edward Thaden, “Russification” in *Major Problems* [6 pp.]
- S. D. Urusov explains Russian Anti-semitism in *Major Problems* [17 pp.]

THANKSGIVING

WEEK 13: [124 pp.]

Mon., Nov. 30: Lecture 22: NICHOLAS II: AN AUTOCRAT FACES THE MODERN WORLD

- Anton Chekhov, “The Cherry Orchard” [53 pp.]
- Gary Hamburg, “The Nobility in Crisis” in *Major Problems* [3 pp.]
- V. I. Gurko recalls Witte’s Years in Power, in *Major Problems* [10 pp.]

Weds., Dec. 2: Lecture 23: A CIVIL SOCIETY?

- Raeff, *Understanding*, ch. 7 (52 pp.)
- Alfred Rieber, “The Fragmented ‘Middle Ranks’” in *Major Problems* [9 pp.]

WEEK 14: [72 pp.]

Mon., Dec. 7: Lecture 24: THE REVOLUTION OF 1905

- Hosking, Part 4, chs. 4 and 5 (“Revolution of 1905” and “Duma Monarchy”) [44 pp.]
- Terence Emmons, “The Constitutional Movement” in *Major Problems* [27 pp.]
- The October Manifesto, *Major Problems* [1 pp.]

Weds., Dec. 9: Lecture 25: SUMMING UP

*** TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAM HANDED OUT IN CLASS ***
DUE NOON, WEDS., DEC. 16