

History 221
Hathorn 303
Dr. Williams
Fall 2006

OH TTh 1:00-2:30 pm
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Bates College

IMPERIAL RUSSIA



This course examines the so-called “St. Petersburg period” of Russian history, from about 1703, when the city of St. Petersburg was begun, through World War I and the Bolshevik Revolution, which created the Soviet Union (1918-91). We will emphasize cultural and intellectual history, westernization, political reform, foreign policy, economic development, the revolutionary intelligentsia, and the non-Russian nationalities of the empire. No prior knowledge of Russian history is assumed, although any knowledge of European history will be helpful. Classes meet twice weekly and combine lectures and discussion, depending on the assignment. Students are expected to attend all classes and to participate regularly in discussion, based upon the reading assigned for each class day. Please read every assignment for every class and come to class prepared for discussion.

Required readings:

- Williams = Robert C. Williams, *Ruling Russian Eurasia* (Anvil)
Figes = Orlando Figes, *Natasha’s Dance. A Cultural History of Russia* (Picador/Holt)
Madariaga = Isabel de Madariaga, *Catherine the Great. A Short History* (Yale)
Turgenev = Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons* (Dover Thrift Edition)
Gorky = Maxim Gorky, *My Childhood* (Penguin)

Class Work:

Please bring the assigned readings to class each day, along with your questions about the topic under consideration. We may wish to use these questions as starting points for discussion. At the end of some classes, you will be given a minute or two to write a brief, anonymous comment on the major points of the class and any questions you might have. This helps provide your instructor with regular feedback on how effectively you are learning and he is teaching.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in discussion. A maximum number of five absences is allowed. Students with more than five unexcused absences will fail the course. If you know in advance that you must miss a class, please inform me before that class. Attendance at the final examination is mandatory.

Written Work:

Written work for the course includes three short (2-3 pages) papers that analyze one of the primary source readings required in the course, a midterm review examination, a 10-15 page term paper based on some original reading and research, and a final examination.

Grading:

Final examination, 25%. Three short papers, 25%. Midterm review, 15%. Term paper, 25%.. Discussion, 10%. Grading is always somewhat subjective, but is based on forty years of teaching experience with both graduate and undergraduate students. I believe in high expectations and fair judgment.

Plagiarism:

Using the words of another person without attribution and/or quotation (plagiarism) constitutes a violation of the honor system at Bates College (and anywhere else), whose faculty have created an excellent definition and website on the matter ("Bates College Statement on Plagiarism," 1987). Plagiarism may be grounds for failure in the course. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask me about the subject.

Useful Internet Sites (use with caution, since there is little if any peer review):

<http://www.alexanderpalace.org>

<http://www.gethelp.library.upenn.edu/guides/hist/imperialrussia.html>

<http://www.art-of-imperial-russia.com/current.html>

<http://www.tretyakovgallery.ru/english>

<http://www.saint-petersburg.com>

<http://www.hermitagemuseum.org>

<http://www.rusmuseum.ru/eng/collections>

<http://www.basecamp.cnhost.com/peterbrg.htm>

CLASS SCHEDULE:

- Th Sep 7 Russia and Eurasia: Mapping Imperial Space. Suggested: Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia. People and History* (1997).
- T Sep 12 Steppe by Steppe: Kiev, Kaganates and Khans
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, ix-xxv, 3-25 and 125-145. Suggested: Charles Halperin, *Russia and the Golden Horde* (1985).
- Th Sep 14 Forest over Steppe: Medieval Moscow, Poland, and Kazan
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 26-36 and 146-154, and Figes, *Dance*, xxv-xxxiii, 289-309. Suggested: Janet Martin, *Medieval Russia, 980-1584* (1995).
- T Sep 19 “Westernization”: The Protestant Reforms of Peter the Great
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 37-43 and 155-67, Figes, *Dance*, 3-38.
Suggested: Lindsey Hughes, *Russia in the Age of Peter the Great* (1998).
- Th Sep 21 Aristocratic Resurgence and Clan Politics
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 43-8 and 171-6, Figes, *Dance*, 38-68.
Suggested: Brenda Meehan-Waters, *Autocracy and Aristocracy. The Russian Service Elite of 1730* (1982)
- T Sep 26 Power and Reason: Catherine the Great and Enlightened Imperialism
Read Madariaga, *Catherine*, 1-103, Williams, *Eurasia*, 48-56 and 171-6.
Suggested: John Alexander, *Catherine the Great* (1989).
- Th Sep 28 The French Madness: Revolution and Reform
Read Madariaga, *Catherine*, 104-218.
- T Oct 3 The “Mad” Paul and the Gentry Reaction
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 56-8 and 177-8.
DUE IN CLASS; Short paper on a primary source from the reign of either Catherine II or Paul I.
- Th Oct 5 Alexander I: From Reform to Liberation
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 59-64 and 179-86.
- T Oct 10 Radical Republicans: Decembrism and the Children of 1812
Read Figes, *Dance*, 72-146.
- Th Oct 12 Nicholas I and the “Knouto-Germanic Empire”
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 64-71 and 187-98. Suggested: W. Bruce Lincoln, *Nicholas I* (1978).

T Oct 17 MIDTERM EXAMINATION

October 18-22 FALL RECESS

- T 24 Identity and Others: Romanticism and the Russian Intelligentsia
Read Figs, *Dance*, 150-216. Suggested: Andrej Walicki, *The Slavophile Controversy* (1975).
- Th Oct 26 Liberation: Alexander II and Serf Emancipation
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 71-5 and 199-209, and Figs, *Dance*, 220-87.
Suggested: Daniel Field, *The End of Serfdom* (1976).
- T Oct 31 Nihilism: Fathers and Children
Read Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*.
DUE IN CLASS: Short paper on Turgenev's novel as a historical source on pre-emancipation Russia.
Suggested: Barbara Engel, *Mothers and Daughters* (1983).
- Th Nov 2 Russian Populism: Utopia and Terrorism
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 75-7, 210-17 and Figs, *Dance*, 310-325.
Suggested: Franco Venturi, *Roots of Revolution* (1960).
- T Nov 7 Alexander III: Regicide, Reaction and Russification
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 77-9 and Figs, *Dance*, 325-354.
SUBMIT TOPIC STATEMENT FOR YOUR PAPER.
- Th Nov 9 The Last Emperors: Nicholas, Rasputin, and Alexandra
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 79-81, 227-30.
- T Nov 14 Industrialization and the Revolution of 1905
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 81-7, 218-26, 231-34
Suggested: Theodore Von Laue, *Sergei Witte and the Industrialization of Russia* (1969).
- Th Nov 16 Mother Russia
Read Gorky, *Childhood*, chapters 1-7.
Suggested: Joanna Hubbs, *Mother Russia. The Feminine Myth in Russian Culture* (1988).
SUBMIT OUTLINE FOR YOUR PAPER.

November 18-26 THANKSGIVING RECESS

- T Nov 28 The Lower Depths
Read Gorky, *Childhood*, chapters 8-13.
Suggested. Robert Service, *Lenin. A Biography* (2000).

- Th Nov 30 The Silver Age: Apocalypse and Avant-garde
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 235-8 and Figes, *Dance*, 358-429
Suggested: Irene Massing-Delic, *Abolishing Death. A Salvation Myth of Russian Twentieth-Century Literature* (1992).
SUBMIT DRAFT OF PAPER (OPTIONAL)
- T Dec 5 Toward Civil Society: World War I and the March Revolution
Read Williams, *Eurasia*, 88-90 and 230-44
Suggested: Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy* (1997).
- Th Dec 7 The End of Imperial Russia and Soviet Power
Read Williams, *Eurasia* 91-122 and 245-58.
Suggested: Finish reading Figes. TERM PAPERS DUE.
- W Dec 13 FINAL EXAMINATION: 1:15 PM. YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED!

