

Syllabus: History 342  
The Russian Kingdom and Empire, 1462-1917  
TR 11-12:20  
Spring 2012

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“[Russia] is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.”  
Winston Churchill

The great Russian historian George Vernadsky once wrote that Russian history is neither unduly long nor complicated. While it is true that the history of Russia is certainly no longer nor more complicated than the history of any other European nation, the evolution of Russia as a nation resulted from events frequently unique among European nations. For example, neither the Renaissance nor the Reformation reached Russia, except in fragmentary elements, for as these were occurring in the West, Russia was trying to escape domination by the Mongols, and then reestablishing a centralized kingdom from the myriad of widely scattered and largely autonomous principalities that had become virtually independent during the 240 years of the Mongol period. As a result of this process, Russia experienced royal absolutism more than a century before western Europe would, serfdom would be instituted there as it was gradually disappearing in the West, and active involvement in the western European power structure would not truly begin until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Topics which will be approached in this course include the effects of the “Mongol Yoke” from 1240 to 1480, the emergence of the Grand Princes of Moscow as first among equals among the Russian princes, the reemergence of the Russian kingdom under Ivan III “the Great” at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the establishment of royal absolutism under Ivan IV “the Terrible” in 1547, the reign of terror waged by Ivan the Terrible against the Russian nobility, the terrible succession crisis caused by the extinction of the Rurik dynasty in 1598, wars with Russia’s neighbors, the emergence of the Romanov dynasty in 1613, the religious problems of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the modernization of Russia under Peter I “the Great,” Russia as a European power by the end of Peter the Great’s reign, the widening gulf between serfs and nobles during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the reign of the German princess Catherine II “the Great,” the first tentative attempts at reform, the Napoleonic Wars and their impact, the reactionary despotism of Nicholas I, the rise of revolutionary doctrines, imperial expansion, and social crisis in the middle and late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the incompetent Nicholas II’s inability to preserve the Empire in the face of war, economic problems, and social revolution during World War I.

It must be borne in mind that the cultivation of a truly objective viewpoint, free from all traces of cultural or ideological bias, is far more often than not an illusory goal; yet this remains the ultimate objective of all serious students of history. As you will soon discover, I have a great many opinions, and little or no reticence in expressing them. This fact notwithstanding, my purpose in this course is not to fill your heads with my opinions, but to provide you with the facts and methods whereby each of you can become your own historian, and determine your own objective, well-reasoned, and intellectually supportable conclusions.

In keeping with the above, the format for this course will be a combination of lecture and discussion. Participation in discussion of both lecture material and assigned readings is not only encouraged, it is very strongly recommended.

Grades will be determined by performance on one midterm and one final examination, as well as on one 15-20 page research paper on a particular aspect of Russian history. Examinations will consist of essay questions; and students will be responsible for all material covered in the lectures and/or in the assigned readings.

An additional note on the assigned readings: in addition to the course textbook, there may be some supplementary readings assigned which can be found on reserve in the library. I will provide you with further information on these should the need arise. In regard to the paper, primary as well as secondary sources must be utilized. I will be happy to answer any questions regarding sources, citations, etc. which you might have.

Concerning the selection of a topic for your paper, please submit three prospective topics in writing before or during the 5th week of classes. After doing so, please either schedule an appointment with me or see me during office hours, when we will determine a final topic. It is imperative that all final topics for papers be approved.

Rough drafts of your research papers are due on March 22. These rough drafts should include the bibliography.

The research paper itself is due on April 19. Please remember this date, because late papers will not be regarded favorably.

**Academic Honesty Policy:** Academic honesty is required in all academic endeavors. Violations of academic honesty include any instance of plagiarism, cheating, seeking credit for another's work, falsifying documents or academic records, or any other fraudulent activity. Violations of academic honesty may result in a failing grade on the assignment, failure in the course, or expulsion from the University. When a student's grade has been affected, violations of academic honesty will be reported to the Provost or designated representative on the Academic Honesty Violation Report forms.

Please see the 2011-2012 Student Handbook and Calendar for specific activities identified as violations of this policy and the student due process procedure. This handbook is also available online at

<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/handbook/index.pdf>

The department also has a grade appeal policy: for further information please consult the 2011-2012 Student Handbook.

**Students with Disabilities:** If you have been diagnosed with a disability or if you suspect that you may have a disability that has never been diagnosed, and you would like to find out what services may be available, please visit the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in Eder Hall, room 203N or visit the ODS website at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/ds/> as soon as possible. This syllabus, as well as all

other printed or electronic materials, can be made available in alternative/accessible formats if requested with sufficient prior notice. Missouri Western is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution.

At the discretion of the professor, each student will be allowed to take only one make-up exam for this course. Make-up exams will not be the same as scheduled ones, and may well prove more difficult. Two days will be provided for make-ups: one before midterm grades are due, and one prior to final exams. The day, time, and location of make-ups will be announced well in advance once they have been decided upon by the Department of History, Philosophy, and Geography. All other missed assignments will receive a grade of zero. In addition, the professor retains the right to deny the opportunity for a make-up exam of the student cannot provide a valid reason for absence. Should a student miss a final exam, he/she will receive either a grade of zero for that exam or a course grade of "Incomplete," depending on the discretion of the professor. A make-up is not a right, but a privilege; and this policy will be adhered to rigidly in this class.

**Note:** For those students intending to teach History and the Social Sciences at the secondary level, please be aware that the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) requires the promotion of ten thematic standards that are designed specifically to assist students who are preparing for such a teaching career. These ten thematic standards are:

1. Culture and cultural diversity.
2. Time, continuity, and change.
3. People, places, and environments.
4. Individual development and identity.
5. Individuals, groups, and institutions.
6. Power, authority, and governance.
7. Production, distribution, and consumption.
8. Science, technology, and society.
9. Global connections.
10. Civic ideals and practices.

Each of these thematic standards will be integrated into this course. In particular, standards 1,2,3,5,6,8, 9, and 10 will be emphasized. Note the sections in the syllabus to which each of the standards is linked.

Students in secondary education are responsible for keeping **all** quizzes, papers, and examinations as artifacts for their electronic portfolios.

Grades will be determined according to the following formula:

Midterm exam- 30%	A- 90 to 100
Rough draft of paper- 10%	B- 80 to 89
Research paper- 25%	C- 70 to 79
Final exam- 30%	D- 60 to 69

Class participation- 5%

F- below 60

Required Reading:

Nicholas Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg, *A History of Russia* (Oxford University Press, 7<sup>th</sup> edition).

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>NCSS Theme Links</b>
1/17-1/20:	Russia in the late Mongol Period: Ivan III“the Great”	R 88-129	1,2,3,4,5,6
1/23-1/27:	Ivan IV “the Terrible” and Divine-Right Absolutism	R131-143	2,3,4,5,6
1/30-2/3:	The Time of Troubles (1598-1613)	R 144-160	2,3,4,5,6,8
2/6-2/10:	The Early Romanovs: Social and Religious Problems	R 161-195	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,10
2/13-2/17:	Peter I “the Great”: Modernization and Westernization	R 197-234	2,3,4,5,6,9,10
2/21-2/24:	Catherine II “the Great”: Despotism and Serfdom	R 235-278	1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10
2/27-3/2:	Alexander I, Thoughts of Reform, and Napoleon	R 279-300	2,3,4,5,6,7,9
3/5-3/9:	Post-Napoleonic Reaction: Alexander I and Nicholas I	R 301-322	2,3,4,5,6,7,10
3/19-3/23:	The Rise of Dissident Ideology: Emigres, Reformers, Socialism, and Imperialism	R 323-340	2,3,4,5,6,9,10
3/26-3/30:	Alexander II: Good Intentions and the Road to Hell	R 341-361	2,3,4,5,6,9
4/2-4/6:	Alexander III: Reaction, Repression, and Imperial Politics	R 362-369	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,10
4/9-4/13:	Nicholas II: 1894 to 1905: The Constitutional Experiment	R 369-376	2,3,4,5,6,9

4/16-4/20: Organized Dissent: The SRs,  
the Marxists, and the Anarchists R 377-414 2,3,4,5,6,9,10

4/23-4/30: The Failure of the Monarchy:  
Alexandra and Rasputin, World  
War I, and Collapse, 1908-1917 R 415-442 1,2,3,4,5,6,9,10

The midterm exam will be held either at the end of week 7 or the beginning of week 8 of classes. The final date will be announced well in advance in class.