

WVU Fall Semester 2007

**History 217 Russia to 1917** CRN 96384

T-Th 4-5:15 Room 103 Oglebay Hall

Professor M. B. Tauger

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<mailto:Mark.Tauger@mail.wvu.edu> Hours: before class or by apptmt.

**Learning Outcomes:** This course surveys the emergence and expansion of the Russian state and empire up to the fall of the Russian empire in 1917, and the experiences of the main social and economic groups in that process. Upon completion of this course students will be able to

1. Describe in reasonable detail the main periods of Russian history and explain how events in each period contributed to the region's politics, economy, society, and culture.
2. Explain the formation and development of the main political, social, economic, and cultural patterns in Russian history: autocracy, serfdom, industrialization and its consequences, radical intelligentsia, and Russian cultural styles.
3. Analyze the main aspects of the region's ambivalent relationship to Western Europe in the areas of politics, society, and culture.

This course meets these requirements: GEC 3, The Past and Its Traditions; GEC 8, Western culture; Liberal Studies Cluster A; History major: upper-level course in European history.

**Course Requirements and Procedures:**

1. Exams: The class will have four exams and a final exam. The four exams will usually be in-class and will include objective parts, maps, and short essays. The final exam will probably be a take-home exam of short answer questions.
2. Attendance: I will keep record of attendance, and if necessary I will consider that record in final grades. In my experience, students who attend regularly do well on exams, while students who do not attend regularly do poorly.
3. Class participation: Students should read the texts and chapters assigned for a given week by the first meeting of class that week. Class lectures and discussion will rely in part on those readings and will raise and discuss questions about those readings.

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria:**

1. Grading will be on a point system. Exams will ordinarily be worth 20 – 30 points, based on the number of questions and length of essays. I will start with the standard 10% scale – 90-100% = A, 80-89% = B, etc., but I will adjust this standard to the performance of the class as a whole.
2. I evaluate objective test answers on the basis of accuracy, and essays on the basis of accuracy, completeness (whether the essay answers all parts of the question), understanding (whether the essay answers the questions directly and presents relevant information and examples) and clarity of writing (good grammar, spelling, and logic). I will assign point values to how well an essay reflects these qualities, so an essay that does not answer a question directly or is written with bad grammar or has factual errors will earn fewer points than one without these flaws.

**Readings:** Walter Moss, *A History of Russia*, London: Anthem Press, 2005, v. 1

Online readings, mostly through Ereserve [ER] Access procedures will be explained in class.

## **Course Schedule** [subject to change]

Week 1 21, 23 August

Geography; Kiev Rus

Readings: Moss, ch. 1-2, ER: Struggle for Succession

Week 2 28, 30 August

Kiev Rus society and culture

Readings: Moss, ch. 3-4, ER: Life in Novgorod; Struggle w/Nomads

Week 3 4, 6 September

Mongols and Moscow

Readings: Moss, ch. 5-6, ER: Mongol Capture of Kiev; Mongol Conquest

EXAM 1 on Kiev Rus and Mongols

Week 4 11, 13 September

Muscovy; Ivan the Terrible

Readings: Moss, ch. 7-8, ER: Ivan III takes Novgorod; Ivan Groznyi & Novgorod; Peasants

Week 5 18, 20 September

Time of Troubles, early Romanov

Readings: Moss, ch. 9-10, ER: Famine in Moscow; False Dmitrii; Enserfment; Seclusion of Women

Week 6 25, 27 September

17<sup>th</sup> Century Russia

Readings: Moss, ch. 11-12, ER: Avvakum or Boyarina Morozova; Nationalities; Yeven Metsulah; Siberia

EXAM 2 on Muscovy

Week 7 2, 4 October

Peter the Great

Readings: Moss, ch. 13, ER: Documents; Personality; Opposition

Week 8 9, 11 October

Empresses and Catherine the Great

Readings: Moss, ch. 14-15, ER: Emancipation of Nobility; Nakaz; Pugachev; Radishchev

Week 9 16, 18 October

18<sup>th</sup> Century Russia

Readings: Moss, ch. 16-17, ER: Pacific Empire; Pososhkov; Serfs

EXAM 3 on early Russian Empire

Week 10 23, 25 October  
Emperors Paul, Alexander I, Nicholas I  
Readings: Moss, ch. 18-19, ER: Decembrists; Speranskii; Poland

Week 11 30 October, 1 November  
Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russia  
Readings: Moss, ch. 20-21, ER: Aksakov; Belinskii; Ukraine

Week 12 6, 8 November  
Great Reforms and Attempted Revolution  
Readings: Moss, ch. 22, ER: Serf Emancipation; Going to the People; People's Will  
EXAM 4 on Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russia and Great Reforms

Week 13 13, 15 November  
Modernization, Imperialism, Reaction  
Readings: Moss, ch. 23-24, ER: Industrialization; Peasants and Workers; Conservatism;  
Panslavism

17-25 November: Thanksgiving Recess

Week 14 27, 29 November  
Revolution, Reform, War  
Readings: Moss, ch. 25, ER: Kishinev; 1905 documents; Durnovo; World War I documents

Week 15 4, 6 December  
Late Imperial Russia  
Readings: Moss, ch. 26-27, ER: Blok-Belyi; Nobility; Workers

Final Exam Wednesday 12 December 8-10AM  
Final Exam may be take-home and will have questions both on the last period of the course and cumulative questions.

**WVU Social Justice Statement, Disability Issues**

*West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. WVU does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.*

*If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Disability Services (293-6700).*

ALSO: Please turn off cell phones in class, and inform me before class if you must leave early.