

Since early times, the meaning of Russian identity has been sought, articulated, and redefined by outsiders as well as by Russians themselves. Sweeping across the space of the Eurasian continent and the time of more than twelve centuries, the land that came to be known as Russia has been called Asiatic, European, national, imperial, and global. Many in the West have found it enigmatic, exotic, other. This course examines some of these identities as it focuses on the history of Russia, beginning with the founding of the Kievan state and society, the period of medieval appanages, and the rise of Muscovy. It continues with Russia's emergence from the traumatic Time of Troubles with the establishment of the Romanov dynasty, destined to rule for three centuries over a growing empire. The course concludes with the reforms and revolutionary changes experienced by Russia in modern times under imperial, Soviet, and post-Soviet rule. Please Note: Announcements, supplementary reading assignments, and class materials are posted electronically on Blackboard. Student e-mail accounts will be used for communication with all participants in the course. Be sure to "enroll" in Blackboard no later than the second week of the semester.

Required Textbook: Riasanovsky, Nicholas V. and Mark D. Steinberg. A History of Russia. (2005)
Books on Reserve: Figes, Orlando. Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia. (2002)
Lincoln, W. Bruce. Sunlight at Midnight. (2000)
Massie, Suzanne. Land of the Firebird: The Beauty of Old Russia. (1982)

Grading the Course:

Exam #1	33 a%
Exam #2	33 a%
Exam #3	33 a%

All exams include essays prepared on assigned outside readings.

Course Outline:

Unit I: From the Founding of Russia to Catherine the Great

Orientation and Prologue: Russia in Global Perspective
The Kievan State and Society

Feudal Russia: The Appanages
The Rise of Muscovy

Muscovite Russia, 1533-1682
Muscovite Russia (continued)

Peter the Great and His Successors
Peter the Great (continued)

Reign and Reforms of Catherine the Great
Reign and Reforms of Catherine the Great (continued)

EXAM #1

Unit II: From Alexander I to the End of Czarist Russia

A Brush with Revolution: Alexander I

The Reign of Nicholas I
Russian Society and Thought in the Early Nineteenth Century

Alexander II and the Great Reforms
The Golden Age of Russian Literature

SPRING BREAK

Roots of Revolution: Radicalism in the Russia of the Last Two Czars
Twilight of Imperial Russia: The Revolution of 1905

World War and the Collapse of Imperial Russia
Revolution

EXAM #2

Unit III: Since the Revolution

Birth of the Soviet Union

Stalin's Revolution: The New World
The Great Patriotic War and the Liberation of Eastern Europe

The Soviet Union in a Post-Stalinist Era
After Stalin: Recovery and Cold War

“Developed Socialism” in the U.S.S.R.
Gorbachev’s Perestroika and the Russian Federation

The New Russia: What is Russia?
TBA

EXAM #3 (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.)

Description of Assignments

Readings for Exam 1

Riasanovsky, Chapters 1-24
Figes, Chapter 6, “Descendants of Genghiz Khan” [Asian influence on Russia]
Lincoln, Chapter 1, “The Builders” [Building the New Capital at St. Petersburg]

Readings for Exam 2

Riasanovsky, Chapters 25-34
Figes, Chapter 3, “Moscow! Moscow!” [Life in Nineteenth-Century Moscow]
Massie, Chapter 17, “The Babylon of the Snows” [Nineteenth-Century St. Petersburg]

Readings for Exam 3

Riasanovsky, Chapters 35-44
Figes, Chapter 8, “Russia Abroad” [Another definition of Russia]
Lincoln, Chapter 10, “Nine Hundred Days” [The Siege of Leningrad in World War II]

From time to time, the instructor may assign additional readings in the form of handouts, postings on Blackboard, or Internet sites. These readings may be accompanied by brief written assignments. These readings are subject to examination.

Class Policies

- (1) **Attendance.** Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Missing more than the equivalent of two weeks of class will affect the grade. For each absence after the fourth one, 1% will be deducted from the final course grade unless special circumstances apply, which have been discussed with the professor. Guests may attend class only with prior approval if space permits. Children may not attend class.
- (2) **Courtesy.** Tardiness is not acceptable. It is disruptive to the class and discourteous to both professor and students. Habitual tardiness is cause for withdrawal. For purposes of both courtesy and identification, students should remove caps and hats in class. Pagers and telephones must be turned off in class. University regulations do not permit food in the classroom. An emergency may require you to leave the classroom while class is still in session. If such a rare instance should occur, be considerate and do not slam the door either upon exiting or returning.
- (3) **Deadlines.** Assignments may be submitted at any time but no later than at class-time of the announced deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted.
- (4) **Make-Up Exams.** Ordinarily there are no make-up exams. In the unlikely event that you must miss an exam because of illness or emergency, notify the professor immediately to seek authorization for a make-up exam. Provide documentation immediately upon return to classes. If authorized to do so, take the exam at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2008. Meet in BUS 205 unless another classroom has been booked and announced. Absolutely no more than one make-up exam will be authorized. Make-up exams cover the same material as the original exams, but their format may be different.
- (5) **Reporting of Grades.** As soon as they are calculated, final grades are posted electronically and can be accessed through Blackboard and Campus Connect.