

HISTORY 418: IMPERIAL RUSSIA, 1801-1914
1131 Humanities, TR 9:30-10:45
Prof. D. McDonald, 3211K Humanities, 263-1807.
email: dmmcdon1@wisc.edu
Office Hours: Wed. 1-2:30; Fri. 1-3:30 OR by appt.

TEXTBOOKS:

Required:

N. Riasanovsky, *A History of Russia*, (hardcover or paper, various editions).
T. Riha, T.(ed.), *Readings in Russian Civilization*, vol. II, (pb).
B. Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia: A Source Book* (pb)

Recommended:

Robin Bisha *et alii*, compilers, *Russian Women, 1698-1917: Experience and Expression*, in paperback OR available as an e-book through MadCat

COURSE INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS:

History 418 addresses the main themes of Russia's history from the accession of Emperor Alexander I in 1801 up to the empire's entry into World War I. Offered for a variety of credit-loads, the course pursues several related educational objectives through a mixture of lectures, weekly section meetings, and written assignments. First and foremost, through participation in all components of the course, students should gain knowledge and understanding of the various processes and forces that shaped the history of the Russian empire during the "long" nineteenth century, a period of sweeping transformation in virtually all realms of social, cultural, and political life for all inhabitants of that state. Second, students should develop their skills in critical reading and thinking, chiefly through preparation for and participation in weekly discussion sections. In these meetings, students will discuss readings from primary source materials for two related purposes: identifying and explaining the persistence of certain themes and arguments across the time-period covered in the course; and appreciating the Russian experience in its own terms or, when relevant, in comparative context. Finally, in completing the written work for the course, students should enhance their skills in making clear argument supported by pertinent evidence.

This class consists of two components, lectures and section meetings. Lectures build on or add to the materials contained in the assigned textbook readings [for assigned readings, see schedule below]. They take as their starting-point the assumption that students will have read the appropriate texts before coming to lecture. The second part of the course is the weekly section meeting. Attendance at section meetings is *mandatory*. To encourage attendance, preparation, and participation, work in the section meetings will make up **20%** of the **final grade**.

The nature of the written work for this course varies, depending on the number of credits for which the class is being taken. **All students** will write a brief (5-7pp.) **paper** on a topic chosen from an assigned list. Due on **Thursday, October 16**, this paper will account for **15% of the final grade**. **All students** will also write a **take-home midterm** test due on **Thursday**,

October 30; this test will be worth **15%** of the final grade. **All students** will write the **final examination**, scheduled for **Sunday, December 14**; the final will make up **25%** of the grade.

Three credit students will also write **another brief (5-7pp.) paper**, following the same procedure as the first. This paper will count for **25%** of the final grade, and is due on **Thursday, December 4**.

Four credit students will write a second paper that is longer than the first (app. 12-15pp.). This paper will address a topic of the student's own choosing, in consultation with the instructor. The student will also submit a bibliography and outline or thesis statement for this paper before writing. This paper will count for **25%** of the final grade and will be submitted on **Thursday, December 4**.

In addition to the assigned work for four-credit students, honors and graduate students will participate in a weekly discussion section under my direct supervision and will be required to write two book reviews, due by **December 4**. Books for review will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

FINALLY, all students should make every effort to familiarize themselves thoroughly with definitions of *plagiarism*. University instructors and authorities regard plagiarism as an extremely grave offense. In this class, willful plagiarism will result in severe sanctions. Should students have any questions about how to acknowledge their sources or to include others' work in their writing without running the risk of plagiarism, they should contact the instructor or the teaching assistant.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

- Week 1 (Sept. 2): INTRODUCTION—THE MAKING OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE.
- READINGS: **Class:** Riasanovsky, chapters XXIII, XXIV.
Discussion: No reading—introductory meeting
- Week 2 (Sept. 9): THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE—
 SOSLOVIA, RELIGION, ETHNOS .
- READINGS: **Class:** Dmytryshyn, pp. 113-121, 137-142 [Catherine’s
Charter and materials on schools]. **Discussion:** Riha: Radishchev; Bisha,
Russian Women, “Religious Rituals of Daily Life,” 125-134, 235-241.
- Week 3 (Sept. 16): GREAT EXPECTATIONS--THE REIGN OF ALEXANDER I (1801-
 1825).
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias., XXV; Dmyt., pp. 153-164, 166-172
 [Czartoryski and Karamzin on patriotism]. **Discussion:** As for class and
 Riha: Karamzin.
- Week 4 (Sept. 23): ALEXANDER "THE BLESSED."
- READINGS: **Class and discussion:** Dmytryshyn, pp. 175-194 [Franco-
 Russian relations, Speranskii’s reform project and materials on “Great
 War of the Fatherland.”.]
- Week 5 (Sept. 30): "THE APOGEE OF AUTOCRACY"—NICHOLAS I (1825-1855).
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVI; Dmyt., pp. 201-229. [Materials on
 succession crisis of 1825 and Decembrist rising]. **Discussion:** As for class
 and Riha: Decembrists.
- Week 6 (Oct. 7): CHALLENGES TO THE “NICHOLAS SYSTEM”
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVII; Dmyt., pp. 196-200, 234-237, 261-
 270 [Documents on Poland, Nicholas I’s “reactionary and repressive”
 policies, and Ukraine]. **Discussion:** Riha: Chaadaev.
- Week 7 (Oct. 14): NICHOLAS'S DEFEATS, 1848-1855 [**NB: FIRST PAPERS DUE AT
 BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THURSDAY, OCT. 16**]
- READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXVIII; Dmyt., pp. 286-293 [Materials on
 Crimean war]. **Discussion:** Riha: Belinskii, Herzen.
- Week 8 (Oct. 21): ALEXANDER II AND THE ERA OF THE GREAT REFORMS, 1855-
 1881—MAKING THE REFORMS, 1855-1874.

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXIX; Dmyt., pp. 304-320. [Documents on reforms, Katkov on Poland.]. **Discussion:** Riha: Aksakov, Dobroliubov.

Week 9 (Oct. 28): THE “FAILURE” OF REFORM: IMPLEMENTATION AND THE BEGINNINGS OF ORGANIZED DISSENT, 1863-1870. [NB: MID-TERMS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THURSDAY, OCT. 30]

READINGS: **Class:** Dmyt., pp. 345-354. [Turgenev on “nihilism,” revolutionary “catechism.”]. **Discussion:** As for class, as well as Riha, Uspenskii and Bisha, *Russia’s Women*, pp. 340-343

Week 10 (Nov. 4): RUSSIA AFTER THE REFORMS—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC CHALLENGES, 1874-1881

READINGS: **Class:** Dmyt. Pp. 362-381. [San Stefano and pan-Slavism.] **Discussion:** Riha: Breshko-Breshkovskaia. Bisha: pp. 181-191.

Week 11 (Nov. 11): THE SWAN-SONG OF AUTOCRACY—ALEXANDER III (1881-1894).

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXX (1881-1894), XXXII; Dmyt., pp. 355-362 [*Narodnaia volia* documents]. **Discussion:** Riha: Assassination of Alexander II, Pobedonostsev.

Week 12 (Nov. 18): MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS: STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXXII, XXXIII. **Discussion:** Riha: Excerpts from Witte and on work-conditions; Bisha, pp. 81-97

Week 13 (Nov. 25): THE LAST AUTOCRAT—NICHOLAS II (1894-1917).

READINGS: **Class:** Rias. XXX (1894-1905); Riha: Miliukov.

Week 14 (Dec. 2): WAR, REVOLUTION, AND THE "CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERIMENT" (1900-1906) [NB: SECOND PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS, THURSDAY, DEC. 4]

READING: **Class:** Rias. XXXI; Dmyt., pp. 409-466. [Materials on 1905, October Manifesto, Fundamental Laws, Duma, Parties, Witte.] **Discussion:** Riha: Throne speech and reply, first Duma, Stolypin. Bisha, pp. 51-55, pp. 346-353.

Week 15 (Dec. 9): AUTOCRACY'S LAST CHANCE? THE STOLYPIN ERA AND THE COMING OF THE GREAT WAR, 1906-1914.

READING: **Class:** Dmyt., pp. 468-472, 479-490, 510-519, 522-525.
Foreign relations and World War I]; Riha, Pipes and Durnovo.