History 426:  
**Imperial Russia, 1689-1917**  
Fall 2008  
Section 1: TR, 3:10-4:30  
Bldg. 11-104

**Prof. Tom Trice**  
Office: Faculty Office Bldg. 47-25P  
Office Hours: TR, 12:10-1:00; 2:10-3:00  
Contact: 756-2724; ttrice@calpoly.edu

**Course Description:**

This course provides an overview of Russian imperial history from the reign of Peter the Great to the revolutionary overthrow of the Romanov regime in February 1917. Major themes include the influence of Russia’s location between Asia and Europe, the development of autocracy, government reform, the social condition of various groups, imperial expansion, literature, religion, and democratic politics.

The course is designed to help students of history hone skills critical to historical inquiry and practice. In pursuit of that goal, it requires that each student consistently take an active role in discussing and writing about Russia’s past and its relationship to the present. Throughout the course, students will be asked to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of historical facts, themes, and ideas
- Demonstrate the ability to reason through analysis and synthesis of various types of historical evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate historical knowledge and reasoning through discussion and writing
- Assess the notion that history is rewritten by each generation according to the needs, aspirations, and frames of reference of each ensuing age

This emphasis on “doing” history should not discourage students majoring in other disciplines from enrolling in this class. On the contrary, the skills and habits of mind derived from the study of literature, political science, economics, and sociology, among others, should serve to enliven discussion and broaden everyone’s understanding of what it means to be historically informed.

Finally, this course is somewhat unconventional in that it is oriented towards classroom discussion rather than lecture and does not make use of periodic, in-class exams. The choice of this format is based on the premise that you want to learn and assume primary responsibility for doing so by completing all readings and assignments in a timely manner.
Required Texts:
Gregory L. Freeze, *From Supplication to Revolution* (1988) [FSR]

Additional readings, images, etc., will be distributed in class or via Blackboard.

**Course Requirements:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Undergraduates</th>
<th>M.A. Candidates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Essays</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historiographical Essay</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Class participation is an essential part of this class. Attendance alone does not constitute participation. To facilitate discussion students should come to class having:

- Read and thought about all assigned material
- Prepared notes, questions, or talking points for discussion
- Resolved to aid classmates in analysis of a primary source

Advanced history classes typically entail a reading load of 250-350 pages per week, so time management is crucial. When reading secondary sources, take a strategic, critical approach: concentrate on identifying the author’s argument, methodology, and how the work fits into the broader historiography of the field. Then find examples of how she or he uses evidence to back up the argument. If you find a secondary source particularly compelling or unconvincing, be prepared to defend your position. In approaching primary sources, students must be prepared to slow down, reading closely and carefully. Who produced the source in question? For what purpose do you think the source was produced? How might it have been received and used by different people at the time of its production? Pay close attention to the use of language and other symbols.

Take notes while you read, recording key themes or issues and questions that you would like us to consider in class. Finally, bring your readings and other class materials to class, as we will be referring to them on a daily basis.

Analytical Essays require students to synthesize and analyze the primary and secondary sources assigned for each topic. As indicated below, essays vary in length but all three (3) of them must be typed (12-pt. font, double-spacing throughout, including between paragraphs, one-inch margins). A hard copy is due by the date and time indicated below.

**Please NOTE:** The relative weight of essays increases by 10% with each successive essay and varies depending on your classification. For example, Essay #1 constitutes 15% of an undergraduate’s total grade, but only 10% of a master’s candidate’s total grade (15% UG / 10% MA).
Specific guidelines for each essay are as follows:

**Essay #1: Literary Adventures? (15% UG / 10% MA) 4-6 pages**

According to intellectual historian Isaiah Berlin, literature gradually “became the battleground on which the central social and political issues of life were fought out” in modern Russia. Based on your reading of the secondary and primary sources for this essay, what do you make of Berlin’s argument? In addition to actual literary texts, you should consider carefully the circumstances under which literature was produced, disseminated, and consumed.

**Sources:** All readings for Tuesday, 21 October
**DUE:** Tuesday, 21 October at the beginning of class

**Essay #2: Imperial Dreams? (25% UG / 20% MA) 6-8 pages**

As odd as it may sound, until fairly recently most historians of imperial Russia paid little heed to the subject of empire, and when they did examine it they usually did so only insofar as it enhanced our understanding of the autocratic state. Based on your reading of the secondary and primary sources for this essay, how would you explain the “imperial” dimension of imperial Russian history? What made Russia an imperial polity? What were the chief attributes of the tsarist regime’s imperial identity and practice? To what extent, if any, did the peoples and places that made up the empire affect views and practices at the center?

**Sources:** All readings for Tuesday, 7 October and 4 November
**DUE:** Tuesday, 4 November at the beginning of class

**Essay #3: Modernity & Its (Dis)contents: the “Middling” Ranks? (35% UG / 30% MA) 8-10 pages**

One of the most endearing historiographical debates in Russian history concerns the existence, makeup, and relative strength or weakness of the middle class. Implicit in much of this literature is the assumption, based on western European and American models, that this social stratum has been crucial to the emergence of democratic ideas and politics in the modern era. Think of this essay as an abbreviated research paper (with a thesis statement, brief overview of historiography, and analysis of primary sources), in which you have the opportunity to formulate your own analyses of the “middling” classes and their place in modern Russian history. What does it mean to be “middle class” or “bourgeois” in imperial Russia? How might your conclusions contest or otherwise qualify those older, mostly Anglo-American understandings of the role of the “middle class” in modern history?

**Sources:** Selected readings for Tuesday, 25 November
**DUE:** Tuesday, 25 November at the beginning of class
**Additional Requirements for M.A. Candidates ONLY:**

**Historiographical Essay** (30%) of 10-15 pages of text (typewritten, double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point font, with endnotes or footnotes and bibliography) should address some aspect of imperial Russian history (1682-1917). Students will select a topic in consultation with the instructor during office hours.

**DUE:** no later than 4:10 p.m., Tuesday, 9 December

**Schedule of Topics & Readings:**

**T 9/23**  
**Introduction: Ways of Seeing**

*Primary source:*
The Coming of the Varangians
Mongol Conquest of Northern Rus’ in 1237-1238

**R 9/25**  
**Early Modern Muscovy: Time & Space**

*Secondary sources:*
*SP, 1-20*

*Primary sources:*
Filofei’s Concept of the Third Rome, in *Medieval Russia: A Sourcebook, 850-1700* (1990), 259-61
The Life of St. Michael, A Fool in Christ, in *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales* (1974), 300-10
The Code of Law, in *Medieval Russia, 425-32*
Russian Protectorate over Ukraine, in *Medieval Russia, 442-50*
A Biography of Boyarina Morozova, in *Medieval Russia, 489-97*
A Story of a Rich Merchant Sutulov and His Clever Wife Tatiana, in *Medieval Russia, 497-503*
Assorted maps & images

*Genealogy* of the Romanov dynasty

**T 9/30**  
**(R)evolutionary Dreams I: Peter the Great & his Heirs**

*Secondary sources:*
*SP, 21-52*
Primary sources:
Revolt & Punishment of the Streltsy, IR, 1-8
Decrees on a new calendar, Senate, & education, 13-16; navigation, 18; Table of Ranks & Academy, 19-23; and on clothing & shaving, tsarevich Aleksei, imperial title, succession, & manufactures, in James Cracraft, ed., Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia (1994), 110-16
Obligations and Rights of Parish Priests, IR, 34-42
Events Surrounding the Assumption of Power by Anna, IR, 49-56
Events Surrounding the Assumption of Power by Elizabeth, IR, 57-64
Lomonosov’s Challenge to the Normanist Theory, IR, 64-69
M. V. Lomonosov Extolls Russian Greatness, in Cracraft, 248-49
Peter III’s Charter to the Nobility, IR, 69-73
Assorted maps & images, including portraits of Peter the Great & co., IR, 526-31

R 10/2

(R)evolutionary Dreams II: Catherine the Great

Roundtable Discussion #1: in addition to the common readings, each student will sign up for one section from the individual readings

Common readings:

Secondary sources:
SP, 52-84
“The Catherinian Era,” in FSR, 11-13

Primary sources:
The Instruction to the Legislative Commission, IR, 79-93
Novikov’s Thoughts on Catherine II & on Russia, IR, 94-99
Charter to the Nobility, IR, 113-17
Russian Schools in the Eighteenth Century, IR, 117-21
Aleksandr Radishchev, A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow, IR, 122-33
Assorted maps & images, including a portrait of Catherine II, IR, 532

Individual readings: Sign up for one of the following sections from FSR:

Nobility, 15-31
Bureaucracy and Army, 32-36
The Orthodox Clergy, 37-44
Professions and Educated Elites, 45-51
Urban Society: Manufacturers, Merchants, Townsmen, 52-74
Peasantry, 75-86
Industrial Workers, 87-92
Minorities and Women, 93-99
Imperial Dreams I: Poland, Crimea, & the Caucasus

Secondary sources:
Benjamin Nathans, “Jews and the Imperial Social Hierarchy,” in Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia (2002), 23-44.

Primary sources:
P. P. Shafirov Justifies the Empire, in Cracraft, 245-48
Potemkin’s Memorandum on Crimea, in Cracraft, 249-50
Manifesto on Annexation of Crimea, in Cracraft, 250-51
Instruction from Tatar Nobles in Kazan Province, FSR, 95-96
Complaint by Brusilov Kahal, Kiev Province, FSR, 96
Petition from Belorussian Jews, FSR, 96-98
Russo-Polish Treaty on the First Partition of Poland, IR, 100-04
The Treaty of Kutchuk Kainardzhi, IR, 107-13
Assorted maps & images

(Imagined) Communities I: Master and Serf

Secondary sources:
SP, 85-97

Primary sources:
Decree on the Sale of Serfs, in Cracraft, 113
Decree on Primogeniture, IR, 16-17
Decree on the Right of Factories to Buy Villages, IR, 18-19
Ivan Pososhkov, A Book on Poverty and Wealth, IR, 42-49
The Pugachev Rebellion, IR, 104-07
Conditions of Peasants in the Eighteenth Century, IR, 139-42
Instructions from Nobles and Peasants to Catherine’s Legislative Commission & to Pugachev, FSR, 15-31; 75-92
Petition from Russian Noblewoman, FSR, 98-99
Savva D. Purlevskii, A Life under Russian Serfdom (2005), 95-102
Assorted maps & images, including portrait of Paul, IR, 533, & aintings & photos from: Priscilla Roosevelt, Life on the Russian Country Estate (1995)
(Imagined) Communities II: Patriots & Republicans

Secondary sources:
SP, 98-134

Primary sources:
The Law of Succession of 1797, IR, 137
Karamzin’s Thoughts on Patriotism and Book Publishing, IR, 165-74
Speranskii’s Proposed Brief Outline of State Organization, IR, 184-190
The War of 1812, IR, 190-94
Polish Freedoms under the Constitution of 1815, IR, 195-99
The Decembrist Movement, IR, 207-28
Nadezhda Durova, The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars (1988), 6-9, 14-16, 31-33
Lev Tolstoi, War and Peace (1952), 627-36; 704-08; 732-34; 745-48; 751-54; 766-68; 812-19; 834-38; 874-80; 918-20; 960-66; 998-1001
Assorted maps & images, including portrait of Alexander I, IR, 534

(Imagined) Communities III: Autocrats & Servitors

Secondary sources:
SP, 134-88

Primary sources:
Petr Chaadaev, Critical Comments on Russian History and Culture, IR, 245-52
Alexander Herzen’s Commentaries on the Russian Scene, IR, 271-84
Ivan Aksakov, Defense of the Freedom of Expression, IR, 284-85
Russo-Ukrainian Relations in the Nineteenth Century, IR, 261-67
Peace Treaty and Conventions of Paris, IR, 288-94
Assorted maps & images, including portrait of Nicholas I, IR, 535
T 10/21 (Imagined) Communities IV: “Society”

Essay #1 DUE at the beginning of class

Secondary sources:

Primary sources:
Aleksandr Pushkin, To Siberia (1827), IR, 228-29
__________, Unto Myself I Reared a Monument (1836), in The Works of Alexander Pushkin (1936), 88
Vissarion Belinskii, Letter to Gogol (1847), IR, 252-60
Fedor Dostoevskii, “A Weak Heart” (1848), in Uncle’s Dream and Other Stories (1989), 27-70
Ivan Goncharov, “Oblomov’s Dream” (1849) from Oblomov (1954), 103-43
Ivan Turgenev, “Khor and Kalinych” and “Two Landowners” (1852), in The Hunting Sketches (1962), 7-20 and 185-94, respectively

R 10/23 (R)evolutionary Dreams III: the Era of “Great Reforms”

Roundtable Discussion #2: in addition to the common readings, each student will sign up for one section from the individual readings

Common reading:

Secondary sources:
SP, 189-218

Primary sources:
Nikolai Pirogov, “Questions of Life” (1856), in Russian Women, 33-34
I.S. Belliustin, Description of the Clergy of Rural Russia: The Memoir of a Nineteenth-Century Parish Priest (1858; trans. 1985), 132-41
Iurii Dobroliuobov, Oblomovism (1859-60), in IR, 321-25
The Emancipation Manifesto (1861), in IR, 307-11
Address of the Tver Noble Assembly (1862), in FSR, 104-05
Maria Vernadskaia, “Destiny of Women” (1862), in Russian Women, 34-42
Individual readings:
Sign up for one of the following sections from FSR:

- Nobility, 103-13
- Bureaucracy and Army, 114-28
- The Orthodox Clergy, 129-40
- Professions and Educated Elites, 141-51
- Urban Society: Manufacturers, Merchants, Townsmen, 152-69
- Peasantry, 170-79
- Industrial Workers, 180-85
- Minorities and Women, 186-96

T 10/28

(R)evolutionary Dreams IV: Nihilists, Populists, & Pan-Slavs

Secondary sources:
- SP, 219-42

Primary Sources:
- Anonymous Appeal to Ukrainian Peasants to Rebel, IR, 267-268
- Ivan Turgenev, excerpt on Nihilism from Fathers and Sons, IR, 345-50
- Nikolai Chernyshevskii, What Is to Be Done? (1863), TBA
- Sergei Nechaev, The Catechism of the Revolutionary, IR, 350-54
- Petr Lavrov, “The Action of Individuals,” in Historical Letters (1870), 141-49
- Mikhail Bakunin, “Precondition for a Social Revolution in Russia” (1873), in Bakunin on Anarchy, ed. Sam Dolgoff (1972), 344-50
- Nikolai Nekrasov, “The Unlucky Year,” ch. 6, pt. 3, of “Who Can Be Happy and Free in Russia?” (1873-77), 251-58
- Demands of Narodnaia volia (People’s Will), IR, 355-63
- Mikhail Katkov’s Views on the Polish Situation, IR, 312-21
- Russian Pan-Slavism: Danilevskii’s Views, IR, 372-81

R 10/30

(Imagined) Communities V: the Russian “Nation”

Secondary sources:
- Richard Taruskin, “Slava!” in Musorgsky (1993), 300-12

Primary sources:
Olga Semyonova Tian-Shanskaia, “Peasant Ideals, Work Habits, and Causes of Poverty” (1890s) in Village Life in Tsarist Russia (1993), 139-56
Anton Chekhov, “Peasants,” in Seven Short Novels (1963), 364-95
Assorted images

T 11/4

Imperial Dreams II: the Caucasus, Central Asia, & the Far East

Essay #2 DUE at the beginning of class

Secondary sources:
SP, 245-81
Austin Jersild, “Russification and the Return of Conquest.” In Orientalism and Empire: North Caucasus Mountain Peoples and the Georgia Frontier, 1845-1917 (2002), 126-44

Primary sources:
The Views of Count Nikolai N. Muravev Regarding the Necessity for Russia to Control the Amur River, 1849-1850, IR, 334-35
The Gorchakov Circular,” in Cracraft, 410-11
Arminius Vambéry, Travels in Central Asia (1865), 59-62, 458-61, 474-79, 484-493
J. A. MacGahan, Campaigning on the Oxus and the Fall of Khiva (1874), 355-72, 398-426
Lev Tolstoi, Hadji Murad (1896-1902) in its entirety
The Russo-Chinese Secret Treaty of Alliance, IR, 407-08
The Russo-English Treaty on Persia, Afghanistan, and Tibet, IR, 467-72
Russia and Japan on the Division of China, IR, 473-79
Assorted maps & images

R 11/6

Modernity and Its (Dis)contents I: Religious Orthodox(ies)

Secondary sources:
SP, 282-333

Primary sources:
I.V. Iguminsheva, “Old Believers” (1893), in Russian Women, 265-69
Elizaveta Lvova, From the Distant Past (1901), excerpted in Russia Through Women’s Eyes: Autobiographies from Tsarist Russia, ed. Toby W. Clyman and Judith Vowles (1996), 298-310.

T 11/11  Holiday
R 11/13  Modernity and Its (Dis)contents II: Political Econom(ies)

Secondary sources:
SP, 334-60
David Schimmelpennick Van der Oye, “Penetration Pacifique: Sergei Witte,” in Toward the Rising Sun: Russian Ideologies of Empire and the Path of War with Japan (2006), 61-81

Primary sources:
Pobedonostsev’s Criticism of Modern Society, IR, 382-99
Program of Plekhanov’s Group for the Emancipation of Labor, IR, 400-04
Revolutionary Songs, in Entertaining Tsarist Russia, 269-72
Aleksandr I. Fenin, Coal and Politics in Late Imperial Russia: Memoirs of a Russian Mining Engineer (1990), 30-39, 44-54, 80-84
Semen Kanatchikov, A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia (1986), 1-11, 27-45
F. P. Pavlov Depicts Life in a Textile Mill, 1890s, in Cracraft, 479-89
Ekaterina Slanskaia, excerpt from “House Calls: A Day in the Practice of a Duma Woman Doctor in St. Petersburg,” in Russia Through Women’s Eyes, 198-203
Annette M. B. Meakin, A Ribbon of Iron (1901), 5-8, 11-31, 110-14, 134-55, 264-74
Assorted maps & images

T 11/18  (R)evolutionary Dreams VI: 1905-1907

Roundtable Discussion #3: in addition to the common readings, each student will sign up for one section from the individual readings

Common readings:

Secondary sources:
Wortman, 361-76

Primary sources:
Father Gapon’s Petition to Nicholas II, IR, 409-13
Concessions of Nicholas II in the Revolution of 1905, IR, 414-16
Fundamental Laws of Imperial Russia, IR, 417-24
Programs of Russian Political Parties in IR, 425-50
Witte’s Account of His Premiership, in IR, 451-60
Secret Report of the Orel Governor, in Russian Women, 343-46

**Individual readings:**
Sign up for one of the following sections from *FSR*:

- Nobility, 199-209
- Bureaucracy and Army, 210-27
- The Orthodox Clergy, 228-238
- Professions and Educated Elites, 239-47
- Urban Society: Manufacturers, Merchants, Townsmen, 248-73
- Peasantry, 274-85
- Industrial Workers, 287-96
- Minorities and Women, 297-310

**R 11/20**

**Modernity and its (Dis)contents III: Wager on the Strong?**

*Film clip:* *The Peasants’ Lot* (1913)

**Secondary sources:**
- *SP*, 377-96

**Primary sources:**
- Donald Mackenzie Wallace, “The Imperial Duma,” in *Russia on the Eve of War and Revolution* (1912), 49-66
- Peter Stolypin, “We Need a Great Russia,” in Riha, 456-64
- Petr Struve, “The Intelligentsia and Revolution,” in *Landmarks* (1977), 138-54
- Witte’s Views of the Jewish Problem, *IR*, 460-67
- Sholom Aleichem, “Gitl Purishkevitch,” in *Old Country Tales* (1966), 139-48

**T 11/25**

**Modernity and its (Dis)contents IV: the “Middling Ranks” **

**Essay #3 DUE at the beginning of class**

**Secondary sources (choose at least 3 of the following essays):**
Susan K. Morrissey, “Children of the Twentieth Century,” in *Suicide and the Body Politic in Imperial Russia* (2006), 312-45
Roshanna P. Sylvester, “Iambo’s Fate,” in *Tales of Old Odessa: Crime and Civility in a City of Thieves* (2005), 177-93

Primary sources (choose at least 4 primary sources):
“A Slap in the Face of Public Taste” (1912) and “Go to Hell” (1914). In *Russian Futurism through Its Manifestoes, 1912-1928*, ed. Anna Lawton (1988), 51-52 and 85-86, respectively
Anna Akhmatova, selections from *The Complete Poems of Anna Akhmatova*, ed. Roberta Reeder (1990),
Zinaida Gippius, “It’s All for the Worse” (1906) and “He is White” (1912), in *Selected Works of Zinaida Gippius* (1972), 107-18 and 126-35, respectively
Mikhail Kuzmin, *Wings* (1906; trans. 1972)

Essays from *Landmarks* (1909):

Assorted images

** Potential sources for this essay will be added over the course of the quarter.
R 11/27 Holiday

T 12/2 World War I, 1914-1917

Secondary sources:
SP, 397-409
Peter Gatrell, Russia’s First World War: A Social and Economic History (2005), 264-76.

Primary sources:
Rasputin: The Holy Devil, IR, 479-90
Durnovo’s Memorandum, IR, 491-509
Imperial Russia in World War I, 1914-1917, IR, 509-523
S. Ansky, The Enemy at His Pleasure: A Journey Through the Jewish Pale of Settlement During World War I (2002), 3-7, 116-19, 188-95
Maria Bochkareva, Deposition about the Women’s Death Battalion, in Russian Women, 220-26

R 12/4 Revolutionary Days, February 1917

Film: The Revolutionary (1917)

Secondary sources:
SP, 411-13

Primary sources:
Abdication of the Romanovs, IR, 523-25
V. V. Ramazanov, Rasputin’s Nighttime Orgies (the Tsarist Miracle-Worker: A Tale in One Act, in Entertaining Tsarist Russia (1998), 385-90
Nikolai N. Sukhanov, Prologue to The Russian Revolution: A Personal Record (1955), 3-33.

T 12/9 Final Exam Period, 4:10-7:00 p.m.