

**HISTORY 237**  
**RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN THE MODERN PERIOD:**  
**HISTORY, CULTURE AND THE CHALLENGES OF DIVERSITY**  
**Spring 2019**

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| Professor Marina Mogilner       | <a href="mailto:mmogilne@uic.edu">mmogilne@uic.edu</a> |
| 4.30 PM – 5.45 PM               | Monday, Wednesday                                      |
| Location: BSB 381               |  |
| Office: UH 1001                 |  |
| Office hrs: Monday<br>Wednesday | 12:00 – 3:30 PM<br>11:00 AM -- 12:00                   |

**Course description:**

This course surveys the history of the Russian Empire as a multiethnic, multilingual, and multicultural space. We will analyze how this space was constructed politically and culturally, and how it was experienced by various subjects of the empire in its different localities. We will trace how the understanding of Russianness evolved from the imperial to the national concept and identity. History is always about telling stories, and thus about remembering names, circumstances, and the sequence of events. However, learning facts about the Russian Empire is not the ultimate goal of the class. It is just a necessary prerequisite for the much more challenging task of imagining life in a very different society and understanding how this complex and unevenly organized imperial society functioned. How were empires perceived in the long nineteenth century? What mechanisms did they use to govern their diverse populations? How did empires create nations and at the same time nourish hybrid and situational identities? And what were the unique features of the Russian Empire as a modernizing state?

In short, this course is about the Russian Empire as an example of a complex and diverse society and polity adjusting to challenges of modernity such as the rationalization of governance, social, and cultural unification, the rise of mass societies, mass politics, and popular culture, and the rise of nationalism. Students who take this class are invited to share their own experiences of living in multicultural environments.

**Requirements:**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of: three long papers (first paper worth 20% of the grade; a midterm is worth 25% and a final exam paper is worth 25% of the grade); and participation in in-class discussions, worth 25% of the grade. Attendance of regular classes constitutes the remaining 5%.

Extensions on papers will be granted only by prior arrangement and only with a legitimate excuse.

Instructions:

1. **February 11. FIRST PAPER DUE.** Please submit it through SafeAssign on blackboard before the beginning of the class AND turn in a hard copy in class on Tuesday. Write a 5-pp. essay on one of the following topics:

- (1) A noble woman in the world dominated by men: Nadezhda Durova's *Journal of a Cavalry Maiden*);
- (2) Russian imperial republicanism: Decembrists as revolutionaries (please use Paul Pestel's *Russkaia Pravda* as your main source).

2. **March 20, 6 PM – MIDTERM PAPER DUE.** Please submit it through SafeAssign on blackboard. Write a 5-7 pp. essay on any of the following topics:
- (1) Modern Russian revolutionarism: compare two self-representations by Russian revolutionaries (Nechaev vs. Kravchinskii).
- (2) The Multan case: ethnic and racial hierarchies in the Russian empire.
3. **MAY 6, NOON – FINAL PAPER DUE.** Please submit it through SafeAssign on blackboard. Please write a 5-7 pp. essay about an imagined protagonist whose social background resembles that of Kanatchikov. Using all the historical sources, literature, textbook and lecture materials that we discussed in class (don't forget reference them properly!), write a fictional autobiography following the example of the actual autobiography of Kanatchikov. You can make your protagonist a Russian peasant or a non-Russian peasant; or a worker, a member of the intelligentsia class, or of the nobility; you can imagine that your protagonist is a woman; he or she can move to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Siberia or the Caucasus, or any other region in the empire; he or she can join revolutionary movement, or nationalist movement or even become a terrorist; your protagonist can participate in the Revolution of 1905-07, support the parliament or oppose it, be fascinated by the Tsar Nicolas II and his family or criticize him, and so on; he can be drafted to the army to fight at WWI (at the Eastern Front or in the Caucasus) and perish there; can be forcefully resettled (if your protagonist is a Jew or a German), become a Bolshevik or a supporter of the Provisional government and so on. In short, construct a story of a regular man or woman in the late 19<sup>th</sup> -early 20<sup>th</sup> cc. Russian empire and write it as a fictional autobiography.

**Textbook:** We are using selected chapters from: Catherine Evtuhov and Richard Stites, *A History of Russia Since 1800. Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces* (Wadsworth, Cengage Learning, 2004). You don't have to purchase the textbook unless you want to. The assigned chapters are available on blackboard.

### **Important Course Policies:**

1. **Plagiarism and cheating are completely unacceptable.** Plagiarism is defined as the act of taking someone else's written work without proper citation. You must not use someone else's words without putting them in quotation marks and providing a proper reference. If you borrow an idea from another author, please reference it as well. I am more interested in your original thoughts and in your ability to engage with other people's ideas than in "correct" and "sophisticated" papers that are stolen and thus tell me nothing about your progress in the course (Keep in mind that I do not define knowledge as regurgitated information.) Plagiarism may result in an "F" for this class. I will treat it as a very serious offense.
2. **SafeAssign.** All papers must be submitted electronically through Safe Assign on Blackboard before the beginning of the class on the due date AND turned in as hard copy in class.
3. **Late papers.** Late papers will be given a lower grade.

4. **Electronic equipment in class.** Please avoid using mobile phones, texting, or looking at text messages during class – I want you to participate in the discussions, to be able to ask questions, and get as much as possible from our meetings. You may use computers to take notes, but only if you are a highly self-disciplined person who cannot be distracted by the Internet.
5. **Attendance.** I expect students to be present in class and ready to contribute to our common work. Many of the visual materials will be presented only in class. Your participation in in-class discussions is very important. We will take attendance via a sign-in sheet at the front of the classroom. Please do not sign in for your friends, this can be easily established. If you have a valid reason to miss the class, please contact me and provide an explanation and proof.

### Schedule of Topics and Assignments:

This course outline is subject to change during the semester. Students are responsible for all adjustments announced in class.

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| <b>Week 1</b>   |  |
| January 14, Monday  | Introduction   |
| January 16, Wednesday   | Russia before the long nineteenth century: toward the modern empire of reforms and reason  |
| <b>Week 2:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 30-38; Begin reading Nadezhda Durova, <i>Journal of a Cavalry Maiden</i> – blackboard; familiarize yourself with the extract from: <i>M. M. Karamzin's Memoir of Ancient and Modern Russia</i> (3 pp.), Blackboard  |  |
| January 21, Monday  | <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> No class   |
| January 23, Wednesday   | Reforms. Alexander I: Polish constitution, Siberian administration, imperial law, military settlements   |
| <b>Week 3:</b> Continue reading Durova's <i>Journal of a Cavalry Maiden</i> – blackboard; Familiarize yourself with the extracts from <i>The Russian Law (Russkaia Pravda)</i> by Pavel Pestel – blackboard; read one and a half pages from: "General laws of the <i>Union of Welfare</i> " – blackboard. Please have printed or electronic versions of this document with you in class on Wednesday. |  |
| January 28, Monday  | Reforms. Alexander I: Russian-American company; Napoleonic wars and conservative "United Europe"   |
| January 30, Wednesday   | Revolutions. The Decembrists   |
| <b>Week 4:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 39-51; Finish reading Durova's <i>Journal of a Cavalry Maiden</i> – by Monday!<br>Tsar Nicholas I: Imperial Manifesto on Poland, March 25, 1832 (1 p.) – blackboard. Have a printed or electronic copy of the document with you in class on Wednesday.  |  |
| February 4, Monday  | Aristocratic revolutionaries: political revolution; challenging gender roles. Discussion based on Durova's <i>Journal of a Cavalry Maiden</i> and the sources on the Decembrists |
| February 6, Wednesday   | Conservative reforms: Nicholas I. Polish uprising and response to it; Orthodoxy, Autocracy, Nationality.   |
| <b>Week 5:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 98-112; Read the first page of Alexander II's <i>Manifesto Emancipating the Serves</i> , 1861 (Blackboard): what kind of justifications for the reform the document offers?   |  |
| February 11, Monday   | Crimean war. Great reforms: Alexander II. Empire of  |

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| <b>FISRT PAPER DUE!</b> Please submit it through SafeAssign before the beginning of the class AND turn in as hard copy in class.   | peasants. Liberation of peasants: from serfs to free countrymen and women. Peasantry and national imagination.         |
| February 13, Wednesday   | Great reforms: modernizing the empire  |
| <p><b>Week 6:</b> S. Nechaev, <i>Revolutionary Catechism</i>, <a href="http://www.marxists.org/subject/anarchism/nechayev/catechism.htm">http://www.marxists.org/subject/anarchism/nechayev/catechism.htm</a>;<br/>Sergei Stepniak-Kravchinskii, <i>Underground Russia</i>, <a href="https://archive.org/stream/undergroundruss00lavrgoog#page/n2/mode/2up">https://archive.org/stream/undergroundruss00lavrgoog#page/n2/mode/2up</a>.<br/>Read revolutionary portraits, pp. 93-114<br/>This title is also available at the following link under many different formats, epub, kindle, and a scanned copy of the complete text: <a href="https://archive.org/details/undergroundruss00stepgoog">https://archive.org/details/undergroundruss00stepgoog</a></p> <p><b>Please be ready to discuss these texts on Wednesday!</b></p> |  |
| February 18, Monday  | Imagining nation in the empire 1: Slavophiles and Westernizers   |
| February 20, Wednesday   | Imagining nation in the empire 2: Revolutionary nation – discussion  |
| <p><b>Week 7:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i>, pp. 87–97; “The Gorchakov Circular on Russia’s Mission in Central Asia”, 2 pp. (1864); Rebecca Gould, “Imam Shamil (1797-1871),” 117-123 in Stephen Norris and Willard Sunderland, eds. <i>Russia’s People of Empire: Life Stories from Eurasia, 1500 to the present</i>, eBook and a hard copy in our library. Be prepared to discuss these texts on Wednesday.</p>   |  |
| February 25, Monday  | Imagining nation in the empire 3: One people, different nations  |
| February 27, Wednesday   | Caucasus and Central Asia: Colonial Wars, Colonial Accommodations  |
| <b>Week 8:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , 147–157; Robert Geraci, <i>Multan Case</i> – blackboard  |  |
| March 4, Monday  | Empire of Faiths: Christianity, Catholicism, Islam, and other confessions in the Russian Empire                        |
| March 6, Wednesday   | Geraci, Multan case. Discussion: Christianity, paganism, Russianness (imperial Russianness, racial/ethnic Russianness) |
| <b>Week 9.</b> Prime Minister (1905-06) Sergei Witte’s “View of the Jewish Problem” – blackboard   |  |
| March 11, Monday   | Jews in the Russian Empire   |
| March 13, Wednesday  | Race and racism in Russian imperialism   |
| <p><b>Week 10:</b> Please think about everything you know about urban criminality, violence and riots in any context and period and try to summarize the most important characteristics of these phenomena (as a list of points, up to 5). Please bring your lists to class.</p> <p>March 20, 6 PM – <b>MIDTERM PAPER DUE.</b></p>   |  |
| March 18, Monday   | Urban violence, criminality, and self-organization in a multiethnic space  |

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| March 20, Wednesday  | No class. Work on your <b>MIDTERM PAPER</b> . Please submit it via SafeAssign on blackboard by 6 pm  |
| <b>Week 11:</b> March 25–29 Spring break   |  |
| <b>Week 12:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 215–231; The Workers Petition, 1905; The October Manifesto of Nicholas II, 1905 Blackboard – be prepared to analyze these documents in class  |  |
| April 1, Monday  | The First Russian Revolution 1, 1905–1907  |
| April 3, Wednesday   | The First Russian Revolution 2, 1905–1907  |
| <b>Week 13:</b> Begin reading: Introduction and Parts 1–2 of <i>A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia: Autobiography of Semen Ivanovich Kanatchikov</i> , ed. by R. Zelnik, Stanford University Press, 1986 – blackboard  |  |
| April 8, Monday  | Nationalism in the First Russian Revolution  |
| April 10, Wednesday  | The first Russian parliament—the State Duma: empire on display   |
| <b>Week 14:</b> Introduction and Parts 1–2 of <i>A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia: Autobiography of Semen Ivanovich Kanatchikov</i> , ed. by R. Zelnik, Stanford University Press, 1986 – finish reading and bring your notes to class on Monday; Extracts from: “E.P. Pavlov depicts Life in a Textile Mill, 1890s,” PP. 479, 483-86 only! Blackboard |  |
| April 15, Monday   | Discussion: <i>A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia: Autobiography of Semen Ivanovich Kanatchikov</i>  |
| April 17, Wednesday  | The emergence of a modern mass society   |
| <b>Week 15:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 231–241, 256–274; <i>Diary of Nicholas II, 1917-1918</i> (Price, Kent de, “Diary of Nicholas II, 1917-1918, an annotated translation” (1966). <i>Theses, Dissertations, Professional Papers</i> . Paper 2065 – blackboard.  |  |
| April 22, Monday   | Nicholas II, the last Russian monarch; Coronation ceremony; Nicholas as a monarch in a modern empire—ideology; private and public persona; awareness of the dangers of nationalism and of the need for new politics of the emerging mass society |
| April 24, Wednesday  | Russia in the WWI  |
| <b>Week 16:</b> <i>A History of Russia</i> , pp. 276–296   |  |
| April 29, Monday   | The end of the old empire—1917 in Russian history  |
| May 1, Wednesday   | Final Discussion: Russian empire in the modern period: main challenges   |
| <b>FINAL PAPER DUE NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON, Monday, MAY 6</b><br><b>Turn into SafeAssign</b>  |  |

**Have a great summer!!!**

<http://voicesoncentralasia.org/the-conquest-of-central-asia-through-the-turkestan-album/>