

## **Imperial Russia**

Christian Raffensperger  
History 252H/C – 1W  
Spring Semester 2016  
MWF 10:20–11:20 A.M.  
Hollenbeck 318

Russia occupies a unique position between Europe and Asia. This class will explore the creation of the Russian state, leading into the modern period. We will begin with the Time of Troubles, a sprawling two decade civil war, series of foreign invasions, internal rebellions, and dynastic strife that sets up the new rulers of Russia – the Romanovs. The three-hundred year reign of the Romanovs is explored here through discussion of internal and external politics, society, and economics. We will devote serious attention to the foreign interactions of Russia as it begins to take its place in Eurasian affairs in this time, and become both a threat to, and savior of Europe, including defeating Napoleon. Gender will also occupy a significant portion of our time as we deal with eighteenth century Russia and its five ruling empresses, as well as such influential figures as Nicholas II's wife, Alexandra. This period of Russian history cements its perception as an “other” to most of Europe, even when it is interacting with the other European powers in the Enlightenment, Seven Years War, Napoleonic Wars, and division of China.

*Writing Intensive*

*Counts for RCEP Program*

Professor: Christian Raffensperger  
Office: Hollenbeck 311  
Office Phone: 937-327-7843  
Office Hours: MW 9:00-10:00 or by appointment  
E-mail address: [craffensperger@wittenberg.edu](mailto:craffensperger@wittenberg.edu)

### **Assignments and Deadlines**

The format for this class is lecture and discussion, and thus attendance is a main requirement of the course, as is participation.

As a way to track your progress on the readings, there will be a series of quizzes during class. All quizzes will be unannounced. However, common themes for the quizzes will be maps and identifications of main people and concepts discussed in the class. The best way to prepare for these quizzes is to keep up with reading and lecture. If you have questions, please ask!

Over the course of the semester, you will be required to write three papers. All of which will be roughly 5 pages in length. All of these will be historiography papers. Historiography is the study of how history is written, it is not the writing of history itself. I will be asking you to read the work of several historians for each paper and to compare and contrast those works. Do not tell me the story of the Time of Troubles, that is history. Tell me, instead, what historian “X” has to say about the Time of Troubles, and then what historian “Y” has to say about the Time of Troubles and how the two are similar and different. That is historiography. If you have questions about this concept, please ask. We

will also discuss each of these historiographical controversies in class before the papers are due.

The papers must use Chicago Manual of Style footnotes to document your evidence. If you have questions about this, or any other aspect of the papers, please ask me, or utilize the Writing Center on the first floor of Hollenbeck Hall. Papers must be turned in in hard copy, in class, the day that they are due.

The first of these three papers will be an analysis of two presentations of the Time of Troubles. The first will be a modern one by the historian Chester Dunning, whose book we are reading for class. The second reading will be a classical perspective on the Time of Troubles by the Soviet History S. F. Platonov (in translation). This second reading, only excerpts of the whole book, will be on Moodle. You may also use class lecture to contextualize this issue, if you would like. Be sure to cite your sources appropriately and frequently.

The second paper is an analysis of historians' opinions regarding Catherine the Great. We will read pieces of Isabella de Madariaga's work on Catherine II as well as excerpts from Robert Massie's book on Catherine II, discuss them in class, and then you will write a historiography paper about them.

The third paper will be an analysis of the work on the end of the Romanov period. We will read two historians' (Richard Pipes and Orlando Figes) works on the end of the Romanovs and see what each historian has to say about the causes and consequences of the end of the Romanovs.

Finally, there will be three exams which will divide up the material in the course. The exams will not be cumulative, with the exception of one over-arching essay question on the final exam.

The grades will be weighted as follows:

- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 5%
- Exam 1: 15%
- Exam 2: 15%
- Quizzes: 10%
- Time of Troubles Paper: 10%
- Catherine the Great Paper: 10%
- End of the Romanovs Paper: 10%
- Final Exam: 20%

### **Required Books**

Walter G. Moss. *A History of Russia, Volume 1: To 1917*. (hereafter Moss)

*Portraits of Old Russia: Imagined Lives of Ordinary People, 1300-1725*. Ed. Donald Ostrowski and Marshall T. Poe (hereafter Portraits)

Chester S. L. Dunning. *A Short History of Russia's First Civil War: The Time of Troubles and the Founding of the Romanov Dynasty* (hereafter Dunning)

### **Schedule of Meetings and Assignments**

*Week 1 (January 11, 13, 15): Introduction; The end of the Riurikids*

(Moss, 127–158; Dunning [Start reading the whole book, we will discuss it for the next two weeks])

Introduction to the class; The last years of Ivan the Terrible and his reign; The Time of Troubles

*Week 2 (January 18, 20, 22): The Time of Troubles 1*

(Dunning)

Time of Troubles Historiography Discussion – In class discussion of the Dunning material.

*Week 3 (January 25, 27, 29): The Time of Troubles 2*

(Platonov, “The Time of Troubles” Excerpts [Moodle])

Time of Troubles Historiography Discussion – In class discussion of the Platonov material.

*Week 4 (February 1, 3, 5): The Rise of the Romanovs (Paper 1 due Monday 2/1)*

(Moss, 160–220; Portraits #4 and #10)

Patriarch Filaret; Separation of Church and State?; Smolensk War; Consolidation of Power; Religious development in Russia

*Week 5 (February 8, 10, 12): Peter the Great*

(Moss, 223–48, 297–305, 313–16; Portraits #7)

Peter’s youth and travels; Innovation and Accomplishment; Traditionalist Backlash; Multi-front wars

*Week 6 (February 15, 17, 19): The Short Eighteenth century (Exam 1 – 2/15)*

(Moss, 251–65, 305–8; Readings 1 [Moodle] )

Three Empresses; Contending foreign influences; Chance at democracy

*Week 7 (February 22, 24, 26): Catherine II and the Enlightenment*

(Moss, 267–88, 316–28)

Rise of a German princess; A Potemkin Enlightenment

*Week 8 (February 29, March 2, 4): Catherine II Historiography*

(De Madariaga, *Catherine the Great* Excerpts [Moodle]; Massie, *Catherine the Great* Excerpts [Moodle])

Discussion of the Historiography of Catherine II – in class

*Week 9 (March 14, 16, 18): Paul I, Alexander I, and Napoleon I (Paper 2 due 3/14)*

(Moss, 331–55, 376–99)

Paul hates his mother; Alexander thinks about Reform; Napoleon’s Invasion; Russians in Paris

*Week 10 (March 21, 23): Nicholas Tries Reform*

(Moss, 356–75, 400–21; Turgenev, “The Singers” [Moodle]; Readings 2 [Moodle])

The Aftermath of Alexander; Decembrists; Attempts at Reform; Political backlash; Russian Expansion

*Week 11 (March 28, 30, April 1): Alexander II Reforms (Kills?) Russia (Exam 2 – Friday, 4/1)*

(Moss, 422–40; Chernyshevsky’s “What is to be done?” excerpt [Moodle]; Readings 3 [Moodle])

Emancipation of the Serfs; Alexander as Reformer; Land and Freedom and other terrorist groups

*Week 12 (April 4, 6, 8): Alexander III and Nicholas II React*

(Moss, 441–490)

Pobedonostsev and Alexander III react to reform; Nicholas II’s rise to power; Royal family as “family”; Rise of the revolutionaries; Russo-Japanese War

*Week 13 (April 11, 13, 15): The Revolutionary Times of 1905*

(Moss, 464–503; Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* 15–39 [Moodle])

Russification; The 1905 revolutions; Continuing unrest among the soldiers; Creation of the Duma; A missed chance at reform

*Week 14 (April 18, 20, 22): WWI and the February 1917 Revolution*

(*A History of Russia* [Moodle])

World War I and its impact on Russia; Fall of the Romanov dynasty

*Week 15 (April 25, 27, 29): The End of the Romanovs*

(Pipes, *The Russian Revolution* [Moodle]; Figs, *A People’s Tragedy* [Moodle])

End of the Romanovs Historiography Discussion

*Week 16 (May 2, 4): Catch Up Week (Paper 3 due Friday 5/6)*

Inevitably we will need these days to catch up on material as the schedule will shift during the semester

**Final Exam – Monday, May 9, 3:30–6:30 P.M.**

### **For More Information:**

Moss has an excellent collection of suggested sources at the end of each chapter. Find a chapter that contains what you are looking for, and search that list; it contains the classics, as well as the most modern scholarship.

### **Communication with Faculty**

If you have questions about class, would like to know your grade, would like to set up a time to meet, or need to let me know that you will not be in class, please email me. When you email me, please put the topic in the subject line so I know what you would like to discuss. Your email should begin with a salutation such as “Dear Professor Raffensperger”. It should not begin with “hey” or “I need”. Your email should close with

something polite as well. “Best wishes” “have a good day,” or something similar is just fine, followed by your name. I would emphasize that they are not fussy, outdated conventions, but things that you will need to know to live in the world. Employers will not appreciate the casual informality with which you might be most comfortable.

### **Missed Examinations and Class Sessions**

A good rule of thumb is do not miss anything. However, if you are ill or have a conflict and cannot make a class, notify me in advance or as soon after the class as is possible. *Do not miss examinations!* If you have a conflict, notify me a minimum of one week in advance and we can schedule an exam as close to the normal time as possible. If you miss an examination for reasons that are not discussed with me ahead of time or are not catastrophic you will receive a zero, which is much worse than an F in your overall grade.

### **Late Papers**

Late papers are accepted for one week after the due date. The grade will drop one full grade when turned in after class the day it is due. For each additional day thereafter (weekend day or weekday) that it is late, it will drop a fraction of a grade, for example—an A paper handed in after class will be a B paper, handed in the next day will be a B- paper, the next day a C+ paper.

### **Attendance Policy**

As part of your grade for this class, and to get the most out of the class, you are required to attend on a regular basis. Attendance in this class is worth 5% of your grade, and attendance will be taken on a regular basis. If you are going to miss class, let me know in advance. If you accumulate 3 unexcused absences over the course of the semester, you will receive a grade of F for your attendance. If you miss 7 or more classes over the course of the semester you will receive a grade of zero for your attendance, much worse than an F when calculating your final grade. You are solely responsible for signing the attendance sheet, or notifying me of your absence, as proof of your presence in class.

### **Special Needs**

Wittenberg University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for eligible students with disabilities. If you are eligible for course accommodations due to a disability, please provide me with your self-identification letter from the Office of Academic Services (206 Recitation Hall), so that we may discuss your learning needs. Early identification at the start of the term is required to ensure timely provision of services. If you need to contact the Office of Academic Services, please contact Roberta Perry at 937-327-7891 or [rperry@wittenberg.edu](mailto:rperry@wittenberg.edu).

If you have significant responsibilities outside of class that will impact your performance, e.g., an infant or young child, care for an aging parent, or a job that requires you to be on-call, please speak to the instructor as soon as possible, and we can discuss arrangements to make your classroom experience the same as everyone else’s.

### **Weather-Related Concerns**

Whenever weather becomes a problem, I shall do my best to adhere to the university guidelines. If the university cancels classes, there will be no class. If the university has

not cancelled class, but I am unable or unwilling to risk traveling, I will do my best to post a notice to this effect on as early as possible. I will do my best not to cancel class if at all possible.

If there is an exam scheduled or a deadline for a written assignment on a day when class is cancelled, you may assume that the exam or assignment will be due on the following class session.

### **Academic Honesty**

Students in this course are expected to uphold the standards of Wittenberg's Code of Academic Integrity. At its most basic level, this means that you will not turn in someone else's writing as your own, quote from a source without proper acknowledgment, or provide a classmate with inappropriate help. You will be asked to submit papers and exams with the following statement followed by your signature: "I affirm that my work upholds the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity at Wittenberg, and that I have neither given nor received any unauthorized assistance." Sanctions for violating these rules range from receiving no credit for a particular assignment to failing the course for a significant act of academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about any of these rules, please talk to me before submitting your work.