

History 421
History of Russia to 1825
M&W, 8.30-9.45
BEH 121

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Office Hours: M&W, 10.00-11.30 & by appointment

<http://www.unlv.edu/faculty/pwerth/421.html>

Course Goals

This course, an upper level survey, is designed to acquaint students with the fundamental moments and processes in Russian and East Slavic history from the appearance of the earliest historical records to the early nineteenth century. Located at the intersection of Europe and Asia, Russia's place in the larger world has historically been an issue of considerable ambiguity, both for foreigners and for Russians themselves. Our course will explore this issue, in part by considering Russia's multi-ethnic and imperial character, and also by considering the development of Muscovy & Russia in relation to neighboring polities, including the Mongols, Poland-Lithuania, Sweden, and the Ottoman Empire. We shall endeavor to understand the institutions, practices, and circumstances by which the Grand Principality of Moscow, a relative outpost in European and Asian worlds, eventually became an imperial great power of Eurasia. In doing so, we shall explore how politics, social structures, and cultural particularities in Russia interacted to produce the Russia of 1825. As a result of diligent work in this course, students will:

- develop effective skills in source criticism
- develop extensive knowledge of the geography of Eurasia
- learn to contemplate the past in pre-modern and pre-national terms
- learn to analyze critically existing historical narratives
- acquire significant knowledge about the history of medieval & early-modern Eurasia
- develop skills in oral presentation

Web Site

The web site for this course is its anchor, in the sense that new information pertaining to the course will always be posted there. Detailed instructions for each exercise, as well as general guidelines, exam questions, etc., will all be available on the site as well. You can always get to this site by looking me up at the web site of the UNLV History Department. The URL is listed above. A few readings are posted on the Web Campus site for this course, in order to comply with copyright law (see below).

Participation

This course makes the naive assumption that you want to learn and desire to discuss the material we will be reading. I therefore put a premium on your attendance and *active* participation. Each student will be asked to lead class discussion or present the day's readings on at least one occasion. I reserve the right to eject from the premises – unceremoniously – *anyone* who arrives without having done the reading or is in some other sense incapable of discussing it. Absences are extremely detrimental to your grade. Those with excessive absences will be handed over to the Pechenegs.

Written Assignments

There are two writing assignments for this course. First, I ask that you write a review of one of the two specialized books that we use in the first half of the course: Charles Halperin's Russia and the Golden Horde, or the Ivan the Terrible by Andrei Pavlov and Maureen Perrie. Second, I ask you to write a separate comparative book review on two books of your choice (or their equivalent). You must confirm your choice of books with me in person **BY 4 NOVEMBER**. Details on both writing assignments will follow.

Written assignments should be submitted electronically to werthp@unlv.nevada.edu, in Microsoft Word or a compatible program, by the due date specified in the syllabus. Late submissions will be downgraded seven points (on a 100-point scale) for each twenty-four-hour period that they are late and will be accepted only with an accompanying one-page explanation for why they are late and why the instructor should accept them. All written submissions must be typed, using a 12-point font, double space, and one-inch margins. Each submission must also have a title. Papers that show no evidence of proofreading may be returned to the author as unacceptable. Any submission not conforming to these guidelines may be rejected entirely. See guidelines for each specific exercise for more specific details.

Please see the note on plagiarism below. Violations of academic integrity will be dealt with seriously and *must* be referred to the Office of Student Misconduct without exception.

Quizzes & Exams

There are six quizzes scheduled for this course. The lowest of your six grades will be ignored for the purposes of computing your final grade. As general rule, missed quizzes may not be made up. There is no mid-term for this course, but there is a final exam, which is guaranteed to be fun. A preview of the final exam will be posted in due course.

Your grade will be determined as follows:

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|----------------------|-----|
| Active participation | 15% |
| Book Review #1 | 15% |
| Book Review #2 | 20% |
| Quizzes | 25% |
| Final Exam | 25% |

Important Due Dates (Not Including Quizzes)

- 11 October, 11.59 PM: Book Review #1 Due
- 4 November, 8.30 AM: Books for Book Review #2 must be approved
- 8 December, 11.59 PM: Book Review #2 Due
- 11 December, 8.00 AM: Final Exam

Texts for purchase

- Paul Bushkovitch, A Concise History of Russia (Cambridge University Press, 2012). ISBN 978-0-521-54323-1
- Charles J. Halperin, Russia and the Golden Horde: The Mongol Impact on Medieval Russian History (Indiana University Press, 1987). ISBN: 978-0253204455
- Maureen Perrie & Andrei Pavlov, Ivan the Terrible (Longman, 2003). ISBN: 978-0582099487
- Donald Ostrowski and Marshall T. Poe, eds., Portraits of Old Russia: Imagined Lives of Ordinary People, 1300-1725 (M. E. Sharpe, 2011). ISBN 978-0-7656-2729-2

Other Readings

In several cases I have posted readings in PDF for you to download. THESE TEXTS ARE ON THE WEBCAMPUS SITE FOR THIS COURSE, in order to comply with fair use provisions of copyright law. All of you have automatically been granted access to that site. Other, non-protected material, is on the regular, open web site.

In a number of cases, you will access journal articles in electronic form directly through the library website (UNLV has electronic subscriptions to these journals). However you do it, you MUST have the articles read by the time you arrive in class for the named sessions. If you don't know how to get articles, ASK!

Finally, in one single case the reading comes from a book that is available in electronic form through the library catalog. (You may also need to access library materials in order to write your book reviews, but I will help you with that.)

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS

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| Aug. 26 | Introduction |
| Aug. 28 | The Appearance of (the) Rus' Paul Bushkovitch, <u>A Concise History of Russia</u> , pp. xv-xviii, 1-18 Selections from the <u>Primary Chronicle</u> , in Serge Zenkovsky, ed., <u>Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales</u> (New York, 1974), 43-51 [UNLV Web-campus reading #1] |
| Sept. 2 | NO CLASS: LABOR DAY |
| Sept. 4 | The Rise of Kiev and the Conversion to Christianity Selections from the <u>Primary Chronicle</u> , in Serge Zenkovsky, ed., <u>Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales</u> (New York, 1974), 51-73 [UNLV Web-campus reading #1] |
| Sept. 9 | The Decline & Legacy of Kievan Rus' Bushkovitch, <u>Concise History</u> , pp. 19-36 QUIZ #1 |
| Sept. 11 | The Fate of the Rus' Lands after Kiev Serhii Plokhy, "What Happened to the Rus' Land?" in <i>The Origins of the Slavic Nations: Premodern Identities in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus</i> (Cambridge, 2006), pp. 49-84 [UNLV Web-campus reading #2] |

- Sept. 16 **Mongol Invasion**
Charles Halperin, Russia and the Golden Horde, pp. 1-60
- Sept. 18 **Rule of the Golden Horde (aka "the Mongol Yoke")**
Halperin, Russia and the Golden Horde, pp. 61-130
- Sept. 23 **The Emergence & Consolidation of Moscow**
Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 37-53
QUIZ #2
- Sept. 25 **Gathering the Lands of Rus'—and More!**
Pavlov & Perrie, Ivan the Terrible, pp. 1-106
- Sept. 30 **The Weirdness of Ivan the Terrible**
Pavlov & Perrie, Ivan the Terrible, pp. 107-186
- Oct. 2 **The Time of Troubles: Russia's First Civil War**
Pavlov & Perrie, Ivan the Terrible, pp. 186-207
Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 53-58
QUIZ #3
- Oct. 7 **Politics & Religion in the Seventeenth Century**
Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 59-78
Robert O. Crummey, "Eastern Orthodoxy in Russia and Ukraine in the Age of the Counter-Reformation," in The Cambridge History of Christianity, vol. 5 (Cambridge, 2006), pp. 302-24 [**UNLV Web-campus reading #3**]
- Oct. 9 **Enserfment in Muscovy**
Peter Kolchin, Unfree Labor: American Slavery and Russian Serfdom (Harvard University Press, 1987), read **AT LEAST** pp. 1-31, better to p. 47 [**UNLV library—electronic book**]
- REVIEW OF HALPERIN OR PAVLOV/PERRIE
DUE BY 11.59 PM on 11 October (Friday night)**
- Oct. 14 **Rights, Freedom, and Belonging in Muscovy**
Valerie Kivelson, "Muscovite 'Citizenship': Rights without Freedom," Journal of Modern History 74.3 (2002): 465-489 [**UNLV library**]
QUIZ #4

- Oct. 16 **Social Experiences I: Rulers**
 Donald Ostrowski and Marshall Poe, eds., Portraits of Old Russia:
 Choose four essays in parts I-III and be prepared to discuss
- Oct. 21 **Social Experiences II: Spirituality**
 Choose four essays in parts IV-V of Portraits and be prepared to discuss
- Oct. 23 **Social Experiences III: Other Issues**
 Choose four essays in parts VI-VIII of Portraits and be prepared to discuss
- Oct. 28 **The Era of Peter the Great**
 Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 79-100
 Petrine Reform Legislation in James Cracraft, ed., Major Problems in the History of
 Imperial Russia (Lexington, 1994), 110-125 [UNLV Web-campus reading #4]
QUIZ #5
- Oct. 30 **Empresses and Autocratic Duty in the Eighteenth Century**
 Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 101-116
 Cynthia Whittaker, "The Reforming Tsar: the Redefinition of Autocratic Duty in
 Eighteenth-Century Russia," Slavic Review, 51 (1992): 77-98 [UNLV library]
- Nov. 4 **The Era of Catherine the Great**
 Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 117-37
CHOICE OF BOOKS FOR BOOK REVIEW #2 MUST BE COMFIRMED
- Nov. 6 **The Problem of Eighteenth-Century Noble Culture**
 Michelle Maresse, "'The Poetics of Everyday Behavior' Revisited: Lotman, Gender,
 and the Evolution of Russian Noble Identity," Kritika: Explorations in Russian
 and Eurasian History, 11.4 (2010): 701-739 [UNLV library]
 Manifesto on Emancipation of the Russian Nobility in Cracraft, ed., Major Problems,
 151-53 [UNLV Web-campus reading #5]
QUIZ #6
- Nov. 11 **NO CLASS: VETERANS' DAY**
- Nov. 13 **Mass Conversion and Religious Conflict in the Eighteenth Century**
 Paul W. Werth, "Coercion and Conversion: Violence and the Mass Baptism of the
 Volga Peoples, 1740-1755," in Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian
 History, 4.3 (2003): 543-569 [UNLV library]
 Barbara Skinner, "Borderlands of Faith: Reconsidering the Origins of a Ukrainian
 Tragedy," Slavic Review, 64.1 (2005): 88-116 [UNLV library]

- Nov. 18 **NO CLASS: Instructor must travel** (Work on book reviews)
- Nov. 20 **NO CLASS: Instructor must travel** (Work on book reviews)
- Nov. 25 **Russia in the Age of Revolution & Napoleon**
 Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 138-54
 Dominic Lieven, "Russia and the Defeat of Napoleon (1812-1814)," Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History, 7.2 (2006): 283-308 [UNLV library]
- Nov. 27 **For & Against the Existing Order**
 Alexander Radishchev and Nikolai Karamzin in Cracraft, ed., Major Problems, 212-220, 283-291 [UNLV Web-campus reading #6]
- Dec 2 **Into the Nineteenth Century—the hand-off to HIS 425!**
 Bushkovitch, Concise History, pp. 155-186.
- Dec. 4 **Review**
 Open session on final exam book reviews
- Dec. 8 **BOOK REVIEW #2 DUE @ 11.59 PM (23.59)**
That's on SUNDAY EVENING of exam week!
- DEC. 11 **FINAL EXAM, 8.00-10.00 AM**
 Bring pen(s) and paper (blue book or loose leaf)

Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct:

Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.

The question of *plagiarism* is frequently a source of confusion, but the basic definition is the use of other peoples' ideas and words without proper attribution or acknowledgement. We all use others' ideas to develop our own thinking, but in such cases we need to acknowledge the source from which those ideas came and to be sure that we have represented them accurately and fairly. The most egregious cases of plagiarism involve presenting entire papers written by others as one's own work, and such cases are often much easier to detect than students realize (so beware!). The instructors of this course take the issue

of plagiarism *very seriously* and will address violations of academic honesty with the utmost severity. If you are not sure about plagiarism, then ask us *before* you turn in your work; afterwards is too late. See the *Student Academic Misconduct Policy* (approved 2005) located at: <http://studentconduct.unlv.edu/misconduct/policy.html>.

Copyright

The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. You are individually and solely responsible for violations of copyright and fair use laws. The university will neither protect nor defend you nor assume any responsibility for employee or student violations of fair use laws. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. Additional information can be found at: <http://provost.unlv.edu/copyright/>.

Disability Resource Center (DRC)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) determines accommodations that are “reasonable” in promoting the equal access of a student reporting a disability to the general UNLV learning experience. In so doing, the DRC also balances instructor and departmental interests in maintaining curricular standards so as to best achieve a fair evaluation standard amongst students being assisted. In order for the DRC to be effective it must be considered in the dialog between the faculty and the student who is requesting accommodations. For this reason faculty can provide students course adjustment only after having received this “Academic Accommodation Plan.” The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC-A), Room 143, phone (702) 895-0866, fax (702) 895-0651. More information: <http://drc.unlv.edu/>.

Religious Holidays Policy

Any student missing class quizzes, examinations, or any other class or lab work because of observance of religious holidays shall be given an opportunity during that semester to make up missed work. The make-up will apply to the religious holiday absence only. It shall be the responsibility of the student to notify the instructor no later than the last day of late registration of his or her intention to participate in religious holidays which do not fall on state holidays or periods of class recess. This policy shall not apply in the event that administering the test or examination at an alternate time would impose an undue hardship on the instructor or the university which could have been avoided. Additional information: <http://catalog.unlv.edu/content.php?catoid=4&navoid=164>.

Tutoring

The Academic Success Center (ASC) provides tutoring and academic assistance for all UNLV students taking UNLV courses. Students are encouraged to stop by the ASC to learn more about subjects offered, tutoring times and other academic resources. The ASC is located across from the Student Services Complex, #22 on the current UNLV map. Students may learn more about tutoring services by calling (702) 895-3177 or visiting the tutoring web site at: <http://academicsuccess.unlv.edu/tutoring/>.

UNLV Writing Center

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to UNLV students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-3-301. Although walk-in consultations are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling 895-3908. The student’s Rebel ID Card, a copy of the assignment (if possible), and two copies of any writing to be reviewed are requested for the consultation. See: <http://writingcenter.unlv.edu/>

Rebelmail

By policy, faculty and staff should use students' Rebelmail accounts only. Rebelmail is UNLV's official e-mail system for students. It is one of the primary ways students receive official university communication such as information about deadlines, major campus events, and announcements. All UNLV students receive a Rebelmail account after they have been admitted to the university. Please use that address or ensure that notices sent to that address are forwarded to whatever e-mail address you use most consistently.