

**History 422/ 622: Russia since 1825**  
**Instructor: Dr. Paul Werth**  
**M-W 8.30 – 9.45 AM**  
**BEH 242**

Office: WRI A-324  
Office Hours: T-Th, 10.00 – 12.00 (or by appointment)  
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<http://faculty.unlv.edu/pwerth/422.html>

**Course Goals**

This course, an upper level survey, explores Russia's transformation to the modern world. Predominantly an agrarian society in 1825, Russia has experienced tremendous social, cultural, and political change in the last two centuries, resulting in its eventual emergence as a superpower rivaled only by the United States. Yet with the fall of the USSR, Russia entered a state of collapse, from which it finally began to emerge only in the first decade of the twenty-first century. This course charts the roots and nature of these transformations, with a particular focus on the revolutionary period of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It seeks to determine, among other things, which elements of that history represent a "usable past" for contemporary Russia. Students are expected to gain a thorough grasp of the central events of the last two centuries of Russian history, as demonstrated both in written work and examinations. Students will also examine the process of serf emancipation in an intensive class discussion. The course develops analytical and research skills by requiring careful comparative analysis of scholarly articles and, for some students, a research paper of modest length. The course also promotes skills of oral expression by encouraging students to give brief presentations in class that involve identifying and framing problems in Russian history. Finally, students will develop a truly enviable knowledge of Eurasian geography. The course is designed to be enlightening, engaging, entertaining, and cathartic.

**Disabilities and Religious Holidays**

If you have a documented disability that may condition your performance in this course, you should contact me as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Please do not assume that I am aware of any such condition or that I have automatically granted any special dispensation. You should also contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), which is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex room 137 (phone = 895-0866). As regards religious holidays, I am sympathetic to students' religious needs and will make every effort to accommodate them. Students **MUST**, however, inform me of such needs at the beginning of the term so that we can work our way around them judiciously. Please do not expect sympathy if you come to me only "after the fact."

**Requirements**

I demand substantial self-motivation from all students. This means that I expect you to attend class without fail, to participate in discussions, and to turn in all work in a timely fashion. You should come each day to class prepared to discuss the material listed on the syllabus for that day. Those who arrive obviously without preparation may be asked to leave. From my side, I will make every effort to provide you with the tools, the guidance, and the structure necessary for your success. This syllabus is my first down payment on that promise. Concretely, I require of all students the following:

**Attendance and participation:** I put a premium on your attendance and *active* participation. More than three absences over the course of the term will be very detrimental to your grade. If you come to class each and every day but say little or nothing, you can expect a C on the participation portion of your grade. Students desiring to earn an A or B grade in participation should plan on doing a brief oral presentation one or more times over the course of the semester. This is a voluntary matter, though the

instructor may exert substantial moral pressure – bordering on coercion, some may conclude – in order to advance this portion of the course. Details about such presentations may be found on the web site.

**Written assignments.** The written assignments for this course are of several different kinds and also involve an element of choice. All students will write a "position paper" (4-5 pages) as part of a conference on serf emancipation in 1861, as well as a second short paper of three pages on reading in the volume In the Shadow of Revolution. For the rest of the writing in the course, students have two options. A) Students may write a series of three relatively short article reviews (ca. 4-5 pp.), each of which involves comparing the interpretation of a particular issue in Russian history by at least two different scholarly articles, to be found by the student with guidance from the instructor. B) Alternatively, students may pursue a research paper of 12-14 pp. on a topic of their choice, reached in conjunction with the instructor. The due dates in the syllabus below labeled (A) and (B) refer to these two options. Students are expected to choose between these tracks formally by 19 February. Details and requirements on all writing assignments are posted on the web site. Assignments submitted in violation of these requirements will be returned to the author as incomplete. Written work is downgraded one point for every three hours that the assignment is late.

**Quizzes and exams.** There will be two geography quizzes, designed to test your basic knowledge of the Eurasian landmass. There will moreover be six content quizzes. Five of these will be used for the purposes of computing your final grade, which means that the lowest of the six grades will be excluded from that calculation. Given the significant writing component for this course and the quizzes just noted, *this course has neither a mid-term exam nor a final exam.* Howzzat?

**Your final grade will be determined as follows:**

Attendance + participation:	10%
Paper on serf emancipation	15%
Paper on <u>Shadow</u>	10%
Research paper or Article Reviews	30%
Geography quizzes	10%
Content quizzes	25%

**Readings for this course**

The readings for this course take several different forms. The most basic are the books for purchase, either through the UNLV bookstore or another retailers. These are listed below. Numerous copies of Fathers & Sons are also available in the library stacks. Several primary sources are available on the course web site as a "Web Reader" specially assembled for this course. That may be easily and conveniently downloaded from the site. Next, in a few cases I require that you read journal articles that are easily accessible through the library's web site. The easiest way to do that is to go to <http://library.unlv.edu> and enter in several key words. This will allow you to access the library's holdings. Finally, one essay will be distributed to the class or posted on the website as a PDF.

- Paul Bushkovitch, A Concise History of Russia (Cambridge University Press, 2012). ISBN 978-0-521-54323-1
- David Moon, The Abolition of Serfdom in Russia (Longman, 2001). 978-0582294868.
- Ivan Turgenev, Fathers & Sons (Oxford World Classics, 2008). 978-0199536047 [any edition is ok]
- Stephen Kotkin, Armageddon Averted (Oxford, 2001). 978-0195368635
- Sheila Fitzpatrick and Yuri Slezkine, eds., In the Shadow of the Revolution (Princeton, 2000). 978-0691019499

## PART ONE: PRE-REFORM RUSSIA

- Jan 22 INTRODUCTION: ALL ABOUT THE COURSE (and then some...)
- Jan 27 RUSSIA BEFORE 1825 (Everything you need to know)  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 117-154 (skim earlier parts of book as desired)
- Jan 29 THE POLITICAL & SOCIAL ORDER OF NICHOLAS I  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 155-71  
 Moon, Abolition of Serfdom, pp. 1-18, 133-139 [docs. 1-8]
- Feb 3 THE BIRTH OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 172-85  
 Vissarion Belinskii, "Letter to Gogol" (Web Reader)  
 Ivan V. Kireevskii, "On the Nature of European Culture" (Web Reader)
- Feb 5 EMPIRE AND THE WIDER WORLD  
**Reading:** Moon, Abolition, 19-48, 139-47 [docs. 8-13]  
**GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #1**

## PART TWO: RUSSIA ON THE PATH TO MODERNIZATION

- Feb 10 **CONFERENCE: PREPARATIONS FOR SERF EMANCIPATION**  
**Reading:** Moon, Abolition, pp. 49-83, 147-160 [docs. 14-20]  
**CONTENT QUIZ #1**
- Feb 12 **CONFERENCE: AFTERMATH OF SERF EMANCIPATION**  
**Reading:** Moon, Abolition, pp. 84-129, 160-169 [docs. 20-28]  
**CONFERENCE PAPER DUE (all students)**
- Feb 17 **NO CLASS 17 FEB: WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY**  
 But begin Ivan Turgenev, Fathers & Sons (get as far as possible)
- Feb 19 DYNAMICS OF REFORM & COUNTER-REFORM  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 186-201  
 Continue with Fathers & Sons  
**STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN (A) AND (B) TRACKS**

- Feb 24            POPULISM & TERRORISM  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 201-207  
                  Party Program of People's Will (Web Reader)  
                  Letter of People's Will to Emperor Alexander III (Web reader)  
                  Finish Fathers & Sons  
**CONTENT QUIZ #2**
- Feb 26            INDUSTRIALIZATION & MARXISM  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 208-227, 272-283  
                  V. I. Lenin, What is to be Done? (Web Reader)
- March 3           CONSERVATISM, EMPIRE, "RUSSIFICATION"  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 249-271  
                  K. P. Pobedonostsev, The Falsehood of Democracy (Web Reader)  
**(B) TOPICS FOR RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**
- March 5           RUSSIAN CULTURE & THE REVOLUTION OF 1905  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 228-248, 283-292  
**(A) FIRST ARTICLE REVIEW DUE**
- March 10          STOLYPIN, DUMA, AND AUTOCRACY  
**Reading:**     October Manifesto and Fundamental Law of 1906 (Web Reader)  
                  Sergei Kulikov, "Emperor Nicholas II and the State Duma," Russian  
                  Studies in History, 50.4 (2012): 44-78 [access through library].
- March 12          OPEN SESSION FOR CATCH-UP  
 No reading  
**CONTENT QUIZ #3**

**NO CLASS 17 and 19 MARCH: SPRING BREAK**

## **PART THREE: WAR, REVOLUTION, CRISIS**

- March 24          THE CRUCIBLE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 293-298  
                  Peter Holquist, "Violent War, Deadly Marxism? Russia in the Epoch of  
                  Violence, 1905-1921" Kritika: Explorations in Russian and  
                  Eurasian History 4.3 (2003): 527-62 [access through library].
- March 26          1917 & THE BOLSHEVIKS  
**Reading:**     Bushkovitch, 298-304  
                  Shadow of Revolution (readings will be divided, see website)

March 31 CIVIL WAR AND BOLSHEVIK VICTORY  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 304-317  
 Sheila Fitzpatrick "The Civil War as Formative Experience," in Abbot Gleason et al., Bolshevik Culture: Experiment and Order in the Russian Revolution (Bloomington, 1985), 57-76 [course website].  
Shadow [continue]

**(B) PROVISIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

**PART FOUR: FOUNDATIONS FOR THE SOVIET SYSTEM**

April 2 NEP  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 318-324, 334-350  
Shadow [continue]  
**CONTENT QUIZ #4**

April 7 THE USSR AS MULTI-NATIONAL STATE  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 324-334  
**(A) SECOND ARTICLE REVIEW DUE**

April 9 STALINISM: INDUSTRIALIZATION, COLLECTIVIZATION & TERROR  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 351-370  
Shadow [continue]  
 Stalin speech on industrialization (Web Reader)

April 14 **CONFERENCE: EXPERIENCING BOLSHEVISM, 1917-1939**  
**SHORT PAPERS ON SHADOW DUE (all students)**  
 Be prepared to discuss those readings

April 16 THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 371-392  
 Amir Weiner, "Saving Private Ivan: From What, Why, and How?"  
Kritika: Exploration sin Russian and Eurasian History, 1.2 (2000):  
 305-336.  
**CONTENT QUIZ #5**

**PART FIVE: REFORM, STAGNATION, COLLAPSE – AND REBIRTH?**

April 21 COLD WAR, LATE STALINISM & DESTALINIZATION AND ITS LIMITS  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 393-412, 429-446  
 The "Secret Speech" of Nikita Khrushchev (Web reader)  
**(B) ROUGH DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE**

- April 23            BREZHNEV & "STAGNATION"  
**Reading:**        Bushkovitch, 413-428  
                          Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, preface and 1-30
- April 28            PERESTROIKA  
**Reading:**        Bushkovitch, 447-457  
                          Kotkin, 31-85
- April 30            THE END OF THE USSR  
**Reading:**        Kotkin, 86-112  
**CONTENT QUIZ #6**
- May 5                THE COLLAPSE CONTINUES: RUSSIA AFTER 1991  
**Reading:**        Bushkovitch, 457-59  
                          Kotkin, 113-192  
**GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #2**
- May 7                PUTIN'S RUSSIA & THE END OF COLLAPSE  
**Reading:**        Kotkin, 193-220  
                          David Brandenberger, "A New Short Course?" Kritika 10.4 (2009): 825-33.  
                          Vladimir Solonari, "Normalizing Russia, Legitimizing Putin," Kritika 10.4 (2009): 835-46.
- May 10              **FINAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (third article review or final draft of research paper) DUE BY 11.59 PM**