

COURSE SYLLABUS
RUSSIAN HISTORY
HIS365w.01---(CID3502)---MWF 11:00-11:50AM---AB4 305
(3 credit hours)

Instructor: Nicholas Pappas

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Office Hours, Monday & Wednesday, 11:00 am-12:00 noon and 1:00–3:00 pm

REQUIRED / RECOMMENDED READINGS: (Select one or a combination of these readings to supplement the lectures):

- Nicholas Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg. [History of Russia. Oxford University Press, 2004.](#)
- [Web Readings in Russian History.](#) Aside from the above texts, public domain secondary sources in Russian History are included in the Web Readings Page, with links from this Syllabus Page, the Exam Study Sheet Page, and the Lecture Outline Page. These secondary web readings included excerpts from U. S. Government country studies and from works published many years ago. While some of these older sources' information, interpretations, and language may be considered antiquated, obsolete and "politically incorrect" by some, they nonetheless constitute valuable milestones to see how far and in what direction historiography has gone in the last seventy years.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:s

- To acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural development of the Russia from earliest times to the present.
- To help students gain factual knowledge of Russian history.
- To present students some of the basic theories and generalizations of Russian history.
- To help students develop their skills in using resources, answering questions, and solving problems.
- To sharpen the students' skills in historical interpretation and writing.
- Students will learn how to find and use available resources for learning material not covered in lectures or text.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural history of Russia and the Soviet Union from earliest times to the present. The first part of the course will look into origins of the Eastern Slavic states up until the Mongol Invasion of the 13th century. The second part will investigate the impact of Mongol and Tatar rule and the rise of Moscow as a Eurasian empire. The Third part of the course will look at the impact of Russia's interaction with Europe from Peter the Great to Nicholas II. The fourth part of the course will investigate the domestic and foreign crises of the Russian Empire which led to World War, revolution and the foundation of the Soviet Union. The fifth part of the course will evaluate the 74 years of Soviet rule. The Final part will briefly survey the Post-Soviet era. Among the subjects and themes to be covered in the course will be: the origins of the Kievan Rus', Kievan Rus' Society and Culture, Mongol and Tatar Rule, the gathering of the Russias under Muscovy, Ivan the Terrible, the Time of Troubles, the Rise of the Romanovs, Muscovite Society and Culture, westernization under Peter I and his successors; Russia as the first developing country; Russia and European affairs, internal and external problems of Tsarism, Reaction Under Nicholas I; Reform under Alexander II, the revolutionary movement in Russia; the industrial revolution and agrarian crisis of pre-revolutionary Russia; political reaction under Alexander III and Nicholas II; Russian foreign policy in the age of imperialism; the 1905 Revolution; the Dumas between autocracy and constitutional monarchy; and Russia in the First World War; the Russian Revolutions of 1917; the Russian Civil War and the Bolshevik struggle for power; the New Economic Policy; the rise of Stalin; the Five-Year Plans; politics, the party, and the purges; Soviet foreign policy in the interwar period; the Soviet Union in World War II, the last years of Stalin; the origins and the development of the Cold War; Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev; Soviet society and economy; Soviet politics and government; the nationality question; official and unofficial culture in the Soviet Union; and the Soviet Union in world affairs; the Fall of the Soviet Union; and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; and Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Russia Under Yeltsin and Putin.

There is no prerequisite for this course beyond the university's approval.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD:

- The instructional method in class will primarily involve lectures.
- The class schedule will consist of 3 fifty-minute sessions each week. Each session is allotted to lectures by the instructor, while a portion of each session might be devoted to questions and discussion, as well as to view films.
- Lectures both supplement and complement reading assignments, as well as introduce problems to be brought up in assignments.
- Brief outlines of lectures, lectures maps and other supplementary materials will be distributed to students on BLACKBOARD.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades. Since there is no penalty for absences and there are no make-ups on assignments, there will be no excused absences.
- **Reading Assignments:** Readings from the e-text are given on a weekly basis in the Course Schedule and Outline. **The instructor reserves the right to change the readings in the Course Schedule and Outline.**
- **Examinations:** Exams will be presented on the sixth, twelfth and finals week. Each examination will consist of one essay section. Each examination section will consist of one essay question from a field of 3 or 4 (50 points); and multiple choice section, consisting of twenty multiple-choice questions each based upon quotations taken from the web readings (50 points); Each exam will be worth 100 points. In total the three examinations will count 300 points toward the course grade.
- **Geography Quizzes:** Twelve brief geography Quizzes will be presented and are scheduled in the course outline. The two lowest of twelve geography quiz scores will be dropped. Each quiz will count for 10 points for a total of 100 points toward the course grade.
- **Movie Reviews:** Two movie reviews will be assigned during the session. These reviews will be based upon viewing films and reading web sources related to them. In each review, students will, in one paragraph for each numerical item, give their impressions of the film and answer the following questions. How does the film relate to the primary and secondary sources of the web readings? What point of view does the film represent (what are the film-makers try to say)? What does it contribute to your understanding of Russian history? Students will give each film a rating on a scale of 1 to 10. Each review and rating will be worth 50 points. Movie reviews will be due the day following the viewing of each film. The lowest of the three movie review essay scores will be dropped. Each review will be worth 50 points for a total of 100 points toward the course grade. **Each review will be due in class by hard copy on the day stated in the course outline and syllabus. Since the lowest of the three review scores will be dropped, no reviews will be accepted after each deadline, nor makeup reviews are allowed. The instructor reserves the right to change the movie review due dates in the Course Schedule and Outline.**
- **Films to be Reviewed:** Students are view and review at least two of three films for credit worth up to 100 points. The instructor has placed several films for each review in three different sections. Films for review will The titles of the films, the corresponding readings, and format for each review are give in a study guide for each review. Students may choose any of theses available titles to view and review. Groups of students can rent and review films as a group, but they must write their reviews as individuals. **Since one of the three film viewings will be dropped from regular credit, no late film reviews are accepted. Be sure to start each film review assignment early and save your review on disk. If everyone rushes to get theirs done at the last minute a number of your will be unable to find films to review. It is your ultimate responsibility to rent, view and review your films ON TIME.**
- **Make-ups:** . Makeup exams will be given only for legitimate excuses during the last week of the semester. On legitimate excuses, please see the Attendance and Conduct section. Make up exams will consist of ten of twenty identification items in which the student is called upon to identify and state the historical significance of the item in one paragraph for each item. No makeup assignments for movie review essays will be given. No exceptions will be made. Do not ask.

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

- Notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class, as well as four scantrons for the four examinations.
- Use of a computer with a broadband internet connection for viewing films.
- Use of a computer with a word processing program, and a printer is required for composing reviews.
- If you do not have these at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.
- All assignments will be due in hard copy.
- No e-mailed copies will be accepted.

GRADING PLAN:

- Movie reviews will be worth 100 points or 20% of the course grade.
- Map quizzes will be worth 100 points or 20% of the course grade.
- Examinations will count 300 points or 60% of the Course grade. Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a one extension grade of “X” in order to complete coursework. Students falling behind because of extensive absences or missing assignments during the semester will not be considered for an “X” grade. The grade scale will be: 450-500=A; 400-449=B; 350-399=C; 300-349=D; 0-299=F. There will be no extra credit in this class.

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Attendance for this course is mandatory.

- Regular and punctual class attendance is expected of each student in the class.
- I will keep a record of student attendance.
- I reserve the right to lower grades of students by one letter grade or more for excessive absences. You may miss **three (3)** classes without penalty—no excuses necessary. Absences beyond the three allowed can result in the lowering of a student’s grade by one letter for the equivalent of one week missed (three absences).
- Only absences with legitimate written excuses (notes from doctors, employers and other officials, published obituaries, etc.) will be considered for exception to the above policy. The instructor will not automatically accept notes from family members. In addition, absences due to participation in extracurricular activities will not automatically be considered legitimate excuses, even with documentation. Because of instances of fraudulent excuses, authentic copies of the written excuses with addresses and telephone numbers of the issuing party must be given to the instructor. Any instances of fraud will result in expulsion from the class.
- Absence on Religious Holidays: Section 51.911 of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education shall allow a student who is absent from class for the observance of a religious holy day to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence. The student, not later than the 15th calendar day after the first day of the semester, or the 7th calendar day of a summer session, must notify the instructor of each scheduled class day that he/she would be absent for a religious holy day. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline date for notification by students to the faculty members of the student’s intent to be absent on religious holy days.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY: According to Academic Policy Statement 810213 of SHSU:

- The university expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.
- The university and its official representatives, acting in accordance with Subsection 5.32, may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.
- **Cheating** includes:
 - Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.
 - Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.
 - Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.
 - Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.
 - Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.

- Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.
- Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.
- Plagiarism means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.
- Collusion means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.
- Abuse of resource materials means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.
- In accordance with Academic Policy Statement 810213, I may impose failure or reduction of a grade in an assignment or the course, and/or performing additional academic work not required of other students in the course. If I believe that additional disciplinary action is necessary, I may refer the offending student to the Dean of Student Life or his designated appointee for further action.

CLASSROOM RULES OF CONDUCT: According to Section 5 of the Student Handbook of SHSU:

- Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. Please turn off or mute your cellular phone and/or pager before class begins. Laptop computers must be used for the curricular purposes of the course and not for net surfing or recreational purposes. Students are prohibited from eating in class, using tobacco products, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, talking among each other at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a, minimally, a directive to leave class or being reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.
- We will strictly and assiduously enforce this policy.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM: According to the Faculty Handbook of SHSU:

- In the event an unannounced visitor attends a class, the instructor should request identification in the form of a current and official Sam Houston State University identification card. If the visitor is not a registered Sam Houston State University student, the instructor should act at his/her own discretion or refer the visitor to the department chair. This policy is not intended to discourage the occasional visiting of classes by responsible persons. Obviously, however, the visiting of a particular class should be occasional and not regular, and it should in no way constitute interference with registered members of the class or the instruction thereof.

Readings and Assignments Schedule

Weekly chapter reading assignments below refer to Nicholas Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg, [*History of Russia*, Oxford University Press, 2004](#) and [Web Readings in Russian History](#). Please be aware that the lectures and weekly readings will not always be synchronous. By the time you take each exam, however, lectures and readings ought to coincide.

Week 1: INTRODUCTION. (1/21-25)

- [Lecture 1: INTRODUCTION, GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING AND ANCIENT HISTORY.](#)
- [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 3-22; Web Readings: section I.](#)

Week 2: THE ORIGINS AND RISE OF THE KIEVAN RUS'. (1/28-2/1)

- [Lecture 2: THE ORIGINS OF RUSSIA: THE EASTERN SLAVS & THE SCANDINAVIANS. Map Quiz #2](#)
- [Lecture 3: THE STATE, SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THE KIEVAN RUS'. Map Quiz #3](#)
- [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 23-62; Web Readings: sections II-III.](#)

Week 3: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRINCIPALITIES UNDER MONGOL RULE. (2/4-8)

- [Lecture 4: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE KIEVAN STATE.](#)
 - [Lecture 5: RELIGION UNDER FOREIGN DOMINATION.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 63-94, 114-142; Web Readings: sections III-IV.](#)
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Week 4: THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MUSCOVITE EMPIRE TO 1675. (2/11-15)

- [Lecture 6: THE THIRD ROME: MUSCOVY & IVAN THE TERRIBLE.](#)
 - [Lecture 7: THE TIME OF TROUBLES & RECOVERY UNDER THE ROMANOV.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 143-182; Web Readings: sections V-VII.](#)
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Week 5: FROM MUSCOVY TO RUSSIA, 1675-1725. (2/18-22)

- [Lecture 8: CRISIS IN SOCIETY & CULTURE IN 17TH CENTURY MUSCOVY.](#)
 - [Lecture 9: THE REIGN OF UNDER PETER I.](#)
 - [FIRST EXAMINATION](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 183-241; Web Readings: sections VIII-IX.](#)
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Week 6: THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE, 1725-1825. (2/25-2/29)

- [Lecture 10: THE SUCCESSORS OF PETER: POLITICS, SOCIETY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS.](#)
 - [Lecture 11: THE ENIGMATIC TSAR: THE POLICIES OF ALEXANDER I.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 242-322; Web Readings: sections X-XI.](#)
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Week 7: REPRESSION, REFORM AND RADICALISM, 1825-1883. (3/3-3/7)

- [Lecture 12: RUSSIA UNDER NICHOLAS I.](#)
 - [Lecture 13: ALEXANDER II--EMANCIPATION, REFORM, AND RADICALISM.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 323-347, 368-390; Web Readings: sections XII-XIV.](#)
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Week 8: THE STRAINS OF MODERNIZATION. (3/17-21).

- [Lecture 14: RUSSIA IN THE THROES OF CHANGE, 1850-1905](#)
 - [Lecture 15: THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN CULTURE & THOUGHT, 1800-1905.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 391-403, 422-452; Web Readings: sections XIV-XV.](#)
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Week 9: REVOLUTION AND WAR, 1905-1917 (3/24-28)

- [Lecture 16: POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1905.](#)
 - [Lecture 17: POLITICAL IMPASSE AND WORLD WAR.](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 404-421; Web Readings: sections XVI-XVII.](#)
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Week 10: REVOLUTION AND WAR, 1917-1921. (3/31-4/4)

- [SECOND EXAMINATION](#)
 - [Lecture 18: THE FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER REVOLUTIONS OF 1917](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 453-492; Web Readings: sections XVIII-XXI.](#)
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WEEK 11: THE SOVIET CRUCIBLE--INTERNAL REPRESSION. (4/7-11)

- [Lecture 19: THE CIVIL WAR, THE N.E.P. AND THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM](#)
 - [Lecture 20: THE RISE OF STALIN, THE FIVE YEAR PLANS AND THE TERROR](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 492-508; Web Readings: sections XXII-XXV.](#)
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WEEK 12: THE SOVIET CRUCIBLE--INTERNAL REPRESSION. (4/14-18)

- [Lecture 20: THE RISE OF STALIN, THE FIVE YEAR PLANS AND THE TERROR](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 509-526; Web Readings: sections XXVI-XXVIII.](#)
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WEEK 13: THE SOVIET CRUCIBLE--WAR. (4/21-25)

- [Lecture 21: THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR](#)
 - [READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 527-538; Web Readings: sections XXIV-XXX.](#)
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WEEK 14: RETRENCHMENT AND COLD WAR, 1945-1953. (4/28-5-2) :

- [Lecture 22: POST-WAR POLICIES UNDER STALIN.](#)
- [Lecture 23: THE SOVIET UNION AFTER STALIN, 1953-1985.](#)

- **READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 539-587; Web Readings: sections XXXI-XXXIV.**
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WEEK 15: THE ROCKY ROAD FROM STALINISM TO GLASNOST. (5/5-8)

- **Lecture 24: WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION?**
 - **Lecture 25: SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS--NEW REALITIES, NEW PERCEPTIONS.**
 - **READINGS: Riasanovsky, pp. 588-630; Web Readings: sections XXXV-XXXVIII.**
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The THIRD AND FINAL EXAM will be held during the finals week.