

## **History 241: Origins of Modern Russia**

## **Assignments and Grading**

Your grade in this class will be based on these requirements:

**Five short analyses of primary texts** (15% of your total grade). During the first half of the semester, you will have eight opportunities (marked \*\*\* on the syllabus) to write a 1-to-1.5-page analysis of one of the primary sources we'll be reading for class; you need to hand in five of these analyses (including the first one, due on Wednesday, February 1.) In each case, I will post a question for you to answer on the course's Pioneerweb page soon after the previous class and you will write a brief essay answering that question, according to specifications included in a separate handout. A hard copy of your document analysis will be due at the start of class. (Note that you cannot hand in one of these assignments late, since they're intended to give you the chance to analyze the course readings before we discuss them in class. Plan accordingly!)

**Three 4-to-5-page papers** (30% of your grade). These three papers will all involve the synthesis of readings assigned for this class. The first (due on Thursday, March 15, at 5:00 PM) will be a comparison of Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great; the second (due on Thursday,



Academic Support and Advising, Joyce Stern, whose office is located on the third floor of the Rosenfield Center. Students should then notify me within the first few days of class.

Students should also be aware of Grinnell's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism, it goes without saying, will not be tolerated in this course.

## **SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

### ***Week 1: Introduction to the Course***

Monday, January 23: Introduction to the Course

Readings: Walter Moss, *A History of Russia*, pp. 1-11

Wednesday, January 25: What Makes Russian History Distinctive?

Readings: Marshall Poe, *The Russian Moment in World History* (entire)

Friday, January 27: In the Beginning

Readings: excerpts from the Primary Chronicle [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 15-42

### ***Week 2: Kievan Rus'***

Monday, January 30: Princes and Politics in Kievan Rus'

Readings: excerpts from the Primary Chronicle and *Pravda Russkaia* [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 54-64

Wednesday, February 1: Religion in Kievan Rus' (\*\*\*)

Readings: the Primary Chronicle on Vladimir's conversion [Pioneerweb]  
Linda Ivanits, "The Pagan Background" [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 42-52

Friday, February 3: The Mongol Invasion

Readings: Moss, pp. 65-77; Russian chronicles on the Mongol invasion [Pioneerweb]  
Charles Halperin, *Russia and the Golden Horde* (excerpts) [Pioneerweb]

### ***Week 3: Ivans Great and Small***

Monday, February 6: The Decline of Kiev and the Rise of Muscovy (\*\*\*)

Readings: documents on state-building in post-Kievan Russia [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 79-123 [focus on chapter 6]

Wednesday, February 8: From Ivan the Great to Ivan the Terrible

Readings: Andrei Pavlov and Maureen Perrie, *Ivan the Terrible*, pp. 1-78  
Moss, pp. 129-143 (if you don't have enough to do this week)

Friday, February 10: Ivan the Terrible: an Overview

Readings: Pavlov and Perrie, pp. 79-146

**Week 4: *Autocracy and Disorder!***

Monday, February 13: Ivan's Legacy (\*\*\*)

Readings: primary documents on Ivan the Terrible [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 15: How Terrible was Ivan?

Readings: Pavlov and Perrie, pp. 147-207

Friday, February 17: The Time of Troubles (\*\*\*)

Readings: primary documents on famine, civil war, and autocracy (15 pp.) [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 146-158

**Week 5: *The Old Russia***

Monday, February 20: How Autocratic was Muscovy?

Readings: Richard Hellie, "The Expanding Role of the State in Russia" [Pioneerweb]  
Marshall Poe, "What Did Russians Mean When They Called Themselves 'Slaves of the Tsar'?" [Pioneerweb]  
Valerie Kivelson, "The Devil Stole His Mind: The Tsar and the 1648 Moscow Uprising" [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 22: The Origins of Serfdom

Readings: Richard Hellie, "Enserfment in Muscovite Russia" [Pioneerweb]  
Chapter 11 of the *Ulozhenie* (law code) of 1649 [Pioneerweb]  
documents on peasant movement [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 160-181

Friday, February 24: Muscovite Church and Society (\*\*\*)

Readings: the Commentaries of Adam Olearius [Pioneerweb]  
Avvakum's account of his suffering [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 184-220

***Week 6: Peter the Great***

Monday, February 27: Peter the Great, the Reformer (\*\*\*)

Readings: reform legislation of Peter the Great [Pioneeweb]

Thursday, March 15: first 5-page paper is due at 5:00 PM by email

Friday, March 16: Russian Empire-Building

Readings: document packet on the Russian empire [Pioneerweb]

**SPRING BREAK: MARCH 19 TO APRIL 1**

**Week 9: A New Century**

Monday, April 2: Alexander I and the Decembrists

Readings: document packet on the Decembrist uprising [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 331-354

Wednesday, April 4: Elite Culture and the Rise of the Intelligentsia

Readings: Richard Wortman, "The Development of a Russian Legal Consciousness"  
[Pioneerweb]  
Nikolai M. Karamzin, "On the Book Trade and the Love for Learning in  
Russia" (1802) [Pioneerweb]  
Nicholas Riasanovsky, "The Split Between the Government and the  
Educated Public [Pioneerweb]  
Walter M. Pintner, "The Russian Higher Civil Service on the Eve of the  
Great Reforms" [Pioneerweb]  
Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia: People and Empire*, pp. 263-311 [Pioneerweb]

Friday, April 6: Nicholas I

Readings: Nicholas Riasanovsky, "The Supreme Commander" [Pioneerweb]  
W. Bruce Lincoln, "The Genesis of an 'Enlightened' Bureaucracy, 1825-  
1856" [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 356-374

**Week 10: Peasants and Intellectuals**

Monday, April 9: Doubt and Atheism

Readings: Victoria Frede, *Doubt, Atheism, and the Nineteenth-Century Russian  
Intelligentsia*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, April 11: Intellectuals and Peasants

Readings: Alexander Herzen's letter to Michelet [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 376-397

Thursday, April 12: second 4-5-page paper is due

Friday, April 13: Serfdom Before Alexander II

Readings: W. Bruce Lincoln, *The Great Reforms*, pp. 3-60

**Week 11: Reform!**

Monday, April 16: The Abolition of Serfdom

Readings: documents on the Great Reforms [Pioneerweb]  
Moss, pp. 422-437  
Lincoln, pp. 61-90

Wednesday, April 18: The Other Reforms

Readings: Lincoln, pp. 90-158

Friday, April 20: Testing the Reforms

Readings: Lincoln, pp. 159-200  
Moss, pp. 441-462

**Week 12: Reactionary Tsars and Restive Intellectuals**

Monday, April 23: The Autocracy in a New Age

Readings: Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy*, ch. 1 [Pioneerweb]  
Konstantin Pobedonostsev, *Reflections of a Russian Statesman*, excerpts  
[Pioneerweb]  
Alexander III's manifesto on the autocracy [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, April 25: Economic Change

Readings: Sergei Witte, "An Economic Policy for the Empire" [Pioneerweb]  
F. P. Pavlov, "Life in a Textile Mill, in the 1890s" [Pioneerweb]

Friday, April 27: The Rise of the Left

Readings: Katerina Bereshkovskaia, "Going to the People" [Pioneerweb]  
Catechism of a Revolutionary [Pioneerweb]  
Program of the Narodnaia Volia [Pioneerweb]



**Week 13:     *Terrorism!***

Monday, April 30:     The Origins of Modern Terrorism?

Readings:     Claudia Verhoeven, “The Making of Russian Revolutionary Terrorism”  
                  [Pioneerweb]  
                  Richard Pipes, *The Degaev Affair*, pp. 1-31

Wednesday, May 2:             The Degaev Affair

Readings:     Pipes, pp. 32-125

Friday, May 4:             Peasant Life after Emancipation

Readings:     Olga Semyonova Tian-Shanskaia, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*, intro. and  
                  ch. 1-6

**Week 14:     *Peasant Life after Emancipation***

Monday, May 7:             The Late Imperial Village, Continued

Readings:     Semyonova Tian-Shanskaia, ch. 7-10 (ch. 95-170)

Wednesday, May 9:             From Peasant to Revolutionary

Readings:     S. I. Kanatchikov, *A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Thursday, May 10:     five-page paper is due at 5:00 PM

Friday, May 11:             Revolution!

Readings:     Moss, pp. 491-514  
                  Petition of Father Gapon [Pioneerweb]  
                  Nicholas II’s concessions [Pioneerweb]  
                  Lenin’s theory of the party [Pioneerweb]

Thursday, May 17:     final exam (2 PM)