

Updated January 18, 2012

Russia to 1855
 Dr. Patryk Babiracki
 Spring 2012, HIST 4360-001
 MWF, 11-11.50
 Room: UH 7
 Office hours: MWF, 9-10 (UH 310), or by appointment.
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The syllabus may be subject to minor modifications

Course Description: This is a survey course of the history of Modern Russia and the Soviet Union. It covers the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the present times—an era of political upheaval and extraordinary cultural and social change. Our focus will be on the social and cultural aspects of Russia's domestic developments and their links with the broader political and economic context. The broad themes of the course will include: the relationship between the state and society (reforms, persecution, individual freedom and social engineering), elite and popular cultures, continuities and discontinuities between the Russian and Soviet political practices, and competing visions of modernity.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students will learn about the major forces that shaped Russian and Soviet history since the reign of Alexander II until the 21st century. They will be expected to engage critically with the assigned texts and to discuss them in writing as well as orally in the classroom.

Texts for Purchase (required—available in the UTA Bookstore):

Textbook: Ryasanovsky and Steinberg *History of Russia since 1855*, 8th ed; ISBN: 9780195341997

Anton Chekhov, *About Love and Other Stories*. Oxford, 2008. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0199536689

Jeffrey Brooks, *Thank You, Comrade Stalin! Soviet Public Culture from Revolution to Cold War*. Princeton, 2001. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0691088679

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000*. Oxford, 2008. Paperback. ISBN: 978-0195368635

Required Readings available on Blackboard:

Basil Dmytryshyn, ed., *Imperial Russia: A Sourcebook, 1700-1917*. 1967.

Wayne S. Vucinich, ed. *The Peasant in nineteenth-century Russia*. 1968.

Konstantin P. Pobedonostsev, *Reflections of a Russian Statesman*. 1968.

E-book (available in the Library catalog): James von Geldern and Louise McReynolds, eds. *Entertaining tsarist Russia: tales, songs, plays, movies, jokes, ads, and images from Russian urban life, 1779-1917*. 1998.

Lewis Siegelbaum and Andrei Sokolov, eds. *Stalinism As a Way of Life : A Narrative in Documents*. 2004.

Antony Beevor and Luba Vinogradova, eds. *A Writer at War: Vasily Grossman with the Red Army, 1941-1945*. 2005.

Gale Stokes, ed. *From Stalinism to Pluralism: a Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945*. 1996.

Issac Babel, *Red cavalry and other stories*. 2005.

Katerina Clark and Evgeny Dobrenko, *Soviet Culture and Power: A History in Documents, 1917-1953*. 2007.

Alexander Werth, *Russia at War, 1941-1945*. 1964.

Films shown in class are also available on reserves.

Grading:

Participation in classroom discussions=**20%**

Four pop quizzes about the week's readings (five will be administered, you may choose the four best). I will ask you either to summarize one or more of the texts assigned for the week, or identify a few important terms, or both. You may consult the assigned texts during the quiz, but it will be difficult to respond fully unless you have read and understood them=**20%, or 5% each**.

One 5-page analytic paper=**20%** (Due Week VII, Monday, Feb 27, at the beginning of the class)

Detailed outline of the final paper (containing a thesis, arguments and a list of sources) due Week XII (Monday, April 9, at the beginning of the class);=**10%**

Final 8-page paper (due Wednesday, May 9, by 5 pm. You may slide it under the door of my office, UH 310. Papers will not be accepted after the due date)=**30%**

Attendance (see below)

Films are optional. Sometimes I will use film clips to illustrate a point in class. You will not be responsible for this material, unless stated otherwise. However, they are available at the library (on reserve), and I encourage you to watch them to complement your readings. You may also refer to the films in your papers.

Attendance Policy: Each student is allowed three absences per semester, no questions asked. These absences will not affect the final grade. After that, each absence will incur a penalty of one-third of the final grade (e.g. an "A" will become an "A-"; and an "A-" will turn into a "B+" etc.). In other words, it is best to keep your "time off" for real emergencies and illness.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at

www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Academic Integrity: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.” (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Series 50101, Section 2.2)

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington supports a variety of student success programs to help you connect with the University and achieve academic success. These programs include learning assistance, developmental education, advising and mentoring, admission and transition, and federally funded programs. Students requiring assistance academically, personally, or socially should contact the Office of Student Success Programs at 817-272-6107 for more information and appropriate referrals.

E-culture policy: email is the best way to contact me. I will respond at my nearest convenience. No use of laptops, handheld computers, or telephones is allowed in class.

Week I (Jan 18-20): Introduction

Themes of the course and syllabus

The legacy of Muscovite and imperial Russia: discussion

Readings: Textbook, “Introduction” (xxi-xxviii)

Week II (Jan 23-27)

Alexander II and The Great Reforms; empire and nationalities; the Polish uprising of 1863 and its consequences; discussion

Readings: textbook, ch. 29 (363-385); Daniel Brower, “Islam and Ethnicity: Russian Colonial Policy in Turkestan” in Brower and Lazzerini, eds., *Russia’s Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (115-135); Basil Dmytryshyn, ed. Selected documents.

Websites:

Turkestan album:

http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/287_turkestan.html

The Empire that was Russia: the Prokudin-Gorskii Collection:

<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/>

Week III (Jan 30-Feb 3)

Wed (Sep. 9): Alexander III; nationalism, populism and the radical intelligentsia; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 30 (385-399); ch. 33 (456-463); Konstantin Pobedonostsev, *Reflections of a Russian Statesman*: “The New Democracy” (26-31); “The Press” (62-74); Chekhov, *About Love and Other Stories* (3-60).

Week IV (Feb 6-10)

Elite Culture in late 19th century Russia; Russian Popular Culture in the 2nd half of 19th century; discussion

Readings: Textbook ch. 33 (439-456) (Chekhov, *About Love and Other Stories* (61-124); selections from *Entertaining Tsarist Russia*: “The Terrible Bandit Churkin...” (221-230) [e-book]; *Russian Folk Songs* [e-resource, UTA Library]:
<http://uta.naxosmusiclibrary.com/catalogue/item.asp?cid=8.550781>

Week V (Feb 13-17)

Industrialization, social and economic change in late 19th century; The Revolution of 1905; politics, culture and society after 1905; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 32 (421-438); ch. 33; Chekhov, *About Love and Other Stories* (125-205).

Week VI (Feb 20-24)

Nicholas II and the crisis of Russian Monarchy; World War I; From the February Revolution to the Bolshevik seizure of power; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 31 (400-420); ch. 34 (464-478); Alexandra Kollontai, “Communism and the Family”: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/kollonta/1920/communism-family.htm>

Film: *October* by Sergei Eisenstein (1928)

Week VII (Feb 27-Mar 2)

1st paper due; The Civil War and War Communism, Soviet-Polish war; Culture and society under NEP; discussion

Readings: textbook: chs. 35-36 (479-510); start reading ch. 41; Isaac Babel story; documents from Dobrenko and Clark (eds.): (34-35, 40-45); Brooks, chaps. 1-2 (3-53);

Film: *Deja Vu* (1989), dir. Jerzy Stuhr.

Week VIII (Mar 5-9)

Stalin’s rise to power, Soviet institutions of power, socialism in one country;

“The Great Break”: collectivization, industrialization; discussion

Readings: textbook, ch. 37 (511-528); document selections from Siegelbaum and Sokolov (33-35, 38, 43, 46); Brooks, chaps. 3-4 (54-106)

Joseph Stalin, “Dizzy with Success” (*Pravda*, 2 March 1930):

<http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.k.harrington/dizzy.html>

Film: *3 songs about Lenin* (1924), dir. Dziga Vertov.

MARCH 12-16: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)

Week IX (March 19-23)

Soviet Nationalities in the 1920s and 1930s; Stalinist Culture and the leader cult; Stalinism, the Great Terror and purges; discussion

Readings: Brooks, ch. 5 (106-125); selections from Siegelbaum and Sokolov, eds., *Stalinism as a Way of Life*, ch. 4 “People are Our Most Valuable Assets” (164-167, 172-187);

“Stalin’s Purges: the Official Explanation”:

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1936purges.html>

Avidenko, “Hymn to Stalin” (mid-1930s):

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/stalin-worship.html>

Website: the commissar vanishes:

http://www.newseum.org/berlinwall/commissar_vanishes/

Films: *Volga, Volga* (1938), dir. G. Aleksandrov; *Burnt by the Sun* (1994), dir. Nikita Mikhalkov.,

Week X (March 26-30)

Soviet foreign policy in 1920s-30s; World War II; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 38 (529-46); Brooks, chap. 7 (159-194); “Treblinka” in *A Writer at War: Vassily Grossman with the Red Army 1941-1945* (280-306); selections from: Alexander Werth, *Russia at War, 1941-1945* (323-359);
Website: <http://english.pobediteli.ru/>

Week XI (Apr 2-6)

Late Stalinism, Zhdanov and the beginning of the Cold War; Culture and society after WW II; discussion

Readings: textbook ch. 39 (547-558); Brooks, chap. 8 (194-247); Mikhail Zoshchenko, “Adventures of an Ape”

Clark and Dobrenko (eds.), *Soviet Culture and Power: A History in Documents, 1917-1953*, selections (402-428).

Week XII (Apr 9-13)

Khrushchev, de-stalinization and detente; Thaw Culture; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 40 (559-565; 575-77); Eleonory Gilburd, “Picasso in Thaw Culture,” *Cahiers du Monde Russe*, vol. 12. No. 1. (2006): 65-108.

Film: *The Cranes are Flying* (1957), dir. M. Kalatozov

Week XIII (Apr 16-20)

Brezhnev and economic stagnation; late Soviet culture and the growth of dissent; discussion

Readings: ch. 40 (572-75, 577-87); Kotkin, vii-57; The Helsinki Accords (read intro, parts III, IV, VII, VIII):

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/osce/basics/finact75.htm>

Week XIV (Apr 23-27)

Gorbachev’s attempt of economic reforms; *Glasnost*’ and the break-up of the Soviet Union; discussion

Readings: textbook ch. 42 (617-640); Kotkin, 58-112

Film: *Brother*

Week XV (Apr 30-May 4)

Putin’s Russia; Yeltsin’s Russia

Readings: textbook, chs. 43-44 (641-710); Kotkin, 113-220.

Final Papers Due:

Wednesday, May 9 by 5 pm (you may slide the papers under my office door at UH 310)

Papers will not be accepted after this deadline!