

HIST 4359-001, "Russia to 1855"  
Fall 2015

Dr. Patryk Babiracki

MWF, 11-11.50

Room: UH 02

Office hours: Fridays, 1:30-3:30, or by appointment.

Email: [babiracki@uta.edu](mailto:babiracki@uta.edu)

Office: UH 310

Faculty profile page: <https://www.uta.edu/profiles/patryk-babiracki>

The syllabus may be subject to minor modifications

**Course Description:** The course is a survey of Russian history since the origins of the Kievan state in the ninth century to the eve of “the Great Reforms” in mid-nineteenth century. We will trace the growth of Russian institutions and the evolution of the political culture and society. Other themes will include: The development of Russian identity, empire and expansion, foreign policy, elite and popular cultures, the changing relationship between state and society as well as Russia’s evolving interactions with the “West.”

**Student Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn about the major forces that shaped the earliest periods in Russian history. 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, use these editions only):**

John Lawrence, *A History of Russia* (7<sup>th</sup>, revised ed.) (Meridian, 1993); ISBN: **ISBN-13:** 978-0452010840

Daniel Kaiser, Gary Marker, eds., *Reinterpreting Russian History: Readings, 860s-1860s* (Oxford UP, 1994); ISBN: 978-0195078589

Nikolai Gogol, *The Overcoat and Other Short Stories* (Dover Thrift Editions, 1992) ISBN: 978-0486270579;

Ivan Turgenev, *Sketches from a Hunter’s Album* (Penguin, 1990); ISBN: 978-0140445220

Dostoevsky, Fyodor, *Poor Folk and Other Stories*, trans. David McDuff (Penguin, 1989); ISBN: 978-0140445053

**All other readings are available on Blackboard**

**Grading:**

Participation in classroom discussions=**20%**

Four open-book 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 VIII, Monday, Oct 12, at the beginning of the class)

Detailed outline of the final paper (containing a thesis, arguments and a list of sources)

due Week XIII (Monday, Nov 16, at the beginning of the class)=10%

Final 8-page paper (due week XVI, Wednesday, Dec 9, at the beginning of the class)

=30%

Attendance (see below)

**Films.** 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:** The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students' academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this class, **I have established following 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.

**Disability Accommodations:** UT Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including *The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, *The Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act (ADAAA)*, and *Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of disability. Students are responsible for providing the instructor with official notification in the form of a letter certified by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD). Students experiencing a range of conditions (Physical, Learning, Chronic Health, Mental Health, and Sensory) that may cause diminished academic performance or other barriers to learning may seek services and/or accommodations by contacting:

The Office for Students with Disabilities, (OSD) [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or calling 817-272-3364.

Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS) [www.uta.edu/caps/](http://www.uta.edu/caps/) or calling 817-272-3671.

Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit [uta.edu/eos](http://uta.edu/eos). For information regarding Title IX, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).*

**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 laptops, mobile phones etc. are allowed in the classroom.**

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional ### hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Drop Policy:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://www.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except

makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located [TBA]. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Paper Re-write Policy:** You may re-write the 1<sup>st</sup> paper if you wish. The grade will be averaged between the papers.

**Week I** (Friday, Aug. 28) Introduction to the course  
past and present: "Russia's Virtual Universe,"

[http://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/russias-virtual-universe?mkt\\_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonv6rLc%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17%2BQkWKag38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIHS8BhI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHMMa12z7gLXxI%3D](http://www.wilsoncenter.org/article/russias-virtual-universe?mkt_tok=3RkMMJWWfF9wsRonv6rLc%2B%2FhmjTEU5z17%2BQkWKag38431UFwdcjKPmjr1YIHS8BhI%2BSLDwEYGJlv6SgFSLHMMa12z7gLXxI%3D)

**Week II** (Aug. 31-Sept. 4) Pre-history; Origins and Christianization of Kievan Rus  
Readings:

Lawrence: 16-31;

Kaiser and Marker (henceforth: KM), 3-20, 63-67.

**Week III** (Sept. 7-11) Kievan Rus: State structure and society (**no class on Sept 7-Labor Day Holiday**)

Readings:

Lawrence, 38-50

KM, 21-25, 26-29, 50-59.

**Week IV** (Sept. 14-18); Mongol yoke; Decline of Kiev and Rise of new principalities

Readings:

Lawrence, 51-61, 68-79

KM, 79-90, 101-2, 104-7, 137-39.

**Week V** (Sept. 21-25) Culture, Religion and the Church b. 10<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries

Readings:

Lawrence, 32-38

George Fedotov, "Russian Kenoticism" in *The Russian Religious Mind* (I), 94-110.

KM, 67-78, 140-45.

**Week VI** (Sept. 28-Oct. 2) The rise of Moscow; Ivan the

Terrible Readings:

Lawrence, 88-108

KM, 90-98, 103-4, 114-24, 147-76.

**Week VII** (Oct. 5-9)

Film: *Andrey Rublyov* (mandatory)

**Week VIII** (Oct. 12-16) Conquest of Siberia and beginning of Empire

**First paper due Monday!**

Readings:

Lawrence, 116-126.

Basil Dmytryshyn et. al., *Russia's Conquest of Siberia: A Documentary Record, 1558-1700* (Selected Documents).

**Week IX** (Oct. 19-23) "The Time of Troubles;" economy, culture and society in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries

Readings:

Lawrence, 109-115, 127-136;

KM, 94-205, 180-83.

**Week X** (Oct. 26-30) Peter the Great's reforms; Russia turns Westward

Readings:

Lawrence, 138-165

KM, 228-30, 232-37, 234-6

Richard Wortman, *Scenarios of Power*, selections.

**Week XI** (Nov. 2-6) Catherine the Great; empire and the Enlightenment Readings:

Lawrence, 166-171

KM, 230-32, 244-45, 250-55, 325-8, 380-85, 366-9.

Dominique Maroger, ed., *The Memoirs of Catherine the Great*, 290, 294, 299-309.

**Week XII** (Nov. 9-13) Serfdom, peasantry and folk culture

Readings:

KM, 294-5, 389-91

Ivan Turgenev, *Sketches from the Hunter's Album* (1847-51), selections.

**Week XIII** (Nov. 16-20) 1812 and the Decembrists; salon culture and aristocracy

**Final paper outline due Monday!**

Readings: Lawrence, 172-183

KM, 256-7,

"Alexander I's Proclamations During the War of 1812," in Dmytryshyn, ed., *Imperial Russia*, 141-144.

"The Decembrist Movement," in Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia*, 161-181.

Begin reading Dostoevsky, *Poor Folk*, 1-50.

**Week XIV** (Nov. 23-27) Nicholas I; Westernizers, Slavophiles and birth of intelligentsia  
**No classes on Friday, Nov. 27 due to Thanksgiving holidays!**

Readings:

Lawrence, 183-188

KM, 414-427

Isaiah Berlin, "The Remarkable Decade," 114-135

Petr Chaadaev, "First Philosophical Letter," and

Vissarion Belinsky, "Letter to Nikolai Gogol," (1847) at:

[http://academic.shu.edu/russianhistory/index.php/Table\\_of\\_Contents#Nineteenth\\_Century\\_Russia](http://academic.shu.edu/russianhistory/index.php/Table_of_Contents#Nineteenth_Century_Russia)

**Week XV** (Nov 30- Dec 4) Censorship and cultural politics in mid-19<sup>th</sup> c. Russia

Readings:

Nikolai Gogol, "The Nose," (1837); "The Overcoat" (1842).

**Week XVI** (Dec. 7-9) Dostoevsky and his world; final discussion

**Final paper due Wednesday, Dec. 9!**

Readings:

Finish Dostoevsky, *Poor Folk*.