

Updated August 24, 2016, 2016

Russia since 1855
Dr. Patryk Babiracki
Fall 2016, HIST 4360-001
Tuesday and Thursday, 12:30-1:50 pm
Room: UH 14
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 11-12 (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 upheavals 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

Required Readings available on Blackboard:

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.

Isaac 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.

Anna Politkovskaya, *Putin's Russia: Life in a Failing Democracy*. 2007.

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, Tuesday, Oct 4, at the beginning of the class)

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

due Week XII (Tuesday, Nov. 8, at the beginning of the class);=**10%**

Final 8-page paper (due Tuesday, Dec. 6, in class. Papers will not be accepted after the due date)=**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 or calling 817-272-3364.
Counseling and Psychological Services, (CAPS)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 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. For information regarding Title IX, visit 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.

E-culture policy: Besides office hours, email is the best way to contact me. I will respond at my nearest convenience.

NO LAPTOPS, NO CELL PHONES, etc. ARE ALLOWED DURING CLASS.

Week I (Thursday, August 25) Introduction to the course

Themes of the course and syllabus

Week II (Aug. 30, Sept. 1)

The legacy of Muscovite and imperial Russia; Alexander II and The Great Reforms

Readings: Textbook, "Introduction" (xxi-xxviii); documents in Daniel Kaiser and Gary Marker, eds., *Reinterpreting Russian History*, pp. 428-435.

Week III (Sept. 6, 8)

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 (Sept. 13, 15)

Empire and nationalities; Russian culture in late 19th century Russia; 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>

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).

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 V (Sept. 20, 22)

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 (Sept. 27, 29)

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>

Week VII (Oct. 4, 6)

1st paper due on Tuesday, Oct. 4, before class; The Civil War and War Communism; NEP (New Economic Policies); discussion

Readings: textbook: chs. 35-36 (479-510); start reading ch. 41; Isaac Babel stories

Week VIII (Oct. 11, 13)

Stalin's rise to power; "The Great Break": collectivization, industrialization; discussion

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

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

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

Week IX (Oct. 18, 20)

Stalinist Culture and the leader cult; Stalinism, the Great Terror and purges; discussion

Readings: 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/

Week X (Oct. 25, 27)

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

Readings: textbook: ch. 38 (529-46); "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 (Nov. 1, 3)

Culture and society after WW II; Early Cold War; discussion

Readings: textbook ch. 39 (547-558); 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 (Nov. 8, 10). Paper outline due Tuesday, Nov. 8!

Khrushchev and peaceful coexistence; de-stalinization and the Thaw; discussion

Readings: textbook: ch. 40 (559-565; 575-77); Film, *The Cranes are Flying* (M. Kalatozov, 1957); **another reading TBA**

Week XIII (Nov. 15, 17)

Brezhnev and economic stagnation; rise and fall of detente; discussion

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

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

XIV (Nov. 22) No class on Friday, Nov. 24 due to Thanksgiving holidays!

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

Readings: textbook ch. 42 (617-640); Kapuściński, ***Imperium*, TBA**

Week XV (Nov. 29, Dec. 1)

Yeltsin's Russia; Putin's Russia

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

Anna Politkovskaia, ***Putin's Russia*, TBA**.

skim "Concept of the Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation" at:

http://archive.mid.ru/brp_4.nsf/0/76389FEC168189ED44257B2E0039B16D

Week XVI (Dec. 6) Tuesday, Dec. 6: Final Papers Due! LAST DAY OF CLASSES

Final discussion