Russian Empire 1552-1917
Dr. Patryk Babiracki
Fall 2014, HIST 4361
MWF, 9-9.50 am
Room: UH 07
Office hours: Fridays, 1-3 or by appointment

The syllabus may be subject to minor modifications

Course Description:  Russia was the largest modern land empire on Earth. In this course we will study the political, social and cultural mechanisms of Russian imperial rule between the sixteenth and twentieth centuries. We will focus on the interactions between the Russian state and non-Russian nationalities during the successive stages of the Russian expansion: the Siberian frontier in the 16th and 17th centuries; the “Western Borderlands” (Eastern Europe) from the 18th century on; in the Far East and in America; and during the expansion to the Caucasus and Central Asia in the 19th centuries. Special themes will include: 1) the structure and functioning of Russian imperial institutions; 2) types of contact between Russians and non-Russian (strategies of conquest, resistance, forms of collaboration, etc.); 3) the production of culture and knowledge for the Russian empire; 4) changing notions of nationality and 5) the complicated relationship between Russia and the West.

Student Learning Outcomes:  Students will learn about the major forces that shaped the development of the largest land empire in the world between the sixteenth and the nineteenth centuries. 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:

Nikolai Gogol,, TBA

All other readings are available on reserve and Blackboard:

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 to summarize one or more of the texts assigned for the week=20%, or 5% each.
One 5-page analytic paper = 15% (Due Week VIII, Monday, September 29, at the beginning of the class)
Detailed outline of the final paper (containing a thesis, arguments and an annotated list of sources) due Week XII (Monday, November 3, at the beginning of the class) = 15%
Final 8-page paper (due week XVI, Monday, December 3, at the beginning of the class) = 30%

**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 laptops, mobile phones are allowed in class.**
**Paper Re-write Policy:** You may re-write the 1st paper if you wish. The grade will be averaged between the papers.

**Week I (Friday, Aug. 22) Introduction**
About to the course
Why study the Russian empire?

**Week II (Aug 25-29)**
Introductory lecture
Kappeler, 12-20

**Week III (Sept. 1-5) The Expansion of Muscovy; Mon., Sept 1: Labor day, no classes!**
Kappeler, 21-59

**Week IV (Sept. 8-12) The Imperium of Peter the Great; Westward Expansion in the late 17th-early 18th centuries**
Richard Wortman, *Scenarios of Power*, ch. 2 (42-78)
Kappeler, 60-113
Browse the website “Russia Engages the World” and read the two translated documents at: http://web-static.nypl.org/exhibitions/russia/Translation3/magistrate.html
More readings TBA

**Week V (Sept. 15-19) Catherine the Great’s Partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**
Kappeler, 114-165
Basil Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia: A Sourcebook*, pages TBA

**Week VI (Sept. 22-26) Nicholas I and the Conquest of the Caucasus**
Kappeler, ch. 5 (only 168-185)
Basil Dmytryshyn, *Imperial Russia: A Sourcebook, 1700-1917*, pages TBA
Selected documents from the British Foreign Office
Lermontov, “Bela” in *Hero of Our Time*, pp. 7-43

**Week VII (Sept. 29-Oct. 3) PAPER 1 DUE MONDAY, SEPT. 29!**
Russians in the Far East
Kappeler, ch. 5 (200-204)
Dmytryshyn, et. al., TBA

**Week VIII** (Oct. 6-10)
Film: *Dersu Uzala* (1975), dir. Akira Kurosawa

**Week IX** (Oct. 13-17)
**The Russian-American Frontier**
Basil Dmytryshyn, *The Russian American Colonies, 1798-1867: A Documentary Record*, TBA
Website: “Meeting of Frontiers”: [http://frontiers.loc.gov/intldl/intfhtml/mfhome.html](http://frontiers.loc.gov/intldl/intfhtml/mfhome.html)

**Week X** (Oct. 20-24) **The Conquest of Central Asia**
Kappeler, ch. 5 (only 185-200, 204-208)
Website: Turkestan Album
http://www.loc.gov/rr/print/coll/287_turkestan.html

**Week XI** (Oct. 27-Oct 31) **Imperial Russia in Western Eyes**
Marquis Astolphe de Custine, *Journey for Our Time*, TBA
*Documents of the British Foreign Office*, TBA

**Week XII** (Nov. 3-7) **The Challenge of Nationalism in the Western Borderlands in the 19th Century; MONDAY: FINAL PAPER OUTLINES DUE!**
Kappeler, ch. 6 (213-230);
More TBA
Nikolai Gogol, TBA

**Week XIII** (Nov. 10-14) **Nationalism and Nationalities Policy under the Last Tsars**
Kappeler, ch. 6 (230-246); ch. 7 (247-282)
Selected primary sources, TBA

**Week XIV** (Nov. 17-21) **The Jewish Experience**
Benjamin Nathans, “Jews and the Imperial Social Hierarchy” in *Beyond the Pale*, pp. 23-44.
Chaeran Y. Freeze and Jay M. Harris, eds., *Everyday Jewish Life in Imperial Russia*, 2013, pp. TBA

**Week XV (Nov. 24-28) Empire, Modernization and Revolution**

Kappeler, ch. 8 (283-327)
Compare the programs of political parties at:
http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.k.harrington/Russhist.HTML

**Week XVI (Dec. 1-Dec. 3) final discussion; FINAL PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY!**