

**History 241: Origins of Modern Russia**  
Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 3:15-4:05  
Fall 2007

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Office hours: T 3-5, Th 9-12  
(or by appointment)

**Course description**

History 241 covers roughly 1,000 years of Russian history, beginning with the formation of the medieval principality of Kievan Rus' in the 800s and ending with the October Revolution of 1917. Although the course will attempt to cover the basic events, trends, social movements, and personalities of pre-Soviet Russian history, it will focus in greater detail on several themes connected to the development of modern Russia: the rise and fall of serfdom, the growth of the autocracy and the process of state-building, the formation of the Russian empire, the nature (and peculiarities) of the Russian social structure, the changing relationship between Russian state and society, the country's religious background and intellectual tradition, and its status as a nation on the border of Europe and Asia.

A majority of each class session will involve the discussion of primary documents on Russian history, which students should be ready to discuss when they arrive in the classroom. We will supplement these readings with secondary works by modern historians of Russia.

**Course materials**

The following books are available for sale at the college bookstore and are on course reserve at Burling Library:

Simon Dixon, *The Modernisation of Russia, 1676-1825*  
Daniel Kaiser and Gary Marker, eds., *Reinterpreting Russian History: Readings 860-1860s*  
David Moon, *The Abolition of Serfdom in Russia*  
Walter G. Moss, *A History of Russia, Volume 1: To 1917*  
Andrei Pavlov and Maureen Perrie, *Ivan the Terrible*  
Olga Tian-Shanskaia, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*

In addition, a number of course readings (both articles and primary sources) will be available for download on the course's Blackboard site, located at [pioneerweb.grinnell.edu](http://pioneerweb.grinnell.edu).

**Requirements and grading**

This course will have three main written requirements, which will be weighted as follows in determining your grade:

**Four short analyses of primary texts (20% total).** During the first half of the semester, you will hand in four 1-2 page papers analyzing the primary sources we discuss in class. I will post a

series of study questions related to the readings on the course's Blackboard site; you will have the option either of answering one of those questions or of answering a question you pose yourself. These papers *must* be handed in before the start of the class in which the documents they analyze are discussed; you can only hand in one document analysis per class. Each student should hand in one paper during the first week of the class (that is, on September 3, September 5, or September 7), but otherwise, you are free to choose exactly which documents you want to analyze, provided that you have handed in all four essays by the beginning of fall break. (A separate hand-out will discuss in greater depth what I'm looking for in a document analysis.)

**One 5-page paper (20%).** You will also write one lengthier essay, of roughly 5-6 pages in length. This paper will be due at 5:00 PM on Friday, November 16; you will be asked to answer a question that will be handed out in class on Friday, November 2.

**Mid-term and final exam (30% each).** These exams will involve a combination of essay questions and shorter identification questions. The mid-term, to be given in class on October 15, will cover material from the first half of the course. The final exam, to be given on a date set by the registrar, will focus on the second half of the course, but it will also include essay questions covering the class as a whole.

The final requirement of the course is informed and active **class participation**. Informed participation is a crucial part of the classroom experience: to earn a good grade, you'll need not only to complete the three types of written work mentioned above, but to provide evidence in class that you've done the assigned readings and that you're thinking about the issues that they address. Class participation, of course, involves not only speaking in class, but listening to (and respecting) the opinions of your classmates; if you feel uncomfortable speaking in class, come speak to me and we'll figure out how best to proceed. Class participation also depends on regular attendance—if you aren't here, you obviously aren't participating!

Grading will be based on the following formula. I will calculate a preliminary grade based on the written assignments, which will be weighted as I describe above. Once I have determined this preliminary grade, however, I will consider raising or lowering your grade based on class participation, usually by a maximum of one notch. (That is, if the grade for your short writing assignments, your paper, and your exams averages out to an A-, you could earn a B+, an A-, or an A, depending on the extent and the insightfulness of your class participation.) In many cases, I will simply use your class participation to decide which of two grades to assign you (that is, if your work is on the line between an A- and a B+, your class participation will decide your grade); in others, I may raise or lower your mark (say, from an A- to an A) depending on your performance in class discussion.) In rare instances, I will consider lowering a preliminary grade two notches based on your class participation—mostly in cases where you have missed an inexcusable number of class sessions or consistently failed to participate in discussion. (Rest assured that I will only lower a grade by two notches if I have spoken to you ahead of time, giving you the chance to improve.)

## Important notes

Grinnell College makes reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Students need to provide documentation identifying any special needs to the Dean for Student 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 the college's policy on academic honesty; plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course.

## Course schedule

Friday, August 31: Course Introduction and Goals

### UNIT ONE: MEDIEVAL RUS'

Monday, September 3: The Peopling of Rus'

Readings: Walter Moss, *A History of Russia*, ch. 1 (pp. 1-12) and ch. 2 (13-16)  
Daniel Kaiser and Gary Marker, eds., *Reinterpreting Russian History*, pp. 3-20  
"The Primary Chronicle on the Early Settlers of Rus' (ca. 600-860s)"  
"King Harald's Saga: Harald Hardradi of Norway (ca. 1050)"  
"Runic Inscriptions on Viking Stellae in Western Europe (Eleventh Century)"  
I. V. Dubov, "The Ethnic History of Northeastern Rus' in the Ninth to Thirteenth Centuries"

Wednesday, September 5: Politics in Kievan Rus'

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 21-37  
"The Primary Chronicle on Dissension Among the Princes of Rus' (1012-54)"  
"The Primary Chronicle on the Rebellion in Kiev (1068-69)"  
"Pravda Russkaia: The Short Redaction"  
I. Ia. Froianov and A. Iu. Dvornichenko, "The City-State in Kievan Rus' (Eleventh-Twelfth Centuries)"  
Moss, ch. 2 (pp. 17-33)

Friday, September 7: Economy and Society in Kievan Rus'

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 38-59  
V. P. Levasheva, "Agriculture in Rus' (Tenth-Thirteenth Centuries)"  
E. A. Rybina, "Novgorod's Amber Trade (Tenth-Fourteenth Centuries)"  
"The Statute of Grand Prince Iaroslav (Eleventh Century)"  
N. L. Pushkareva and E. Levin, "Women in Medieval Novgorod from the Eleventh to the Fifteenth Century"

Moss, ch. 3 (pp. 34-41)

Monday, September 10: Religion in Kievan Rus'

Readings: Linda Ivanits, "The Pagan Background" [Blackboard]  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 60-71  
"The Christianization of Rus' According to the Primary Chronicle  
(978-988)"  
"The *Life* of St. Theodosius (Eleventh Century)"  
Moss, ch. 4 (pp. 42-52)

Wednesday, September 12: Literacy and Trade in Kiev

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 71-79  
"Birchbark Charters from Novgorod"  
"Graffiti from St. Sophia Cathedral, Kiev"  
Simon Franklin, "Literacy in Kievan Rus'"  
M. W. Thompson, excerpts from *Novgorod the Great* [Blackboard]

Friday, September 14: The Decline of Kiev and the Rise of Muscovy

Readings: Moss, ch. 4 (pp. 54-66)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 83-99  
"Northwest Rus': The First Treaty of Novgorod with Tver' Grand Prince  
Iaroslav Iaroslavich [ca. 1264-65]"  
"Southwest Rus': Extracts from the Galician-Volhynian Chronicle  
(1240-41)"  
"Northeast Rus': The Second Testament of Moscow Grand Prince Dmitrii  
Donskoi (1389)"  
"The Annexation of Novgorod According to the Moscow Nikonian  
Chronicle (1471-78)"

Monday, September 17: The Mongol Invasion

Readings: Moss, ch. 5-6 (pp. 67-100)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 99-107 and 124-27, 137-40  
"The Novgorod Chronicle on the Mongol Invasion (1235-38)"  
"Mongol Immunity Charter (*Iarlyk*) to Metropolitan Peter (ca. 1313)"  
S. F. Platonov, "Statebuilding in Moscow: The Birth of Autocracy"  
Charles Halperin, "Interpreting the Mongol Yoke: the Ideology of  
Silence"  
A. M. Sakharov, "The Mongol Yoke and Socioeconomic Change"  
A. M. Sakharov, "The Mongols and Cultural Change"

## UNIT TWO: THE RISE OF MUSCOVY

Wednesday, September 19: Russian Culture before the Rise of Muscovy

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 108-124, 127-136, 140-146  
“The Novgorod Judicial Charter (Late Fifteenth Century)”  
“A Muscovite Judgment Charter (ca. 1463)”  
Ann M. Kleimola, “Justice in Medieval Russia”  
Janet Martin, “The Decline of Novgorod’s Fur Trade Network”  
“Evidence for Literacy” Novgorod Birchbark Charters (ca. 1220-30s)”  
“The Last Will and Testament of Patrikei Stroev (Late Fourteenth-Early Fifteenth Centuries)”  
“Minstrels in Rus’: An Immunity Charter (1470)”  
Russell Zguta, “Russian Minstrels: A Modern View”  
Mikhail Aplatov, “The Historical Significance of Andrei Rublev”  
Moss, ch. 7 (pp. 101-28)

Friday, September 21: From Ivan the Great to Ivan the Terrible

Readings: Pavlov and Perrie, *Ivan the Terrible*, pp. 1-78  
Moss, ch. 8 (pp. 129-45)

Monday, September 24: Ivan the Terrible: an Overview

Readings: Pavlov and Perrie, pp. 79-146  
Documents on Ivan the Terrible [Blackboard]  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 150-154  
“A Foreigner Describes the *Oprichnina* of Ivan the Terrible”

Wednesday, September 26: How Terrible was Ivan?

Readings: Pavlov and Perrie, pp. 147-207  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 154-164  
Nancy Shields Kollmann, “The Façade of Autocracy”  
Robert O. Crummey, “Ivan IV: Reformer or Tyrant?”

Friday, September 28: The Time of Troubles

Readings: Moss, ch. 9-10 (146-183)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 164-176  
E. I. Kolycheva, “The Economic Crisis in Sixteenth-Century Russia”  
“Documents Recording Self-Sale into Slavery”

Monday, October 1: The Origins of Serfdom

Readings: “Enserfment in Muscovite Russia,” Richard Hellie [Blackboard]

Chapter 11 of the *Ulozhenie* (law code) of 1649 [Blackboard]  
Documents on peasant movement [Blackboard]  
Moss, ch. 11 (pp. 184-205)

Wednesday, October 3: Muscovite Society

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, 176-180, 183-213  
“Grigorii Kotoshikhin on Boyar Weddings (ca. 1666)”  
“A Marriage Contract (1668)”  
Robert O. Crummey, “The Boyars of Muscovy: A Modern View”  
Nancy Shields Kollmann, “The Seclusion of Elite Muscovite Women”  
“The *Life* of Iuliania Osor’ina (Late Sixteenth-Early Seventeenth Centuries)”  
D. S. Likhachev, “Individualism in Muscovite Literature”  
Gary Marker, “Literacy and Literacy Texts in Muscovy”  
Moss, ch. 12 (205-225)

### **UNIT THREE: THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE FROM PETER TO CATHERINE**

Friday, October 5: Peter the Great: An Overview

Readings: Moss, ch. 13 (pp. 226-251)  
M. S. Anderson, “Peter the Great: Man and Personality” [Blackboard]  
Nicholas V. Riasanovsky, “The Image of Peter the Great in Russia” [Blackboard]  
Marc Raeff, “Peter’s Domestic Legacy: Revolution or Transformation?”  
[Blackboard]

Monday, October 8: Peter as a Reformer

Readings: Petrine Reform Legislation [Blackboard] (about 15 pages)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 226-229  
“The Table of Ranks of All Grades: Military, Administrative, and Court”

Wednesday, October 10: Russia’s Modernization

Readings: Simon Dixon, *The Modernisation of Russia 1676-1825*, ch. 1 (pp. 1-27)

Friday, October 12: Church and Society in Muscovy and Beyond

Reading: The Commentaries of Adam Olearius [Blackboard]  
Avvakum’s account of his suffering [Blackboard]

Monday, October 15: **MID-TERM EXAM**

Wednesday, October 17: The Economy of Imperial Russia

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 268-290  
“Charts and Table on Economic Development”  
Arcadius Kahan, “The Character of the Russian Economy”  
B. N. Mironov, “The Price Revolution of the Eighteenth Century”  
Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter. “Provisioning the Russian Army”

Friday, October 19: Reforming Russia’s Service State

Readings: Moss, ch. 14-15 (pp. 251-290)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 230-241  
“Manifesto Freeing the Nobility from Compulsory Service (1762)”  
Helju Bennett, “Russia System of Ranks and Orders”

**FALL BREAK: OCTOBER 20-28**

Monday, October 29: Catherine the Great: An Introduction

Readings: “Catherine Instructs the Legislative Commission, 1767” [Blackboard]  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 242-255  
“The Statute on Provincial Administration (1775)”  
“The Charter to the Nobility (1785)”  
Marc Raeff, “The Well-Ordered Police State”  
Isabel de Madariaga, “Catherine the Great, an Enlightened Autocrat”

Wednesday, October 31: Russia under Catherine

Readings: Moss, ch. 16-17 (pp. 291-330)  
Alexander Radishchev, “A Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow” [Blackboard]

Friday, November 2: The Rise of the Russian Empire

Readings: Dixon, ch. 2 (pp. 27-56)  
documents on the Russian Empire [Blackboard]

Monday, November 5: Autocracy and Government after Catherine

Readings: Moss, ch. 18-19 (pp. 331-375)  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 255-67  
“The Statute Establishing State Ministries (1802)”  
“An Edict Defining the Responsibilities of the Ministries (1810)”  
“An Edict Creating the Third Section of His Majesty’s Own Chancery  
(1826)”  
W. Bruce Lincoln, “The Genesis of an ‘Enlightened’ Bureaucracy, 1825-  
1856”

Walter M. Pintner, "The Russian Higher Civil Service on the Eve of the Great Reforms"

Wednesday, November 7: Imperial Russian Society—the Towns and the Clergy

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 312-344  
"Ivan Pososhkov on Merchants and Artisans in the Early Eighteenth Century (1727)"  
"Fedor Karzhavin on the Moscow Plague Riots (1771)"  
"The Charter to the Towns (1785)"  
Wallace Daniel, "The Merchant's View of the Social Order in Russia"  
Alfred Rieber, "The Merchants' Way of Life"  
"The Responsibilities of the Parish Priest: The *Spiritual Regulation* of Peter the Great"  
"I. S. Belliustrin's Description of the Clergy in Rural Russia (1858)"  
Gregory L. Freeze, "The Disintegrating Parish in Eighteenth-Century Russia"  
Robert Crummey, "Vyg, An Old Believer Community"

Friday, November 9: The Modernization of Russian Government and Finance

Readings: Dixon, ch. 3 and 5 (pp. 57-79, 118-151)

#### **UNIT FOUR: LATE IMPERIAL RUSSIA**

Monday, November 12: The Problem of Serfdom

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 290-311  
"Landlords Instructions on Estate Administration (Late Eighteenth Century)"  
"An Imperial Edict Forbidding Sunday Labor by Serfs (1797)"  
*Moskovskie vedomosti*, "Newspaper advertisements Listing Serfs for Sale (1797)"  
"A Speech by Emperor Nicholas I on Serfdom (1842)"  
"A Report from the Ministry of Internal Affairs on Serf Disorders (1847)"  
Steven L. Hoch, "The Peasant Commune"  
Peter Kolchin, "Peasant Patterns of Resistance"  
David Moon, *The Abolition of Serfdom*, pp. 1-48

Wednesday, November 14: Russian Society in the Eighteenth Century

Readings: Dixon, ch. 4 (pp. 80-118)

Friday, November 16

**NO CLASS; PAPER DUE AT 5:00 PM**

Monday, November 19: The Great Reforms

Readings: Moss, ch. 22 (pp. 422-440)  
Moon, pp. 49-70  
Kaiser and Marker, pp. 428-445  
The Political Debates  
The Reform Statutes  
Larissa Zakharova, "The Government and the Great Reforms of the 1860s"

Wednesday, November 21: The Abolition of Serfdom

Readings: Moon, pp. 70-130

### **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Monday, November 26: Everyday Life in Imperial Russia

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 351-369  
"The Noble Head of the Household: The Memoirs of Sergei Aksakov"  
"The Dowry of Avdot'ia Bogdanova. A Nobleman's Daughter (1787)"  
Peter Czap, "A Large Family: The Peasant's Greatest Wealth"  
M. G. Rabinovich, "The Russian Urban Family at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century"  
Marc Raeff, "The Home and School Life of a Young Nobleman"

Wednesday, November 28: Elite Culture and the Rise of the Intelligentsia

Readings: Kaiser and Marker, pp. 400-421  
M. M. Kherasov, "The Rossiad," an Epic Poem  
Stefan Baehr, "Rebirth, Renewal, and *Renovatio* in Eighteenth-Century Russia"  
Richard Wortman, "The Development of a Russian Legal Consciousness"  
Nikolai M. Karamzin, "On the Book Trade and the Love for Learning in Russia" (1802)  
P.V. Annenkov, *The Extraordinary Decade: Literary Memoirs* (1842)  
Williams Mills Todd, "The Literary World of Polite Society"  
Nicholas Riasanovsky, "The Split Between the Government and the Educated Public"  
Dixon, ch. 6 (pp. 152-188)

Friday, November 30: Marxism and the Revolutionary Movement

Readings: documents on the reception of Marx in Russia

Monday, December 3: Peasant Life after Emancipation

Readings: Olga Tian-Shanskaia, *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia*, intro. and ch. 1-6  
Moss, ch. 26 (517-551)

Wednesday, December 5: The Late Imperial Village, Continued

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

Friday, December 7: The Proletariat and the Revolutionary Movement

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

Monday, December 10: The Revolution of 1905

Readings: Moss, ch. 23 (pp. 441-463)  
documents on the 1905 Revolution (about 15 pages) [Blackboard]

Wednesday, December 12: From 1905 to 1917

Readings: Moss, pp. 491-504  
documents on the reform movement and the revolutionary movement  
[Blackboard]

Friday, December 14: War and Revolution

Readings: Leopold Haimson, "Dual Polarization in Urban Russia, 1905-1917" [Blackboard]  
Moss, ch. 25-26 (pp. 491-516)