HI 303T  IMPERIAL RUSSIA, 1801-1914

30 CREDITS  12 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any school regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Course coordinator: Professor A.J. Heywood
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Discipline Administration:

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TIMETABLE
For the times and locations of classes please consult your portal or My Aberdeen

You can view the University Calendar at

http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/13027.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course will examine key issues and events in Russian history during the period 1801-1914. The following themes will be central:

- Autocracy, opposition and alternatives;
- International affairs, military might and great-power status;
- Social problems and the inter-relation of sections of Russian society;
- Economic problems such as modernisation, industrialisation, finance, communications etc;
- Problems of a vast contiguous Empire, containing many non-Russian groups, religions and cultures, in an age of imperial competition

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
The aims and learning outcomes of this course are:

- to provide an overview of Russian history during the period 1801-1914;
- to introduce students to key issues in Late Imperial Russian history;
- to help in understanding key problems in modern European history by studying their manifestation in the Russian setting;
- to encourage students to analyse the complexity of interactive factors which were involved in historical processes in Late Imperial Russia;
- to allow students to explore the particular Russian characteristics of the modernisation processes at work in the period and the debates which surrounded these.

This work involves the development and use of skills that are indispensable in many different kinds of work, both within academia and in the world at large. You are expected to develop your IT skills by submitting your essays and presentation notes in word-processed format, and your communication skills by engaging in debate, which involves the presentation and receipt of argument, comment and criticism. Other transferable skills arise from the content of the course. Since 1914 Russian history has passed through many extraordinary phases. Our own era is one in which Russia is struggling to find new social, political and economic structures as well as clarify an identity and a role in the
world. Studying the period 1801-1914 should elucidate many aspects of subsequent Russian history. Such study should also inform comparisons with the histories of west European and other states as they emerged into the modern world.

More generally, the course should help you to develop your ability:
- to evaluate evidence, construct arguments, test them against opposing views and to judge the merits of conflicting interpretations;
- to understand the value of cooperative work and the necessity of organising time and work both individually and within a team;
- to make presentations, speak to a group and lead discussions;
- to synthesise complex relations involving cause and effect;
- to deal with problems of significance and relevance;
- to deal with problems of complexity and inter-relation of factors in dynamic situations;
- to write and construct an argument to a deadline and within limits on length of presentation;
- to engage in intellectual debate and the exchange of ideas and to appreciate constructive criticism.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

(This course meets for four hours per week of lectures in the first 3 weeks (12 hours) and then normally 3 hours per week for seminars.

**Week 1**
1  Introduction:
   Key themes
   Organisation of seminars
   Guidance for presentations and coursework
   Election of two course representatives
2   Library session (in the library, floor 2 seminar room)
3-4 Lecture: Russia, 1801-1856
   • Reform, Reaction and Opposition, 1801-1825
   • ‘Frozen Russia’, 1825-1855
   • Russia as a ‘Great Power’, 1801-1856

**Week 2**
1-2 Lecture: Russia, 1856-1905
   • Reform and Opposition, 1855-1881
   • Reaction and Opposition, 1881-1905
3-4 Lecture: Russia, 1856-1905, continued
   • Social and Economic Development, 1856-1905
   • Diplomacy, War and Empire, 1856-1905
Week 3
1-2 Lecture: Russia, 1905-1914
   - The 1905 Revolution
   - The Constitutional Experiment, 1905-14
3-4 Lecture: Russia, 1905-1914, continued
   - The Economy, 1907-1914
   - Russia and Europe, 1906-1914
   - Social Stability, 1907-1914

Week 4
1 Seminar: An epitaph for Alexander I
2 Seminar: An epitaph for Nicholas I
3 Seminar: Why did Russia get embroiled in the Crimean War?

Week 5
1 Seminar: What was the long-term political significance of the Great Reforms?
2 Seminar: Why, and how successfully, did Populists turn to terrorism in the 1870s?
3 Seminar: How effectively did Alexander III reassert the principle of autocracy?

Week 6
1-2 Seminar: What was the long-term social and economic significance of the Great Reforms?
3 Seminar: How successful was the ‘Witte system’?

Week 7
1-3 No classes – reading time

Week 8
1 No class – reading time
2 Seminar: What was the core character of Russia’s foreign policy between 1856 and 1905?
3 Seminar: How should we define Russian imperialism?

Week 9
1 Seminar: How beneficial, or counter-productive, was the Franco-Russian alliance for Russia?
2 Seminar: When did a revolutionary crisis become inevitable in the early 1900s?
3 Seminar: How and why did the monarchy survive in 1905?
Week 10
1 Seminar: Was the ‘Constitutional Experiment’ a success or a failure?
2 Seminar: To what extent was the economy industrialised by 1914?
3 Seminar: How successful were Stolypin’s agrarian reforms?

Week 11
1 Seminar: Why did the Russo-Austrian modus vivendi in the Balkans collapse?
2 Seminar: How serious was the danger of revolution in July 1914?
3-4 Video screening and seminar: Russia’s long nineteenth century

Week 12
1-3 No classes – reading time

READING LIST
Extensive reading is an essential part of any course in History and will deepen your understanding and enjoyment of the period and the discipline of history. The Selected Bibliography provides points of departure for further reading on the topics covered in the seminars. The footnotes and bibliographies of books and articles mentioned are two sources of still further reading; the search-features of the library catalogue, browsing the open shelves, and consulting the course co-ordinator are other ways forward. A major outcome of a university education should be an ability to find information on any topic within your field. You are encouraged to show initiative in developing this ability.

Works of Reference
Invaluable for bibliographic advice, biographies, quick definitions, etc.

Longley, David, *The Longman Companion to Imperial Russia, 1689-1917* (Harlow, 2000)
Rhyne, George N., *The Modern Encyclopedia of Russian, Soviet and Eurasian History* (Gulf Breeze, 1995 -)
Russia: *The CD-ROM* (available at the First Floor Office of QML)
Wieczynski, J. L., ed., *The Modern Encyclopaedia of Russian and Soviet History*
Primary Sources
The critical study of primary source materials is central to the work of the course. Here are some examples of printed collections of documents, memoirs etc which contribute to an overview of the period 1801-1914.

Lieven, Dominic, ed., *British Documents on Foreign Affairs: Reports and Papers from the Confidential Print, Part 1: From the mid-nineteenth century to the First World War; Series A, Russia, 1859-1914*, 6 vols ([Frederick], 1983)
Raeff, Marc, ed., *Plans for Political Reform in Imperial Russia, 1730-1905* (Englewood Cliffs, 1969)
Vernadsky, George, ed., *A Source Book for Russian History from Early Times to 1917* (New Haven, 1972), volumes 2 and 3

Also useful are English-language newspapers such as *The Times* and periodicals such as *The Economist* and *Free Russia*.

Secondary Sources
I suggest that you read two or three of the general histories listed below to get an overview of the period and its dynamics, then deepen your knowledge by selecting items from the additional list.

**Examples of general histories and interpretations for late Imperial Russia**
R. Charques, *The Twilight of Imperial Russia* (London, 1974)
W. Fuller, *Strategy and Power in Russia, 1600-1914* (New York, 1992)
G. Hosking and R. Service (eds), *Reinterpreting Russia* (London, 1999)
M. Raeff, *Understanding Imperial Russia: State and Society in the Old Regime* (New York, 1984)
I. D. Thatcher (ed.), *Late Imperial Russia: Problems and Prospects* (Manchester, 2005)
P. Waldron, *The End of Imperial Russia, 1855-1917* (Basingstoke, 1997)

**Additional secondary sources – a small selection**

Becker, Seymour, *Nobility and Privilege in Late Imperial Russia* (Dekalb, 1985)
Billington, James, *The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture* (New York, 1970)
Cherniavsky, Michael, *Tsar and People: Studies in Russian Myths* (New York,

Clowes, Edith W., Kassow Samuel D. & West James L., eds., *Between Tsar and People: Educated Society and the Quest for Public Identity in Late Imperial Russia* (Princeton, 1991)

Cracraft, James, *Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia* (Lexington, Mass, 1994)


Davies, R.W., ed., *From Tsarism to the New Economic Policy: Continuity and Change in the Economy of the USSR* (Basingstoke, 1990)


Eklof, Ben et al., eds., *Russia’s Great Reforms, 1855–1881* (Bloomington, 1994)

Ely, C., *This Meagre Nature: Landscape and National Identity in Imperial Russia* (DeKalb, 2011)


Ferguson Alan D. & Levin, Alfred, eds., *Essays in Russian History* (Hamden, Conn, 1964)


Fuller, William C., *Civil-Military Conflict in Imperial Russia, 1881-1914* (Princeton, 1985)

Gatrell, Peter, *Government, Industry and Rearmament in Russia, 1900-1914: The Last Argument of Tsarism* (Cambridge, 1994)


Heywood, A.J., *Engineer of Revolutionary Russia: Iu.V. Lomonosov (1876-1952) and the Railways* (Farnham, 2011)


Katkov, George et al., *Russia Enters the Twentieth Century* (London, 1971)

Keep, John, *Soldiers of the Tsar: Army and Society in Russia, 1462-1874* (London, 1985)


Lieven, Dominic, *Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias* (Cambridge, 1994)

Lieven, Dominic, *Russia’s Rulers Under the Old Regime* (New York, 1979)

Lincoln, W. Bruce, *Nicholas I, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias* (Bloomington, 1978)

Lincoln, W. Bruce, *The Great Reforms: Autocracy, Bureaucracy and the Politics of Change in Imperial Russia* (DeKalb, 1990)


McCoubrey, H., *Law Reform in Late Imperial Russia: a Legal History with Modern Implications?* (Nottingham, 1994)

McDaniel, Tim, *Autocracy, Capitalism and Revolution in Russia* (Berkeley, 1988)


McKean, Robert B., ‘Constitutional Russia’, *Revolutionary Russia*, 9/1 (1996),
pp. 33-42
McKean, Robert B., ed., *New Perspectives in Modern Russian History* (London, 1992)
Mendelsohn, Ezra, *Imperial Russia 1700-1917: State, Society, Opposition* (DeKalb, 1988)
Menning, Bruce W., *Bayonets Before Bullets: The Imperial Russian Army, 1861-1914* (Bloomington, 1992)
Moon, David, *The Abolition of Serfdom in Russia, 1762–1907* (Harlow, 2001)
Nove, Alec, *An Economic History of the USSR* (Harmondsworth, revised edn, 1982) (chap 1)
Offord, Derek, *Nineteenth-Century Russia, Opposition to Autocracy* (Harlow, 1999)
Orlovsky, D. T., *The Limits of Reform, the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Imperial Russia, 1802-1881* (Cambridge, Mass, 1981)
Raeff, Marc, *Political Ideas and Institutions in Imperial Russia* (Boulder, Colorado, 1994)
Raeff, Marc, *Understanding Imperial Russia: State and Society in the Old Regime* (New York, 1984)
Ragsdale, Hugh & Ponomarev, V. N., eds., *Imperial Russian Foreign Policy* (Cambridge, 1994)


Riasanovsky, N. V., *Russia and the West in the Teachings of the Slavophiles* (Gloucester, Mass, 1965)

Robinson, G. T., *Rural Russia Under the Old Regime* (New York, 1932)


Saunders, David, *Russia in the Age of Reaction and Reform, 1801-1881* (London, 1992)


Starr, S. Frederick, *Decentralization and Self-Government in Russia, 1830-1870* (Princeton, 1972)

Stavrou, T. G., ed., *Russia Under the Last Tsar* (Minneapolis, 1969)

Stockdale, Melissa, *Paul Miliukov and the Quest for a Liberal Russia, 1880-1918* (Ithaca, 1996)

Thatcher, Ian, ed., *Late Imperial Russia: Problems and Prospects* (Manchester, 2005)

Tian-Shanskaia, O. S., *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* (Bloomington, 1993)


Vucinich, Wayne, ed., *The Peasant in Nineteenth-Century Russia* (Stanford, 1968)


Wirtschafter, Elise K., *Social Identity in Imperial Russia* (DeKalb, 1997)

Worobec, Christine, *Peasant Russia: Family and Community in the Post-Emancipation Period* (DeKalb, 1995)
Worobec, Christine (ed.), *The Human Tradition in Imperial Russia* (London, 2009)


Yaney, George L., *The Urge to Mobilize: Agrarian Reform in Russia, 1861-1930* (Urbana, 1982)

Zaionchkovsky, P. A., *The Abolition of Serfdom in Russia* (Gulf Breeze, 1978)


**General note about Internet Sources**

There are very many websites concerned with Russian history during the period under investigation. You will have no problems in finding material on the internet, but be very wary of non-academic websites.

In bibliographies you should list primary sources found on the web under the heading ‘Primary sources’, while secondary sources should be listed in the ‘Secondary sources’ section.

**ASSESSMENT**

Annotated Bibliography, 1500 words (20%)

Primary Source Exercise, 1500 words (20%)

Essay, 4500 words (60%)

Resit: Annotated bibliography 1,500 words (20%); Primary source exercise 1,500 words (20%); Essay 4,500 words (60%)

*Click to view the discipline specific Common Assessment Scale (CAS) descriptors.*

**ESSAYS**

The word count (4,500) includes all footnotes, captions and/or appendices but excludes the bibliography.
Your essay’s bibliography (i.e., the list of only those works actually cited in the footnotes) should include at least two primary sources, as well as a substantial number of secondary sources (aim for at least 15 items), including articles from journals and chapters from edited collections of essays. If you wish, you may include a separate list called Works Consulted listing those works you read but did not cite in the footnotes. Present references in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The word count (1,500) excludes the citation details. Five scholarly items are required, including at least two monographs and two journal articles. You should aim to provide a very brief description of the argument and a critique of it - what are its strengths and weaknesses?

Focus on a specific topic: the selection of items in relation to your topic is a marking criterion.

Present references in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

PRIMARY SOURCE EXERCISE

The word count (1,500) excludes the citation details.

You are required to analyse one of the following documents (open choice): items 23, 26, 28-30, 32, 34-35, 37, 39-42 in T. Riha (ed.), Readings in Russian Civilisation, Vol. II: Imperial Russia, 1700–1917, 2nd edn (Chicago, 1969) (available in ebrary through the AU library catalogue; items listed below – make sure that you do select one from this list)

23 Karamzin, Memoir on Ancient and Modern Russia
26 Belinsky, Letter to Gogol
28 Dobrolyubov, What is Oblomovism?
29 Breshkovskaia, Going to the People
30 Uspenskii, From a Village Diary
32 Aksakov, A Slavophile Statement
34 Pobedonostsev, The Falsehood of Democracy
35 Milyukov, Russian Liberals
37 Witte, An Economic Policy for the Empire
39 Nicholas II, The Speech from the Throne
40 The Government’s Declaration to the First Duma
41 Stolypin, We Need a Great Russia
42 Durnovo, Memorandum to Nicholas II
Start by providing a brief description of the item, then give your critique. Try to show and explain how the source relates to the secondary literature about the topic. Does it support any particular interpretation in the literature?

Present references in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

**LIST OF ESSAY QUESTIONS/BIBLIOGRAPHY TOPICS**

You are responsible for choosing a topic for your bibliography, for devising your own essay question, and for getting them approved by the course coordinator.

Please NOTE:

**THE BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ESSAY MUST NOT BOTH BE ON THE SAME TOPIC**

** failure to agree your bibliography topic and essay title with the course coordinator may cause you to attempt an inappropriate topic and/or title, which could adversely affect your mark**

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Annotated Bibliography: Week 4, Wednesday, 3pm

Primary Source Exercise: Week 8, Wednesday, 3pm

Essay: Week 12, Wednesday, 3pm

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**

The Department requires ONE hard and ONE electronic copy of all assignments, as follows:

**COPY 1:** One hard copy together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should only have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**COPY 2:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.

**EXAMINATION**

This course is assessed by continuous coursework assessment only.