History 422/622: Russia since 1825
Instructor: Dr. Paul Werth
M-W 8.30 – 9.45 AM
BEH 242

Office: WRI A-324
Office Hours: T-Th, 10.00 – 12.00 (or by appointment)
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http://faculty.unlv.edu/pwerth/422.html

Course Goals
This course, an upper level survey, explores Russia's transformation to the modern world. Predominantly an agrarian society in 1825, Russia has experienced tremendous social, cultural, and political change in the last two centuries, resulting in its eventual emergence as a superpower rivaled only by the United States. Yet with the fall of the USSR, Russia entered a state of collapse, from which it finally began to emerge only in the first decade of the twenty-first century. This course charts the roots and nature of these transformations, with a particular focus on the revolutionary period of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It seeks to determine, among other things, which elements of that history represent a "usable past" for contemporary Russia. Students are expected to gain a thorough grasp of the central events of the last two centuries of Russian history, as demonstrated both in written work and examinations. Students will also examine the process of serf emancipation in an intensive class discussion. The course develops analytical and research skills by requiring careful comparative analysis of scholarly articles and, for some students, a research paper of modest length. The course also promotes skills of oral expression by encouraging students to give brief presentations in class that involve identifying and framing problems in Russian history. Finally, students will develop a truly enviable knowledge of Eurasian geography. The course is designed to be enlightening, engaging, entertaining, and cathartic.

Disabilities and Religious Holidays
If you have a documented disability that may condition your performance in this course, you should contact me as soon as possible to make special arrangements. Please do not assume that I am aware of any such condition or that I have automatically granted any special dispensation. You should also contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC), which is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex room 137 (phone = 895-0866). As regards religious holidays, I am sympathetic to students' religious needs and will make every effort to accommodate them. Students MUST, however, inform me of such needs at the beginning of the term so that we can work our way around them judiciously. Please do not expect sympathy if you come to me only "after the fact."

Requirements
I demand substantial self-motivation from all students. This means that I expect you to attend class without fail, to participate in discussions, and to turn in all work in a timely fashion. You should come each day to class prepared to discuss the material listed on the syllabus for that day. Those who arrive obviously without preparation may be asked to leave. From my side, I will make every effort to provide you with the tools, the guidance, and the structure necessary for your success. This syllabus is my first down payment on that promise. Concretely, I require of all students the following:

Attendance and participation: I put a premium on your attendance and active participation. More than three absences over the course of the term will be very detrimental to your grade. If you come to class each and every day but say little or nothing, you can expect a C on the participation portion of your grade. Students desiring to earn an A or B grade in participation should plan on doing a brief oral presentation one or more times over the course of the semester. This is a voluntary matter, though the
instructor may exert substantial moral pressure – bordering on coercion, some may conclude – in order to advance this portion of the course. Details about such presentations may be found on the web site.

**Written assignments.** The written assignments for this course are of several different kinds and also involve an element of choice. All students will write a "position paper" (4-5 pages) as part of a conference on serf emancipation in 1861, as well as a second short paper of three pages on reading in the volume *In the Shadow of Revolution*. For the rest of the writing in the course, students have two options. A) Students may write a series of three relatively short article reviews (ca. 4-5 pp.), each of which involves comparing the interpretation of a particular issue in Russian history by at least two different scholarly articles, to be found by the student with guidance from the instructor. B) Alternatively, students may pursue a research paper of 12-14 pp. on a topic of their choice, reached in conjunction with the instructor. The due dates in the syllabus below labeled (A) and (B) refer to these two options. Students are expected to choose between these tracks formally by 19 February. Details and requirements on all writing assignments are posted on the web site. Assignments submitted in violation of these requirements will be returned to the author as incomplete. Written work is downgraded one point for every three hours that the assignment is late.

**Quizzes and exams.** There will be two geography quizzes, designed to test your basic knowledge of the Eurasian landmass. There will moreover be six content quizzes. Five of these will be used for the purposes of computing your final grade, which means that the lowest of the six grades will be excluded from that calculation. Given the significant writing component for this course and the quizzes just noted, *this course has neither a mid-term exam nor a final exam. Howzzat?*

**Your final grade will be determined as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance + participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper on serf emancipation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper on <em>Shadow</em></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research paper or Article Reviews</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content quizzes</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Readings for this course**

The readings for this course take several different forms. The most basic are the books for purchase, either through the UNLV bookstore or another retailers. These are listed below. Numerous copies of *Fathers & Sons* are also available in the library stacks. Several primary sources are available on the course web site as a "Web Reader" specially assembled for this course. That may be easily and conveniently downloaded from the site. Next, in a few cases I require that you read journal articles that are easily accessible through the library's web site. The easiest way to do that is to go to [http://library.unlv.edu](http://library.unlv.edu) and enter in several key words. This will allow you to access the library’s holdings. Finally, one essay will be distributed to the class or posted on the website as a PDF.

PART ONE: PRE-REFORM RUSSIA

Jan 22  INTRODUCTION: ALL ABOUT THE COURSE (and then some...)

Jan 27  RUSSIA BEFORE 1825 (Everything you need to know)
   Reading:  Bushkovitch, 117-154 (skim earlier parts of book as desired)

Jan 29  THE POLITICAL & SOCIAL ORDER OF NICHOLAS I
   Reading:  Bushkovitch, 155-71
   Moon, Abolition of Serfdom, pp. 1-18, 133-139 [docs. 1-8]

Feb 3   THE BIRTH OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA
   Reading:  Bushkovitch, 172-85
   Vissarion Belinskii, "Letter to Gogol" (Web Reader)
   Ivan V. Kireevskii, "On the Nature of European Culture" (Web Reader)

Feb 5   EMPIRE AND THE WIDER WORLD
   Reading:  Moon, Abolition, 19-48, 139-47 [docs. 8-13]
   GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #1

PART TWO: RUSSIA ON THE PATH TO MODERNIZATION

Feb 10  CONFERENCE: PREPARATIONS FOR SERF EMANCIPATION
   Reading:  Moon, Abolition, pp. 49-83, 147-160 [docs. 14-20]
   CONTENT QUIZ #1

Feb 12  CONFERENCE: AFTERMATH OF SERF EMANCIPATION
   Reading:  Moon, Abolition, pp. 84-129, 160-169 [docs. 20-28]
   CONFERENCE PAPER DUE (all students)

Feb 17  NO CLASS 17 FEB: WASHINGTON’S BIRTHDAY
   But begin Ivan Turgenev, Fathers & Sons (get as far as possible)

Feb 19  DYNAMICS OF REFORM & COUNTER-REFORM
   Reading:  Bushkovitch, 186-201
   Continue with Fathers & Sons
   STUDENTS MUST CHOOSE BETWEEN (A) AND (B) TRACKS
Feb 24  POPULISM & TERRORISM  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 201-207  
- Party Program of People’s Will (Web Reader)  
- Letter of People's Will to Emperor Alexander III (Web reader)  
- Finish Fathers & Sons

**CONTENT QUIZ #2**

Feb 26  INDUSTRIALIZATION & MARXISM  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 208-227, 272-283  
- V. I. Lenin, *What is to be Done?* (Web Reader)

March 3  CONSERVATISM, EMPIRE, "RUSSIFICATION"  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 249-271  
(B) TOPICS FOR RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

March 5  RUSSIAN CULTURE & THE REVOLUTION OF 1905  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 228-248, 283-292  
(A) FIRST ARTICLE REVIEW DUE

March 10  STOLYPIN, DUMA, AND AUTOCRACY  
**Reading:** October Manifesto and Fundamental Law of 1906 (Web Reader)  

March 12  OPEN SESSION FOR CATCH-UP  
No reading  
**CONTENT QUIZ #3**

NO CLASS 17 and 19 MARCH: SPRING BREAK

PART THREE: WAR, REVOLUTION, CRISIS

March 24  THE CRUCIBLE OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 293-298  

March 26 1917 & THE BOLSHEVIKS  
**Reading:** Bushkovitch, 298-304  
- *Shadow of Revolution* (readings will be divided, see website)
March 31  CIVIL WAR AND BOLSHEVIK VICTORY
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 304-317
Sheila Fitzpatrick “The Civil War as Formative Experience,” in Abbot
Gleason et al., Bolshevik Culture: Experiment and Order in the
Russian Revolution (Bloomington, 1985), 57-76 [course website].
Shadow [continue]
(B) PROVISIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

PART FOUR: FOUNDATIONS FOR THE SOVIET SYSTEM

April 2  NEP
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 318-324, 334-350
Shadow [continue]
CONTENT QUIZ #4

April 7  THE USSR AS MULTI-NATIONAL STATE
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 324-334
(A) SECOND ARTICLE REVIEW DUE

April 9  STALINISM: INDUSTRIALIZATION, COLLECTIVIZATION & TERROR
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 351-370
Shadow [continue]
Stalin speech on industrialization (Web Reader)

April 14  CONFERENCE: EXPERIENCING BOLSHEVISM, 1917-1939
SHORT PAPERS ON SHADOW DUE (all students)
Be prepared to discuss those readings

April 16  THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 371-392
Kritika: Exploration sin Russian and Eurasian History, 1.2 (2000):
305-336.
CONTENT QUIZ #5

PART FIVE: REFORM, STAGNATION, COLLAPSE – AND REBIRTH?

April 21  COLD WAR, LATE STALINISM & DESTALINIZATION AND ITS LIMITS
Reading:  Bushkovitch, 393-412, 429-446
The "Secret Speech" of Nikita Khrushchev (Web reader)
(B) ROUGH DRAFTS OF RESEARCH PAPERS DUE
April 23  BREZHNEV & "STAGNATION"
Reading: Bushkovitch, 413-428
Kotkin, Armageddon Averted, preface and 1-30

April 28  PERESTROIKA
Reading: Bushkovitch, 447-457
Kotkin, 31-85

April 30  THE END OF THE USSR
Reading: Kotkin, 86-112
CONTENT QUIZ #6

May 5  THE COLLAPSE CONTINUES: RUSSIA AFTER 1991
Reading: Bushkovitch, 457-59
Kotkin, 113-192
GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #2

May 7  PUTIN'S RUSSIA & THE END OF COLLAPSE
Reading: Kotkin, 193-220

May 10  FINAL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS (third article review or final draft of research paper) DUE BY 11.59 PM