

**His 360**  
**The Russian Empire: State, People, Nations.**  
**(Fall 2023)**

Prof. Ekaterina Pravilova

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Tuesday, Thursday, 3.00 - 4.20 pm

Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday, 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm.

Assistant instructor: Alexander Jacobson.

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Slavic, Eastern-European, and Eurasian Studies bibliographer:

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Class website:

<https://commons.princeton.edu/his360-f23/>

**Grading:**

Grades will be calculated according to the following formula:

- class participation - 30%
- midterm exam 30%
- research-based final paper - 40%

**Absence policy:** if you have to miss a class, please submit a short (2-3 pages) essay based on the class readings.

**AI use policy:** all written works must be original, although AI tools could be used for proofreading (for ex. Grammarly) and translation from Russian (Google translator, DeepL, Reverso, ChatGPT, etc.)

ChatGPT /Bard, etc. can be used for translation only.

**Consider buying (recommended but not mandatory):**

- ◆ A History of Russia. Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces (Evtuhov, Goldfrank, Hughes, Stites). (Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004). HARDCOVER edition
- ◆ Will Eisner ; with an introduction by Umberto Eco. The plot : the secret story of The protocols of the Elders of Zion (2015)
- ◆ Olga Semyonova-Tian-Shanskaia. Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia (1993)

### **Week 1.**

September 5. **Muscovy as an empire.**

September 7. **Russia's wars and the arms race of the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.**

### **Week 2.**

September 12. **Reforms and terror.**

- ◆ Decrees: on a new calendar, on the Duties of the Senate, on compulsory education of the Russian nobility, on primogeniture, an instruction to Russian students abroad, on the Right of Factories to buy villages, Table of ranks, a decree on the Founding of the Academy. Basil Dmytryshin, ed., Imperial Russia. A source book, 12-20
- ◆ "Decree on Western dress and shaving," George Verndadsky, ed. A Source Book for Russian History v.1 (1972)

September 14. **How to organize a coup d'état (and stay alive)?**

- ◆ "Events surrounding the Assumption of Power by Empress Anna, 1730"
- ◆ "Events surrounding the Assumption of Power by Empress Elizabeth, 1741,"
- ◆ "Catherine II's Account of Her Accession to the Throne, 1762, Basil Dmytryshin, ed., Imperial Russia. A source book, 37-50, 59-64.

### **Week 3.**

September 19. **Catherine the Great and the Enlightenment.**

- ◆ Catherine's Nakaz (Instruction to the Legislative Commission) Imperial Russia. A source book, 64-88

September 21. **Autocracy and Serfdom.**

- ◆ Estate Instructions, A Source Book for Russian History
- ◆ Steven Hoch, "The Peasant Commune," Peter Kolchin, "Peasant Patterns of Resistance," Daniel Kaiser, Gary Marker, eds., Reinterpreting Russian History (1994), 297-311.

### **Week 4.**

September 26. **Enlightenment and Colonialism.**

Nathaniel Knight. "What's in a hat? Representation of Ethnicity and Gender in 18<sup>th</sup> century Russia," 130-139; Alison Smith, "Annushka, the Kalmyk," 140-145. Picturing Russian Empire, Kivelson, Kozlov, Neuberger, eds. (2023)

September 28. **Gender and Power. Russia in the era of the Napoleonic Wars.**

- ◆ “The Memoirs of Anna Evdokimovna Labzina,” Daniel Kaiser, Gary Marker, eds., Reinterpreting Russian History, 370-376.
- ◆ Brenda Meehan-Waters, “Catherine the Great and the Problem of Female Rule” (excerpted) Reinterpreting Russian History, 379-385.
- ◆ Nadezhda Durova. The Cavalry Maiden. Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars. 19-24, 61-67, 112-117, 125-135.
- ◆ Ruth Averbach, “The (un)making of a Man: Aleksandr Aleksandrov / Nadezhda Durova.” Slavic Review 81, no.4 (Winter 2022) 976-993

### Week 5.

#### October 3. **Constitutionalism, liberalism, and political dissent.**

- ◆ Polish Freedoms under the Constitution of 1815, Basil Dmytryshyn, ed. Imperial Russia. A Source Book, 163-173.
- ◆ “The Northern Society,” “The Southern Society,” in Marc Raeff, The Decembrist Movement. 104-118, 123-147

#### October 5. **The age of “questions.”**

- ◆ “Program of the Society of Sts Cyril and Methodius,” Basil Dmytryshyn, ed. Imperial Russia. A Source Book, 292-232
- ◆ Taras Shevchenko, “Preface to an unpublished edition of *Kobzar*,” Towards an Intellectual History of Ukraine (1996), 101-104.
- ◆ Mykola Kostomarov, “A letter to the editor of *Kolokol*,” Towards an Intellectual History of Ukraine (1996), 135-145.
- ◆ “Katkov’s views on the Polish situation,” Imperial Russia. A Source Book, 275-283.

### Week 6.

October 10. **Discussion: How to write a research paper.**

October 12. **Mid-term exam.**

## FALL BREAK

### Week 7.

#### October 24. **Alaska under the Russian Rule.**

- ◆ Russian in Tlingit America. The Battles of Sitka, 1802 and 1804 (2008), 103-106, 23-24, 115-122, 167-169, 171-184.
- ◆ The Russian American Colonies. To Siberia and Russian America. Three centuries of Russian Eastward Expansion. 1798-1867. Vol.3. 466-474.
- ◆ “The Rise of the Creole Class,” in Lydia T Black, Russians in Alaska, 1732-1867, 209-219.

- ◆ Sonja Luchrmann, *Alutiiq Villages under Russian and US Rule*. (2008) 63-95.

October 26 **Visit to the Princeton Art Museum. Sheldon Jackson collection of Alaskan art.**

### **Week 8**

October 31. **Russia in the Caucasus.**

- ◆ Lev Tolstoy, "Hadji Murat," in Russian-Muslim confrontation in the Caucasus : alternative visions of the conflict between Imam Shamil and the Russians, 1830-1859 / edited by Thomas Sanders, Ernest Tucker and Gary Hamburg ; with an extended commentary "War of Worlds" by Gary Hamburg. (2004)

November 2. **The "Great Reforms." Serfdom and Slavery.**

- ◆ The Emancipation Manifesto, Dmytryshin, Imperial Russia, 220-225.

Week 9.

November 7

**The "Roots of Revolution": Populist Movement in the 1860s-1880s.**

- ◆ Serguei Nechaev. "The Catechism of the Revolutionary," Imperial Russia. A Source Book, 241-247.
- ◆ Palen's description of the movement "Going to the People" (1875) A Source Book for Russian History
- ◆ Katerina Breshkovskaia, "Going to the People," David Footman, "Killing an Emperor," Thomas Riha, Readings in Russian Civilization, v.2. 344-357. 368-377.

November 9. **Russian Marxism.**

- ◆ Karl Marx and Vera Zasulich, correspondence. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1881/zasulich/index.htm>
- ◆ Vladimir Lenin and Georgi Plekhanov on peasantry and proletariat. The RSDWP's programs, A Source Book for Russian History

### **Week 10.**

November 14. **Russian colonialism in Central Asia.**

- ◆ Jeff Sahadeo, Epidemic and Empire: Ethnicity, Class, and "Civilization" in the 1892 Tashkent Cholera Riot, Slavic Review, Vol. 64, No. 1 (Spring, 2005), pp. 117-139

November 18. **Capitalism à-la Russe.**

- ◆ Alexander Gerschenkron, “Economic backwardness in historical perspective,” Economic backwardness in historical perspective (1962), 5-30.

**Week 11.**

**November 21. Anti-Semitism and conspiracy theories.**

- ◆ Will Eisner ; with an introduction by Umberto Eco. The plot : the secret story of *The protocols of the Elders of Zion* (2015)

**November 23.** THANKSGIVING break

**Week 12.**

**November 28. Revolution 1905.**

- ◆ Watch: Serguei Eisenstein, **The Battleship Potemkin.**

**November 30. Russia after 1905: a constitutional police state.**

- ◆ Olga Semyonova-Tian-Shanskaia. Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia (1993) ch. TBA.

**Week 13.**

**December 5 World War I and the revolutionary crisis**

- ◆ “The Desacralization of the Monarchy: Rumors and the Downfall of the Romanovs,” in Orlando Figes and Boris Kolonitskii, Interpreting the Russian Revolution. The Language and Symbols of 1917 (1999)
- ◆ Durnovo’s Memorandum, February, 1914.

**December 7. Presentations.**