Course Description and Learning Objectives

This course examines Imperial Russia from its emergence in the early eighteenth century to the revolutionary upheavals of the early twentieth. The course is actually about much more than Russia (itself a grand subject); it seeks to show how Russia fit into the larger processes of globalization that have gained momentum since early modern times and that sharply accelerated in Russia from the mid-nineteenth century. We use a general survey, the Oxford history of Russia, for background; do read the assigned sections before the lecture—it will significantly improve comprehension and note-taking! I also post all the lecture slides on Latte; that will make it easier to review and make sense of your in-class notes. The required reading consists of literary classics, which we use as primary sources—partly to give you a “feel” for the texture of everyday life, but mainly to introduce to the fantastic riches of Russian literature. This course is also dedicated to helping improve your analytical and communication skills. It also emphasizes methods of questioning (learning to ask productive, innovative questions) as well as research and writing—skills that are eminently transferable skills regardless of your career path.
Assigned Books (Available in Bookstore)
Chekhov, Anton P. Anton Chekhov’s Plays (Norton Critical Edition)
Freeze, Gregory L. Russia; a History (3rd ed.; Oxford University Press)
Freeze, Gregory L. From Supplication to Revolution (Oxford University Press)
Gogol, Nikolai. Diary of a Madman, The Government Inspector (Penguin classic)
Pushkin, A. Eugene Onegin. (Oxford World Classics)
Turgenev, Ivan S. Fathers and Sons (Oxford World Classics)

Course Requirements
1. Mid-Term Exam (8 October; 20 percent of the final grade).
2. Research Paper (40 percent of the final grade). The research paper (approximately 12 double-spaced pages) is a multi-stage project: a one-page proposal (Oct. 3), polished draft (Oct. 31), final revised text (Dec. 3), and oral class presentation (Dec 10)
3. Final exam (40 percent of the final grade). To be scheduled by Registrar during final exam period.

I. Muscovy: Pre-Petrine Russia (IX-XVII Centuries)
29 Aug. G.L. Freeze, Russia; a History, ch. 1-3 (These are background chapters; just read quickly to gain some perspective on pre-Petrine Russia)

II. Peter the Great, 1689-1725
3 Sept. Freeze, Russia, pp. 87-113
Peter the Great (2 part-film on Latte)
NB: No class M, but Th is a Brandeis Monday

10 Sept Latte: Petrine Era Literature
Discussion: Petrine Myth in Cinema & Literature (12 Sept)

III. Post-Petrine Consolidation, 1725-1800
17 Sept. Freeze, Russia, pp. 114-42
G.L. Freeze, From Supplication to Revolution, pt. 1.
Discussion: Supplication, Pt. 1 (19 Sept)

24 Sept Latte: Fonvizin “Young Hopeful”
Latte: Karamzin’s “Poor Liza”
Latte: Kniazhnin, “Misfortune from a Coach”
NB: No class M, but T is a Brandeis Monday
Discussion: Catherinian Literature (26 Sept)
IV. Pre-Reform Russia, 1801-1855

1 Oct. Freeze, Russia, pp. 143-69.
Research Paper Proposal: Title, One-Paragraph Abstract (3 Oct)

8 Oct. A.S. Pushkin, Eugene Onegin (first half)
Mid-term Exam (10 Oct)

15 Oct. A.S. Pushkin, Eugene Onegin (second half)
Discussion: Pushkin (17 Oct)

Discussion: Gogol (24 Oct)

V. From Reform to Revolution, 1855-1904

Research Paper: polished first drft (31 Oct)

5 Nov. G.L. Freeze, Supplication, pt. 2

12 Nov. Ivan Turgenev, Fathers and Sons (first half)
Discussion: Supplication (14 Nov)

19 Nov Ivan Turgenev, Fathers and Sons (second half)
Discussion: Turgenev, Fathers and Sons (19 Nov)

Discussion: Chekhov (28 Nov)

3 Dec. Latte Documents
Research Paper: Final version due (3 Dec)

VI. Revolutionary Situation

10 Dec. Freeze, Russia, pp. 200-30
University Statement on Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person, be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner, without proper acknowledgment of that source. This means that you must use footnotes and quotation marks to indicate the source of any phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or ideas found in published volumes, on the internet, or created by another student. Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in ASection Three@ of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure in the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask for clarification.

University Policy on Documented Disability
If you are a student with a documented disability at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.

University Statement on Workload Expectations
Success in this four-credit course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, research, etc.).