

History 258RB
Imperial Russia
Fall 2009, WF, 4-5:15pm, Nicely 414

Professor Paul du Quenoy
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Winston Churchill famously called Russia “a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” This course will seek to demystify Russia and lay bare the events, problems, opportunities, and personalities that brought this fascinating country from the margins of world affairs to great power status, Eurasian hegemony, relative decline, defeat in World War I and catastrophic revolution in 1917.

Required Reading:

Catherine Evtuhov and Richard Stites, *A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces Since 1800* (Houghton Mifflin, 2004, photocopy available in AUB bookstore)

Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero of Our Time*

Leo Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad*

Film:

Doctor Zhivago (dir. David Lean, 1965, based on Boris Pasternak’s novel, published 1957)

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- 1) Relate the major events of Russian History from the beginning of Russian statehood in the ninth century to the Revolution of 1917
- 2) Develop a familiarity with Russia literary and cultural traditions as they were expressed and experienced in the Imperial era.
- 3) Assess the nature of Russia’s place along its periphery and in the world at large.

Grades:

Your final grade will be calculated from your performance in class, your score on the midterm and cumulative final examinations, and the quality of your required paper.

Class participation will count for 10 percent of your final grade. Noticeable absence, frequent tardiness, cases of unexcused early departure, rudeness, and disruptive behavior will seriously harm your score in this category. Absolute attendance, frequent participation, doing all required

readings, making incisive comments, and good manners will seriously help it. Anything said in class, furthermore, can appear on your examination.

Mobile phone use in a polite, interactive atmosphere is distracting, discourteous, and unnecessary. **ALL CELL PHONES MUST BE TURNED OFF DURING CLASS AND ARE SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE CONFISCATION IF USED.** Text messaging is also very annoying and strictly prohibited. The instructor realizes that mobile phones may be useful in the event of an emergency. If you anticipate an emergency on a particular class day, stay home.

The midterm (**November 13**) and cumulative final examination (**TBA**) will each count for 30 percent of your final grade. **PLEASE NOTE:** There will be **NO OPPORTUNITY** to make up this examination unless I am informed of your absence **IN ADVANCE**. If you do not inform me of your absence **IN ADVANCE**, you will automatically receive a failing grade. Makeup examinations will in any case be **COMPLETELY DIFFERENT** from the examination given to the rest of the class, and so there will be no advantage in taking one after everyone else.

The 5-7 page required paper, due on **JANUARY 15**, will account for 30 percent of the final grade. The paper will be an interpretative review of Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time* and Tolstoy's *Hadji Murad*, required reading for the course. Your work **MUST** address one of the themes listed on the final page of the syllabus.

Cheating, plagiarism, or any other type of academic dishonesty is unacceptable at AUB and will result in a failing grade.

Topics:

Week I: October 7 and 9

Introduction and Pre-History

Week II: October 14 and 16

Russia: From Early Slavs to Empire

History of Russia, 1-38

Week III: October 21 and 24

Adjusting to Imperial Greatness

History of Russia, 39-56, 80-97

Lermontov, *A Hero of Our Time*

Week IV: October 28 and 31

Relative Decline and the Genesis of Reform

History of Russia, 57-79

Tolstoy, *Hadji Murad*

Week V: November 4 and 6

Alexander II and the Great Reforms, 1855-1881

History of Russia, 98-141

Alexander II's Manifesto on the Abolition of Serfdom (February 1861):

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/emancipation%20manifesto.htm>

Week VI: November 11 and 13

Autocracy, Modernization, and Discontent 1881-1905

History of Russia, 142-214

Konstantin Pobedonostsev, selected writings:

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/pobedonostsev.htm>

Vladimir Lenin, excerpts from "What Is To Be Done?" (1902):

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/Lenin--chto%20delat.htm>

November 13: MIDTERM

Week VII: November 18 and 20

Class will view David Lean's *Doctor Zhivago* (1965)

Week VIII: November 25 and 27

War and Revolution, 1904-1907

History of Russia, 215-235

Workers' Petition of "Bloody Sunday" (January 9, 1905):

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/bloodysunday.htm>

Nicholas II's Manifesto of October 17, 1905:

<http://artsci.shu.edu/reesp/documents/october%20manifesto.htm>

The Fundamental Laws (April 1906):

Available at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/~dml0www/Russhist.HTML>

Week IX: December 2 and 4

From Revolution to World War: Domestic Picture

History of Russia, 236-249

Week X: December 9 and 11

From Revolution to World War: International Picture

History of Russia, 249-254

Durnovo Memorandum Warning of a General European War (February 1914):

<http://www.stetson.edu/~psteeves/classes/durnovo.html>

Week XI: December 16 and 18

December 18: NO CLASS (Hijra New Year)

CLASS WILL CEASE FROM DECEMBER 18 TO JANUARY 12 FOR CHRISTMAS.

Week XII: January 13 and 15

Disaster: Russia in World War I and the February Revolution

History of Russia, 255-292

The Abdication Manifesto of Nicholas II (March 1917):

<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1917/abnick2.html>

Vladimir Lenin's April Theses (April 1917):

<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/apriltheses.htm>

PAPERS DUE: JANUARY 15

Week XIV: January 20 and 22

Red October: The October Revolution

History of Russia, 292-317

Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918)

<http://net.lib.byu.edu/~rdh7/wwi/1918/brestlitovsk.html>

Soviet Constitution of 1918:

<http://users.cyberone.com.au/myers/russ1918.html>

January 22: FINAL EXAM

Paper Topics

In reference to both Lermontov's *A Hero of Our Time* and Tolstoy's *Hadji Murad*, you must craft an interpretive essay around one of the themes listed below. **NO INTERNET SOURCES!!**

- On Being A Man
- On Heroism
- On the Point of Life