

## HIST 129b. Imperial Russia.

Spring 2023 ver. 1-19-23

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### Part 1: Course information

**Time and place:** Tuesdays and Thursdays noon-1:15 p.m. in ARC 1008.

#### Instructor information

**Instructor:** Aaron J. Cohen, PhD.

**Office hours:** TuWeTh 1:30-2:30 p.m. or by appointment in Tahoe Hall 3092 OR via Zoom @ <https://csus.zoom.us/my/cohenofficehours>.

**E-mail:** [cohenaj@csus.edu](mailto:cohenaj@csus.edu).

#### Catalog description

Emergence and collapse of imperial Russia as a continental world power from 1600 to 1917. Emphasis on the role of monarchy, a changing society and economy, and the growth of the educated public in the development of a distinctive imperial Russian culture and its final destruction in revolution.

#### Registration details

**Graded:** Graded Student.

**Units:** 3.0.

**Prerequisite:** None.

**GE area:** None.

#### Course description

Imperial Russia was a fascinating, distinctive, and (for many) exotic land caught between Europe and Asia, past and present, and conservatism and innovation. Major themes include the cultural and political traditions that contributed to the formation of imperial Russian civilization as both reactionary and precocious, the meaning of empire and revolution in the Russian context, the significance of the Romanov dynasty, and the tensions that arose between a large, diverse, and changing population and traditional political, social, and economic systems.

#### Textbooks and course materials

##### Required texts

1. *Major Problems in the History of Imperial Russia* (James Cracraft), ISBN 978-0669214970.
2. Various required short documents and videos posted on Canvas.

## Course technology requirements

Handouts and assignments are distributed only via Canvas. **Students have a responsibility to access course materials and assignments in a timely manner.** The instructor will not be held responsible for any circumstances, technical or personal, that prevent access to course material.

All required technology is available at low or no cost through student support services at Sac State. Students may use personal computers, but they must meet the following requirements:

- High-speed internet connection.
- Access to Canvas throughout the semester.
- Ability to use Zoom, Microsoft Word, and Adobe software.

**Do NOT use Google Docs OR portable devices as word processors in this course. Use a computer and the desktop version of MS Word.** The CSUS library and Instructional Resource Technology office provide **free laptops** and Microsoft Word for students to use on a short- or long-term [basis](#). To obtain your free desktop version of MS Word (and Microsoft 365), go to [office365.csus.edu](https://office365.csus.edu) and login with your Sac State login and password. Click on "Install Apps."

For technical questions, please:

- See [Canvas for Students](#) for common Canvas questions and solutions.
- Email the [Academic Technology Center](#) in AIRC 2005.
- Call (916) 278-7337.

## Crisis Assistance & Resource Education Support (CARES)

If you are experiencing challenges with food, housing, financial or other unique circumstances that are impacting your education, help is just a phone call or email away. The [CARES](#) office provides case management support for any enrolled student.

## Services to Students with Disability (SSWD)

Sacramento State is committed to ensuring an accessible learning environment where course or instructional content are usable by all students and faculty. If you believe that you require disability-related academic adjustments for this class, please immediately contact [Services for Students with Disabilities \(SSWD\)](#) to discuss eligibility. A current accommodation letter from SSWD is required before any modifications, above and beyond what is otherwise available for all other students in this class will be provided.

## Title IX information

Sac State is committed to supporting students and fostering a campus environment free of sexual misconduct and gender-based discrimination. If a student chooses to

disclose to a faculty or staff member an experience related to sexual misconduct which includes, but is not limited to rape, relationship violence, or stalking, all faculty and staff members are obligated to report this disclosure to the university's Title IX Coordinator. Contact Sac State's Title IX Coordinator, Skip Bishop, at (916) 278-5770 or email at [william.bishop@csus.edu](mailto:william.bishop@csus.edu). Upon receipt of the report, the Title IX Coordinator will contact you to inform you of your rights and options as a survivor and connect you with support resources, including resolution options for holding accountable the person who harmed you.

Students who elect not to discuss their experience with the Title IX Coordinator can speak confidentially to the following confidential resources: Student Health & Counseling Services at The WELL On Campus Phone Number: 916-278-6461 Website: [www.csus.edu/shcs](http://www.csus.edu/shcs). Campus Confidential Advocate – Laura Swartzen Email: [weave@csus.edu](mailto:weave@csus.edu). On Campus Phone Number: 916-278-5850 (during business hours) WEAVE 24/7 Hotline: 916-920-2952.

### **Student Health and Counseling Services**

Your physical and mental health are important to your success as a college student. [Student Health and Counseling Services \(SHCS\)](#) in The WELL offers medical, counseling, and wellness services to help you get and stay healthy during your time at Sac State. SHCS offers: Primary Care medical services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, transgender care, and immunizations; urgent care for acute illness, injuries, and urgent counseling needs; pharmacy for prescriptions and over-the-counter products; mental health counseling, including individual sessions, group counseling, support groups, mindfulness training, and peer counseling; athletic training for sports injury rehabilitation; wellness services, including nutrition counseling, peer-led health education and wellness workshops, and free safer sex supplies; violence and sexual assault support services. Most services are covered by the Health Services fee and available at no additional cost.

**Important notes:** Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs. **This syllabus and course policies are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or typographical errors. In case of a conflict between the syllabus and Canvas instructions, the syllabus will take precedence unless the syllabus shows a clear error.** Any changes will be announced in class and posted on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to check Canvas for corrections or updates to the syllabus.

All students are expected to behave according to the [Hornet honor code](#).

## **Part 2: Course objectives**

### **General course learning objectives**

In this course, students will be able to

- Recount a broad outline of Russian history from 1600 to 1917.
- Understand the contribution of non-Russian peoples to imperial Russian history and the political, cultural, and social distinctiveness of imperial Russia in world history, including issues of class, gender, ethnicity, and religion.
- Practice written communication, critical thinking, and other skills necessary for professional development in history, teaching, and related occupations.
- Discover something interesting about the world and about the self.

## Part 3: Course assignments

Students will meet these objectives through a combination of these course activities. Detailed information about these assignments is posted on the course Canvas site.

- I. Attendance. Roll will be taken in class.
- II. Three (3) short in-class identification quizzes.
- III. Primary source document commentaries due each week before class on **Tuesdays, 11:45 a.m.**
- IV. Three (3) 750 word (ca. 3-4 double-spaced pages) formal take-home essays.
- V. One (1) in-class final examination.

## Part 4: Course schedule

**Note:** Readings should be completed for the week they are listed. **Students are not expected to read duplicate assignments if they occur in the schedule.** The instructor may add assignments or alter the schedule for special events. Changes will be communicated via Canvas.

Week 0 (read this material first). **Course information.**

Week 1 (January 24, 26): **Introduction.** Read Cracraft, preface, chapter 1.

Week 2 (January 31, February 2): **The seventeenth century.** Read Cracraft, chapter 2. Canvas readings: Tsar Alexis Mikhailovich, "Rules of Falconry."

Week 3 (February 7, 9): **The Petrine reforms.** Read Cracraft, chapter 3. Canvas readings: Pososhkov, "Poverty and Wealth."

Week 4 (February 14, 16): **The eighteenth century. Catherine II.** Read Cracraft, chapters 4-5. Canvas readings: Pugachev documents; Urusova, "Invocation."

Week 5 (February 21, 23): **Essay 1 due (February 23). Expansion.** Read Cracraft, chapter 6. Canvas readings: Siberia documents; Dmytryshyn, RAC introduction (1989); RAC documents; Fort Ross documents.

Week 6 (February 28, March 2): **Quiz 1 (March 2). Politics and society in the early nineteenth century.** Read Cracraft, chapter 7. Canvas readings: Labzina, "Memoirs"; Durova, "Cavalry Maiden"; Countryside conditions.

Week 7 (March 7, 9): **Culture in the "Golden Age."** Canvas readings: Karamzin, "Book Trade"; Pushkin, "Bronze Horseman"; Chaadaev, "Madman"; Gogol, "The Nose"; Belinskii, "Letter to Gogol"; Annenkov, "Memoirs"; Shakhova, "Autobiographical Response."

Week 8 (March 14, 16): **Great reforms.** Read Cracraft, chapter 8. Canvas readings: Emancipation debates and reform statutes.

Spring recess (March 20-26).

Week 9 (March 28, 30): **Counter reforms.** Read Cracraft, chapter 9. Canvas readings: Nechaev, "Catechism"; Narodnaia volia, "Program."

Week 10 (April 4, 6): **Essay 2 due (April 6). Society, economy, and culture in late imperial Russia.** Read Cracraft, chapters 11-12. Canvas readings: Dmitrieva, "Round the Villages."

Week 11 (April 11, 13): **Quiz 2 (April 13). Empire-building.** Read Cracraft, chapter 10. Canvas readings: Danilevskii, "Russian Pan Slavism."

Week 12 (April 18, 20): **War and revolution, 1904-1905.** Read Cracraft, chapter 13. Canvas readings: Witte, "Memoirs"; Bely, "Petersburg," prologue.

Week 13 (April 25, 27): **Politics and society after 1905.** Read Cracraft, chapter 14. Canvas readings: Fundamental Laws; Political programs; Bely, "Petersburg," chapters 1-2. Watch *The Peasant Lot* (30 mins).

Week 14 (May 2, 4): **Culture in the "Silver Age."** Canvas readings: Akhmatova, "Solitude"; Gippius, "Wedding Ring"; Bely, "Petersburg," chapters 3-8, epilogue; Burliuk, "A Slap in the Face of Public Taste."

Week 15 (May 9, 11): **Essay 3 due (May 11). War and revolution, 1914-1917.** Canvas readings: Astashtov, "Russian Peasant at the Front" (2003); Gaudin, "War Talk" (2008); Durnovo, "Memorandum"; Sazonov, "Memoirs"; Progressive Bloc, "Program"; Akhmatova, "Somewhere"; Romanov abdications; Nicholas II, "March 6, 1917." Watch *Glory to Us, Death to Enemies* (32 mins).

**Final exam: Tuesday, May 16, 12:45 - 2:45 p.m., in our classroom. Quiz 3 will take place during the final exam period.**

**Important policies:** Course deadlines are enforced by Canvas and cannot be extended for any reason. Keep copies of all your work on a hard drive, flash drive, or paper in the event of computer malfunction or other technical problem.

## Part 5: Grading policy

### Graded course activities

The final course grade will be based on the average grade for each activity category. **In category III (commentaries) the lowest five (5) scores (out of 14) will be dropped to allow for circumstances that might cause students to miss assignments.** Missing work will be scored as 0.

Each category will be combined using this weighting:

Category	Assignment	% of course grade
I	Attendance	10
II	Identification quizzes	20
III	Commentaries (9 required to pass the category, lowest 5 of 14 dropped)	20
IV	Formal written essays	30
V	Final examination	20

**Note: To pass the class, students must demonstrate passing competence (60% or above) attempted in 60% or more of assignments within categories AND in 60% or more of all categories. In this class, then, students who fail more than two categories will fail the course. Students must also complete the final to pass the class.**

### Late work

To be fair to students who work hard to make deadlines, late essays will receive a full letter grade penalty. **No other assignments will be accepted late.** Late essays will normally be graded at the end of the semester, not when submitted, except upon request by the student directly to the instructor. **Final deadline for late essays is before the beginning of the final examination.**

**These late policies will be in force also for foreseeable scheduled power outages, COVID-19 physical distancing regulations, travel, and work schedule changes.** Students are expected to be aware of technical and social limits that may impact their area of residence and to plan around them by completing work in advance and notifying the instructor.

### Viewing grades in Canvas

Marks received for graded activities will be posted in the Canvas grade book. The instructor will update the online grades each time a grading session has been complete (typically 7 days after the completion of an activity).

### Letter grade assignment

Grades for most work are given as letter grades, calculated and averaged using a 12-point system. Attendance is graded on a standard percentage scale. All are computed and rounded by Canvas or Excel.

Letter grade earned	Points used in calculation	Percentage equivalent	GPA equivalent	Standard
A	12	93-100	4.0	Excellent work
A-	11	90-92	3.7	Nearly excellent work
B+	10	87-89	3.3	Very good work
B	9	83-86	3.0	Good work
B-	8	80-82	2.7	Mostly good work
C+	7	77-79	2.3	Above average work
C	6	73-76	2.0	Average work
C-	5	70-72	1.7	Mostly average work
D+	4	67-69	1.3	Below average work
D	3	63-67	1.0	Poor work
D-	2	60-62	0.7	Very poor work
F	1	Below 60	0.0	Failing work
F	0	0	0.0	Not attempted

## **Part 6: Course policies**

### **Build rapport**

If you find that you have any trouble keeping up with assignments or other aspects of the course, make sure you let your instructor know as early as possible. As you will find, building rapport and effective relationships are key to becoming an effective professional. Make sure that you are proactive in informing your instructor when difficulties arise during the semester so that we can help you find a solution.

### **Complete assignments**

All assignments for this course will be submitted electronically through Canvas. Assignments must be submitted by the given deadline. Late or missing assignments will impact the student's grade.

### **Understand when you may drop this course**

It is the student's responsibility to understand when they need to consider disenrolling from a course. Refer to the Sac State Course Schedule for dates and deadlines for registration. After this period, a serious and compelling reason is required to drop from the course. Serious and compelling reasons include documented and significant change in work hours, leaving student unable to attend class, or documented and severe physical or mental illness or injury to the student or student's family.

### **Incomplete policy**

Under emergency or special circumstances students may petition for an incomplete grade. Incompletes will not be given except for a documented emergency that prevents completion of the final assignments (missing online work is not eligible).

### **Communication policy**

The instructor monitors email daily and will respond when contacted with questions. Normally a response should come immediately, but students should wait at least 24 hours before sending follow-up communications. The instructor will normally give feedback on assignments only through Canvas course rubrics but is happy to provide more personalized feedback by email, Zoom, or in person.

## **Part 7: Commit to integrity**

By taking this class you agree to abide by the guidelines described in this syllabus and on the academic honesty page available on the Canvas site.

Students must respect the intellectual property of others in this class. Make sure to cite sources of other people's ideas; do not pass them off as your own. Copying from other students, assigned course work, or outside web sites without quotation and attribution will be treated as plagiarism and dealt with according to university policy. Students who plagiarize will be warned and receive an F for that assignment.



On the second infraction, the student will receive an F for the course.

### **Turnitin tool**

Formal written essays are reviewed using the Canvas Turnitin tool for writing feedback and originality check purposes.

Consistent with Sacramento State's efforts to enhance student learning, foster honesty, and maintain integrity in our academic processes, instructors may use a tool called Turnitin to compare a student's work with multiple sources. The tool compares each student's work with an extensive database of prior publications and papers, providing links to possible matches and a "similarity score." The tool does not determine whether plagiarism has occurred or not. Instead, the instructor must make a complete assessment and judge the originality of the student's work.

Students should submit essays to Turnitin assignments without identifying information included in the paper (e.g., name or student number), the system will automatically show this info to faculty in your course when viewing the submission, but the information will not be retained by Turnitin.

### **Sac State's academic honesty policy & procedures**

"The principles of truth and honesty are recognized as fundamental to a community of scholars and teachers. California State University, Sacramento expects that both faculty and students will honor these principles, and in so doing, will protect the integrity of academic work and student grades."

#### **Definitions** (from the Sacramento State University Library)

At Sac State, "**cheating** is the act of obtaining or attempting to obtain credit for academic work through the use of any dishonest, deceptive, or fraudulent means." For clarity, "**plagiarism is a form of cheating**," defined by the university as "the use of distinctive ideas or works belonging to another person without providing adequate acknowledgement of that person's contribution."

Read more about Sac State's [Academic Honesty Policy & Procedures](#).