Preliminary Syllabus
HIS 153: Ten Moments That Shook Russian History
Spring 2017
Kristen Edwards, Ph.D.
Wednesdays 6:30-8:20

Course Overview:

This course provides an introductory overview of 1000 years of Russian history using the excellent *Concise History of Russia* by Paul Bushkovitch, short stories and plays by Dostoyevsky and Chekhov, and a series of clips from highly acclaimed Russian and European films. In addition to the Bushkovitch text, I will be sending out brief examples of Russian writing to incorporate the Russian point of view in our analysis. The syllabus includes recommended chapters from Gregory Freeze’s edited volume, *Russia: A History* for students who would like to acquaint themselves with the scholarship of distinguished historians.

Required Books:


Recommended Texts:


Grading Options:

- Letter Grade
  - 6-8 page research paper and 5-minute class presentation are required.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  - Attendance at 7 class meetings and 2 film viewings are required.
- No Grade Requested (NGR)
  - No work is required and no credit shall be received.

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.
Preliminary Class Schedule:

Week 1
From Kievan Rus to Mighty Muscovy
Read: Bushkovitch, *A Concise History of Russia*, chapters 1-2
Recommended: Freeze, *Russia: A History*, Ch. 1 From Kiev to Muscovy: The Beginnings to 1450

Watch at home: *Alexander Nevsky* (Eisenstein, 1938)

Week 2
Ivan the Terrible and the “Time of Troubles”
Read: Bushkovitch, ch. 3
Recommended: Freeze, Ch. 2 Muscovite Russia, 1450-1598

Film clips in class: *Ivan the Terrible Parts 1 and 2* (Eisenstein, 1944, 1958)

Week 3
The Enlightened Rule of Peter and Catherine the Great
Read: Bushkovitch, ch. 4-7
Recommended: Freeze, Ch. 4 The Petrine Era and After, 1689-1740 and Ch. 5 The Age of Enlightenment, 1740-1801

Watch at home:
PBS documentary *Catherine the Great* (2006)

Week 4
Napoleonic Wars, the Decembrists, and Reactionary Tsarism
Existentialism of Dostoevsky
Read: Bushkovitch, ch. 8-10
Dostoevsky. *White Nights* (1848) and *Notes From Underground* (1864)

Film clips in class: *Le Notti Bianche* (Visconti, 1957)

Week 5
Russia in the Age of Reform
Modernism of Chekhov
Read: Bushkovitch, ch. 11-14
Chekhov, *Uncle Vanya* (1897)

Film clips in class: *Uncle Vanya* (1991 version from BBC)

Week 6
World War I and the revolutions of Lenin and Stalin
Read: Bushkovitch, ch. 15-19
Recommended: Freeze, ch. 9 Russia in War and Revolution, 1914-1921; Ch. 10 The New Economic Policy; Ch. 11 Building Stalinism

Film clips in class: *Battleship Potemkin* (Eisenstein, 1925)
Week 7
From the Great Patriotic War to Mutually Assured Destruction
Read: Bushkovitch, chs. 20-23
Recommended: Freeze, ch. 12 The Great Fatherland War and Late Stalinism, 1941-1953 and Ch. 13 From Stalinism to Stagnation, 1953-1985

Film clips in class: Ballad of a Soldier (Chukhrai, 1959)

Week 8
Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika
Read: Bushkovitch, Epilogue

Film clips in class: Little Vera (Pichul, 1988)

Week 9
Russian Cultural Evening at Russian Family Restaurant
Dinner conversation: What Putin Wants Is What Putin Gets
Recommended: Freeze, ch. 15 Rebuilding Russia