

Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
College in High School

2024-2025
Russia to 1917
HIST 0301--3 Credits

Description: This overall goal of this course is to give students a broad overview and deep understanding of the Russian Empire at the peak of its power in the 19th century, and its collapse in the world-shaking Russian Revolution of 1917. The course is designed around broad historical questions that will encourage students to develop their own questions and ideas. To understand both the rise and fall of the Imperial Russia, we will explore the social, political, religious, and ideological building blocks of Russian society, and why they could not weather the storm of modernity. Students will learn how to work with both primary and secondary sources to develop their own ideas about how this period in Russian history unfolded the way that it did. Given that the 19th century was a golden age of Russian literature, students will also be required to analyze Russian fiction as a lens into Russian society. To succeed in the course, students will need to learn how to analyze these varied sources and shape them into coherent arguments regarding the many topics and questions we will address.

Prerequisites: None.

Grading: Students should take two take-home essay exams and write a short analytical paper based on a work of Russian literature. Short quizzes and participation in discussions and debates will round out the overall course grade.

Textbook: Recommended texts are *A History of Russia Vol. I: To 1917* by Walter G. Moss, John Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia, 1917* by John Thompson, and *Fathers and Sons* by Ivan Turgenev. We will also be using selected articles and primary documents, which will be provided, as well as sections of *Natasha's Dance* by Orlando Figes.

The following is a list of topics covered in Russian History:

1. Introduction

- Why study Russian history?
- How should we approach Russia?
- What kinds of sources are available and how can we use them to come to valid historical theories or conclusions?

2. What is Autocracy? The Development of the Russian State: An Overview from Kievan Rus to Alexander I.

3. The Development of the Russian Economy and Society: An Overview of the Development of Serfdom and the Obstacles to Modernization

4. The Rise of the Intelligentsia and the Emancipation of the Serfs

5. The Great Reforms

6. Populism

7. Industrialization

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8. Revolutionary Ideologies and Movements

9. The Russo-Japanese War

10. The Revolution of 1905

11. Reform and Repression 1906-1914

12. World War I and the Collapse of Autocracy

13. The Crisis of Dual Power

**14. The October Revolution and Bolshevik
Seizure of Power**

**15. The Bolshevik Consolidation of Power and
the Civil War**

Academic Integrity: All College in High School teachers, students, and their parents/guardians are required to review and be familiar with the University of Pittsburgh's Academic Integrity Policy located online at <https://www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity-code>.

Grades: Grade criteria in the high school course may differ slightly from University of Pittsburgh standards. A CHS student could receive two course grades: one for high school and one for the University transcript. In most cases the grades are the same. These grading standards are explained at the beginning of each course.

Transfer Credit: University of Pittsburgh grades earned in CHS courses appear on an official University of Pittsburgh transcript, and the course credits are likely to be eligible for transfer to other colleges and universities. Students are encouraged to contact potential colleges and universities in advance to ensure their CHS credits would be accepted. If students decide to attend any University of Pittsburgh campuses, the University of Pittsburgh grade earned in the course will count toward the student grade point average at the University. At the University of Pittsburgh, the CHS course supersedes any equivalent AP credit.

Drops and Withdrawals: Students should monitor progress in a course. CHS teacher can obtain a Course Drop/Withdrawal Request form from the CHS office or Aspire. The form must be completed by the student, teacher and parent/guardian and returned to teacher by deadlines listed. Dropping and withdrawing from the CHS course has no effect on enrollment in the high school credits for the course.