





History (HIST) 327

Imperial Russia (Revision 3)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

Individualized study online 

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

None

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

HIST 327 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 

Overview

History 327: Imperial Russia is a three-credit senior-level course that examines the process of empire building in Russia and that looks at the means that tsars and tsarinas used to govern and control the large multicultural territory that expanded from Europe to Asia from the early to the late imperial era (1689–1917). The course explores violence, coercion, religion, gender, ethnicity, and identity as means of expanding, unifying, and modernizing the Russian empire. It follows a thematic approach for the first part of the course, and then in the second part, looks in detail at the reigns and accomplishments of the most important Romanovs, ranging from Peter I the Great to Nicholas II.



Outline

History 327: Imperial Russia consists of thirteen units divided into two parts.

- **Part I: The Process of Empire Building**
 - **Unit 1: Geography, Power, and Empire** explores the interrelatedness of geography, history, and power in the historical-geographic space of imperial Russia.
 - **Unit 2: The Nature of the Russian Empire** sets the Russian empire in comparative perspective with other empires qualitatively, geographically, and chronologically.
 - **Unit 3: Violence, Coercion, Extraction, and Extermination in Russian Empire Building** focuses on violence, coercion, extraction, and extermination as power tools for building and preserving the Russian empire in the nineteenth century.
 - **Unit 4: Religion, Ethnicity, and Identity Building in the Age of Nationalism** explores the role of religion as an identifier of Russianness and otherness.
 - **Unit 5: Relations Between Church and State in Imperial Russia from Peter I the Great to Nicholas II** examines the relationship between Russian Orthodoxy and the state, looks at the Russian emperors' approaches and policies towards the Russian Orthodox Church, and explains what these policies meant for the Church.
 - **Unit 6: The Challenges Faced by Missionary Priests** explores the world of Eastern Orthodoxy as lived out by Russians in the nineteenth century and at the beginning of the twentieth century.

- **Unit 7: Patriarchy in Practice: The Russian Empire Through a Gendered Lens** examines the social mobility of women and its challenges in the late nineteenth century.
- **Unit 8: Serfdom in Imperial Russia** analyzes the institution of serfdom, the origins of serfdom, and the life of peasants under serfdom.
- **Part II: Famous Romanovs**
 - **Unit 9: Peter I the Great (1689–1725): The Petrine Revolution** looks at the transformation of Russia into a European power and a military and autocratic monarchy with the subordination of the Church to the state.
 - **Unit 10: Catherine II the Great (1762–1796)** examines Catherine II the Great's enlightened absolutism and the means she used in empire building.
 - **Unit 11: Alexander I (1801–1825)—The Tsar Who Defeated Napoleon** examines Russia's prominent place among European powers and the policies of Alexander I.
 - **Unit 12: The Road to Revolution: Nicholas I (1825–1855), Alexander II (1855–1881), and Alexander III (1881–1894)** looks at the escalation of tension between the state and society during the second half of the nineteenth century—that is, the road to the revolution that ended the era of tsarist Russia.
 - **Unit 13: Nicholas II (1894–1917) and Revolution in Russia** analyzes the complex factors behind the failure of tsarist autocracy, the failure to establish a parliamentary democracy, and the polarization of society that resulted in the 1917 revolution.

Evaluation


To **receive credit**  for History 327, students must participate in the discussion forums, complete and submit two of the learning activities, complete and submit all parts of the assignments, and write the final exam. They must achieve a course composite grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  and a grade of at least 50 percent on the final examination. The following table lists the course activities and the grade weights associated with each.


Activity	Weight
Discussion Forums	10%
Learning Activities	10%
Assignment 1: Slide Presentation	20%
Assignment 2: Research Essay (3 parts)	
Assignment 2A: Research Proposal (3%)	3%
Assignment 2B: Annotated Bibliography (7%)	7%
Assignment 2C: Research Essay (20%)	20%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's [online Calendar](#).

Materials

Rey, Marie-Pierre. 2016. *Alexander I: The Tsar Who Defeated Napoleon*, translated by Susan Emanuel. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. 
 (Print)

Smith, Stephen A. 2017. *Russia in Revolution: An Empire in Crisis, 1890 to 1928*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.  (Print)

Other Materials

All other course materials are available online. They include an extensive study guide and recent scholarly articles, book chapters, and documentaries on imperial Russia



Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit**  can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation





To **receive credit**  for the History 327 challenge registration, you must achieve a grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  on the entire challenge examination.

Activity	Weight
Part I: Exam	50%
Part II: Exam	50%
Total	100%



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › [Academic advising](#) 
- › [Program planning](#) 
- › [Request assistance](#) 
- › [Support services](#) 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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View **previous revision** 
