

Fall 2009

History 433



Russia Under the Tsars

This course explores the transformative and dynamic period of Russian history, starting with the reforms of Peter the Great of the early 18th century and ending with the collapse of the monarchy founded largely by Peter I and disintegration of empire in the early 20th century. While providing a general survey of all aspects of history of imperial Russia, the course will place emphasis on two dimensions: the place of the Russian Empire in the entangled European history and multicultural character of the Russian imperial space. The reforms of Peter the Great ushered Russia onto the European stage, including the assumption of the role of a great European power, while Europe started to play the alternate roles of model, mirror, and constitutive Other for Russian rulers, elites, and society. Foreign politics, processes of cultural change, socio-economic modernization, and political reforms and revolutions were shaped by European connections or their denial. The multiethnic and multiconfessional space of the Muscovite Tsardom was reframed and further expanded to encompass East European territories, Caucuses, and territories in Central Asia in the course of the 18th and 19th centuries. The course will explore the European connections and local dynamics in the changes of the imperial rule and challenges of diversity and nationalism that contributed to the fall of the Romanov's empire. The course will also highlight how the historical memory about the Russian Empire plays a role in collective identity and politics of contemporary Russia.

Mon / Wed
1:00-2:30 p.m.
2548 CCL

Professor Alexander Semyonov