

History 426:  
**Imperial Russia, 1689-1917**  
Fall 2008  
Section 1: TR, 3:10-4:30  
Bldg. 11-104

**Prof. Tom Trice**  
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### Course Description:

This course provides an overview of Russian imperial history from the reign of Peter the Great to the revolutionary overthrow of the Romanov regime in February 1917. Major themes include the influence of Russia's location between Asia and Europe, the development of autocracy, government reform, the social condition of various groups, imperial expansion, literature, religion, and democratic politics.

The course is designed to help students of history hone skills critical to historical inquiry and practice. In pursuit of that goal, it requires that each student consistently take an active role in discussing and writing about Russia's past and its relationship to the present. Throughout the course, students will be asked to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of historical facts, themes, and ideas
- Demonstrate the ability to reason through analysis and synthesis of various types of historical evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate historical knowledge and reasoning through discussion and writing
- Assess the notion that history is rewritten by each generation according to the needs, aspirations, and frames of reference of each ensuing age

This emphasis on "doing" history should not discourage students majoring in other disciplines from enrolling in this class. On the contrary, the skills and habits of mind derived from the study of literature, political science, economics, and sociology, among others, should serve to enliven discussion and broaden everyone's understanding of what it means to be historically informed.

Finally, this course is somewhat unconventional in that it is oriented towards classroom discussion rather than lecture and does not make use of periodic, in-class exams. The choice of this format is based on the premise that you want to learn and assume primary responsibility for doing so by completing all readings and assignments in a timely manner.

























