Recent Announcements

20S-HIST-140-T1 - Crime and Punishment in Russia

History/Russian 140

Crime and Punishment in Russian History

Instructor:

Professor Yana Skorobogatov

ys3@williams.edu

Virtual Office Hours: By appointment

Course Summary

For centuries, people have used crime in Russia and the Russian state’s response to crime as lenses through which to examine Russian history and the Russian experience. This tutorial will follow in this tradition, but will adopt a more critical approach to question how or if crime and deviance can speak to the nature of the Russian state and its relationship to Russian society writ large. To answer this question, we will read a combination of original historical sources and recent scholarship that cover the entirety of Russian history: from the creation of the first legal code in Medieval Muscovy to the rise of revolutionary terrorism in fin-de-siecle Imperial Russia. By semester’s end, students will have developed an understanding of both the major historical actors and events in Russian criminal and legal history, and the intellectual debates that they sparked among contemporaries and present day scholars alike.

Course Objectives

This semester, we will use our meetings to work towards the following objectives:

1. Content Objectives - By the end of the semester, students will have acquired basic fluency in Russian history as understood through the lenses of power, law, crime, and society from the medieval period to 1917.

2. Analytical Objectives - By the end of the semester, students will have engaged - through reading, writing, and speaking - with major debates within the field of Russian and Soviet legal and criminal justice history. They will walk away from the class with an advanced understanding of how to identify, read, and think critically about primary and secondary sources, how to identify and make historical
arguments, and how to assess the ways in which historians marshal these sources to make historical arguments.

3. Community Objectives - Over the course of the semester, we will work towards building a close intellectual relationship among tutorial partners and between the tutorial partners and myself, the instructor-moderator.

Course Grading

Bi-weekly 5-7page essays (50% of the final grade) addressing the assigned prompt, or a prompt of your partner's and your choosing; bi-weekly oral responses to your partner's work (40% of the grade); attendance and participation (10%).

Each paper must be sent at the latest 24 hours before the class for which it is written both to your partner and to me, your instructor (my email is ys3@williams.edu). Please submit your response as a Word Doc (please no Google Docs or PDFs).

10% Attendance + 40% Participation + 50% Weekly Papers

Each week, each partner should do their best to complete a Guided Reading Worksheet for each secondary source reading due in class that day.

Every other week, the partner not writing that week's paper should complete a Partner Response Worksheet based on their partner's response paper.

Citation

I do not have a preferred citation style, as long as you attribute other peoples' ideas and writing to them in a clear and consistent way. If this is your first time writing with historical sources, you might also find it useful to consult the online resource Writing with Sources (http://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do), as well as the Williams guide to academic integrity (https://web.williams.edu/wp-etc/acad-resources/survival_guide/Integrity/plagiarism.php).

Please do everything in your power to cite sources correctly and avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is an equally serious offense whether committed by design or by mistake.

I expect you to be familiar with the Williams Honor Code (http://sites.williams.edu/honor-system/academic-honesty/), but if you have questions about how it applies to your work in this class, I'd
be delighted to discuss that with you. In general, collaboration on presentations is fine, whereas you have to conceive and compose your papers by yourself.

Student Hours

Student hours are times when I am regularly available for you to come and see me. We can meet to discuss anything relating to the course, whether intellectual or practical. If you have a conflict with my office hours, e-mail me and we will find a time to meet. In addition to regular office hours, at the start of the term we will schedule individual meetings.

Health and Accessibility

Students with disabilities of any kind who may need accommodations for this course are encouraged to contact Dr. G.L. Wallace (Director of Accessible Education) at 597-4672. Also, anyone who is experiencing mental or physical health challenges is encouraged to contact me at any time and to speak with a dean. The deans can be reached at 597-4171.

Course Materials

All of our readings will be available on our syllabus on Glow.

Course Schedule

1. Week of Monday, February 10 – LECTURE – IMPERIAL RUSSIA FROM 900-1725
NO READINGS OR PAPERS DUE

2. Week of Monday, February 17 – The Origins of Russian Law
*both partners write and submit papers this week*

Russkaia Pravda (ca. 11th century)
Daniel Kaiser, “Reconsidering Crime and Punishment in Kievan Rus’”

Samuel Kucherov, “Indigenous and Foreign Influences on the Early Russian Legal Heritage”

3. Week of Monday, February 24 - Muscovy and Ivan the Terrible

Daniel Kaiser, “Patterns of Evidence”

Sudebnik of 1497  (http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/const/sudebnik.html)

Charles Halperin, "The Problem of the Oprichnina"

4. Week of Monday, March 2 – Crime and Punishment in the Petrine Era (1682-1725)

Daniel Kaiser, "'He Said, She Said': Rape and Gender Discourse in Early Modern Russia"

Nancy Kollmann, "Marking the Body in Early Modern Judicial Punishment"

Johann Georg Korb, Diary of an Austrian Secretary of Legation at the court of Czar (1720)

BEGINNING OF ONLINE INSTRUCTION

MARCH 14- APRIL 5 - SPRING BREAK - ENJOY A RESTFUL AND REJUVENATING BREAK. ALL THE BEST OF LUCK TRANSITIONING TO LIFE OFF-CAMPUS. PLEASE STAY HEALTHY.

Week of Monday, April 6

LISTEN  A RECORDED LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA FROM 1725-1825 (https://www.dropbox.com/s/a7n9ng4nz38mqj6/Lecture%202%20-%2004.01.20.m4v?dl=0)

Russian Crime and Punishment in the Age of Enlightenment


Cesare Beccaria, Of Crimes and Punishment (selections)

Catherine the Great’s Instructions (1767)
Week of Monday, April 13

Corporal Punishment

Abby Schrader, “Containing the Spectacle of Punishment: The Russian Autocracy and the Abolition of the Knout, 1817-1845”

Abby Schrader, “Branding the Exile as ‘Other’: Corporal Punishment and the Construction of Boundaries in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Russia”

Foucault, Discipline and Punish (selections)

Norbert Elias, The Civilizing Process (selections)

Week of Monday, April 20

LISTEN TO RECORDED LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA FROM 1825-1917 TO BE UPLOADED BY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Political Crime and Exile

Fedor Dostoevsky, The House of the Dead, Chapter 1-3


Choi Chatterjee, “Imperial Incarcerations: Ekaterina Breshko-Breshkovskaia, Vinayak Savarkar, and the Original Sins of Modernity”

Week of Monday, April 27

Era of Reform


Richard Wortman, “The Aspiration to Legality”

Week of Monday, May 4

Civil Society, Criminal Society
Joan Neuberger, "The Boulevard Press Discovers a New Crime"

**Week of Monday, May 11**

**Revolutionary Terrorism**

Claudia Verhoeven, “Time of Terror, Terror of Time: On the Impatience of Russian Revolutionary Terrorism (Early 1860s – Early 1880s)”

**Course Policies**

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance by way of video chat is crucial to success in this class. If one partner is unable to make a meeting, we will need to reschedule. Please do all that you can to commit to a 100% attendance rate.

**Glow and Email**

I will use Glow to host our syllabus but will contact you exclusively through yours Williams email. For this reason, please check your email regularly for course communications and respond if necessary.

**Course Summary:**

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https://glow.williams.edu/courses/2648895