Course Description and Objectives:
Would you like to learn about everyday life in Imperial and Soviet Russia, daily life in time of stability and catastrophe, reform and revolution, war and peace? We study urban and village life, food and drinks, housing and furniture, work and play, family and marriage in Imperial and Soviet Russia. We discover the world of country noble estates in Imperial Russia and Soviet communal apartment living. We use photos and films, visualizing Russian everyday life; memoirs and diaries to hear the voices of Russian people. This is a seminar course. Weekly readings are extensive and most of each class period will be devoted to discussing the issues raised by these readings. In addition to participation in weekly meetings, each student will write and present a book review and a research paper.

Texts:
- **Readings** will be available electronically.
- **Online Resources:** Seventeen moments in Soviet history [http://soviethistory.msu.edu/](http://soviethistory.msu.edu/)
- Communal apartment [http://kommunalka.colgate.edu/cfm/about.cfm](http://kommunalka.colgate.edu/cfm/about.cfm)

Marking Scheme:
- **Reading Notes:** variable due dates 5%
- **Book Review and Presentation:** variable due dates 15%
- **Class Participation:** every class 20%
- **Research paper:** 3000-4000 words (15-20 pages) due December 13 by 4:00 p.m. 30%
  - *proposal due October 4 10%
  - *primary source analysis due November 1 5%
  - *peer review due November 29 or December 6 10%
  - *paper presentation due November 29 or December 6 5%

Grades will be given in letter form.
**Required Notes:**

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the “Evaluation Procedures and Grading System” section of the University Calendar.”

**Academic Integrity**

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at [http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx)) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

**Learning and working environment**

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

**Academic Honesty:**

All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

**Recording of Lectures:**

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is
Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Calendar regarding Attendance and Examinations sections of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

You may have two unexcused absences. After that, each missed class may affect your final grade by 3 points. More than five absences may result in failing the class. If for some reason you are struggling, or have serious schedule conflicts, please come see me about your issues. In particular, there are situations which you should know about in advance and keep me posted about if you would like me to work with you for a solution. Appropriate classroom behavior includes arriving on time and remaining for the entire class; when possible please let me know in advance if you will need to arrive late or leave early.

In this course, you must complete all assignments in order to pass the course.

Class Participation: Attendance and active participation at all class meetings is crucial. Participation means having done the assigned reading for the day, having formed opinions about it based on the set response question for the day, and taking part in discussion. Participation involves coming to class with a sense of what you think we should discuss and with questions that the readings raised for you. We will move between examining primary and secondary sources, including texts and visual material, small- and large-group discussions, so come prepared to participate in class discussions, contribute insights, ask and answer questions, and listen to your classmates. All assigned readings must be completed before the class for which they are assigned. In class we will also analyze memoirs, diaries, photos, and films. Students are always encouraged to ask questions in class and during my office hours, and to go beyond the minimum course requirements as their imagination and intellect lead them. Your preparation and active participation is vital to the success of this course. If you are not present, you will lose marks for participation. If you are unable to attend a scheduled class, please let me know.

Reading Notes: For one session’s readings, you will be asked to write brief study notes summarizing, comparing, and evaluating those readings. Because these notes are intended to prepare you for discussion, they will not be accepted after the beginning of the class in question.

Book Review and Presentation: students will write a 750-1000 words book review of one of the suggested readings. The book review should concisely summarize the argument of the book, and offer a critical assessment. Students will present a brief (max. 10 minutes) presentation to the seminar, outlining the contents and argument of the book and discussing it in relation to the other readings assigned for that week. The review itself is due in class at the following seminar. Please read the Book Review Guide on the History and Classics website before beginning this assignment:

http://www.historyandclassics.ualberta.ca/~media/history/MainPage/GuideBookReviews.pdf
Research Paper, Proposal, Oral Presentation and Peer Review: You will write a research paper based on primary and secondary sources on a topic in the history of everyday life in Imperial and Soviet Russia. Suggestions for how to select and research a topic will be discussed in seminar. You should consult with me as you develop your subject. You must confirm your topic with me in e-mail by September 27. The paper should make extensive use of primary sources. Your proposal, due October 4, will discuss the issues you will address in the paper and list the sources you will use. Later in the term, you will be asked to write a one-page analysis of a primary source that you are working with, assessing its strengths and discussing how you will use it (November 1). On either November 29 or December 6, you will make a brief oral presentation to the seminar about your paper and its findings. Each student will also act as a peer reviewer for one other student, presenting written comments, criticisms, and constructive advice on his or her partner’s paper. I will read and comment extensively on the paper at this stage as well. You will have time until December 13 to revise your paper, based on your reviewers’ comments and colleagues’ questions, and submit the paper for a final mark. Your essays will be evaluated for care in interpretation and vigour of argument, but also for grammatical accuracy and stylistic clarity. Please footnote or endnote all ideas, arguments, or facts you use in your papers, following exactly the History Department’s essay-writing guide. It is available on the departmental website at http://www.historyandclassics.ualberta.ca/~media/history/MainPage/GuideEssays.pdf. Further details on all assignments will be distributed in class.

When you finish your paper, proofread, check punctuation, spelling and grammar, and even if you have labored over this paper, if in the end you don’t proofread, you will create the impression of haste and indifferent effort. Grading will be based on three categories: C=quality of composition; A=quality of analysis; and S=deployment, use, knowledge of sources [especially, but not only, of different perspectives or nuances of analysis]

Policy for Late Assignments:

Please respect deadlines. One half letter grade per day (eg. B+ to B) will be deducted for lateness. Some deadlines can be renegotiated BEFORE the due date if you have good cause. Of course, serious illness and family emergencies will be treated sympathetically.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“Department Name Department Undergraduate (or Graduate) Grading Scale”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.
### Grading Scale

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### Schedule of Seminars and Readings

**September 6: Organizational Meeting, Research Orientation, and Introduction to History of Everyday Life in Russia.**

**September 13: Russian Peasantry in the Nineteenth—Early Twentieth Century. Daily Life of Peasant Commune. Peasant Houses and Diet.**

*Reading:*
Robert Edelman. *Everybody’s got to be someplace. Organizing space in the Russian peasant house in Russian Housing in the Modern Age. Design and Social History Cambridge University Press.* (chapter 1)

*Review Books:*

**September 20: Russian Nobility: Daily Life in Estates.**

*Reading:*

*Review Books:*

**Movie:**
Two women (2015) or Eugene Onegin (1999)

**September 27: Summer House (Dacha) in the Late Imperial Russia. Tea and Vodka in the Russian Economy and Culture.**
Confirm topic for your research paper.

**Reading:**

**Review Books:**

**October 4: Marriage, Family Life and the “Woman Question” in Late Imperial Russia.**
Essay proposals due.

**Reading:**

**Review Books:**

**Movie:**
"A Cruel Romance" (1984) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4naOrjRiTnc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4naOrjRiTnc)

**October 11: Revolution of 1917 and Daily Life in Soviet Russia in the 1920-30s. Communes, Communal Living and Food Factories.**

**Reading:**

**Online resource:**
http://kommunalka.colgate.edu/index.cfm

**Review Books:**

**October 18: Marriage and Family Life in Soviet Russia in the 1920-30s.**

**Reading:**

**Online resource:**
1917: The New Woman http://soviethistory.msu.edu/

**Review Books:**

**October 25: Daily Life in the Soviet Union during the World War II: The Siege of Leningrad and Life in Evacuation.**

**Reading:**

**Online resource:**
1943: 900 Days. The Siege of Leningrad; 1943: Wartime Evacuation http://soviethistory.msu.edu/

**Review Books:**

Reading:


Online resource:
The Khrushchev Slums http://soviethistory.msu.edu/

Review Books:


Primary source analysis due.

Reading:


Online resource:
1968: The Double Burden; 1980: Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears; http://soviethistory.msu.edu/

Movie:
“Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears” (1979) and “Office Romance” (1977)

Review Books:


November 15: *****READING WEEK – no class *****

November 22: Research and Writing Week.

November 29: Research Presentations

December 6: Research Presentations

Final draft of research paper due Wednesday, December 13 by 6:00 p.m.