Aim: The aim of the course is to provide a review of Russian economic history together with main concepts explaining the peculiarities of economic and institutional development of the country. The course combines historical narrative with formal economic analyses. The learning outcome is that students will achieve working knowledge on Russian historical statistics, economic institutions, their evolution over time and an understanding of implications of economic research in the field of Russian history.

Summary: The course focuses on the 19th and 20th centuries Russian history. During that time Russia had a different experience of economic development relative to the rest of the world, transiting from market to plan and back. After a brief review of the national development in the pre-modern period the course covers main features of Russian industrialization before and under state socialism, discusses efficiency, stability and reasons of the collapse of the socialist system. The course shows historical foundations of the economic models and theories used to analyze Russian historical experience.

Grading: The course grade is a sum of grades for the final exam (40%), 3 referee-reports on scholarly papers (24% altogether) and a course project (36%). Non-fail grades for the final exam, at least two out of three referee-reports and the course project are requirements to pass the course.

A guide for referee-reports.
A good referee-report on an economic history paper should address three questions: What is the paper about? Why is the paper interesting/important? What shortcomings does the paper have? The report should provide a summary of the paper and main arguments; the summary should be brief (remember about the word limit!), there is no need to go into all details. The report should discuss potential contribution of the paper to the related subfield literature. The critique should be constructive; if you see a problem, you should suggest a potential solution! Also do not forget to provide your general evaluation of the paper. The limit is 800 words per report.

A guide for course projects.
A course project should address a problem, a process, a phenomena or an institution from any period of Russian economic history. You should choose a topic, search for the relevant literature (and possibly for the data) and make an original analyses of the chosen question from an economic point of view. In particular, you should (1) provide
a historical background of the question, (2) explain why the topic is interesting from economic and historical points of view, i.e. motivate the project, (3) review the literature critically and make at least one original augmented statement on the subject. Simple history telling is unacceptable. A project might include an empirical part (will be marked with extra points), but equally might be based only on the secondary literature.

A topic of your course-project must be approved by the professor. A list of potential topics will be provided in the beginning of the course; but I encourage you to suggest topics on your own.

Students might implement projects in groups of 2 or 3. Topics must be chosen (and approved) by the end of the second week. Those who fail to do this will get their topics from the professor. Abstracts and suggested literature for the projects must be submitted by the end of the third week. Students have to present their projects in class during the fifth, sixth and seventh weeks (one third of each lecture during these weeks will be reserved for this purpose; additional classes will be organized, if necessary). A draft of the project should be submitted at least two days before the presentation. The draft weights 10 percent of the final course-project grade. The final version of the project should be submitted at least two days before the exam. The limit is 5000 words per project.

Final exam.
The final exam (2.5 hours) consists of a two parts - short questions and several essay type questions on the topics discussed in class.

Anti-plagiarism policy.
Any evidence of plagiarism will be punished by a failure grade. REMEMBER: if you do not cite properly, you are already guilty in plagiarism.

Attendance. Attendance is strictly required. Students who miss 50% of the lectures will not be allowed to take the exam and will fail the course. A student late by 15 minutes is considered absent.

Illustrative reading: There is no single textbook, but the following monographs could be use as an illustrative reading.

General works:

Imperial period:

Transition from market to plan:

Stalinism:

Late socialism and collapse:

On-line historical statistics:
http://www.ristat.org - various regional indicators on economics and social development for five cross-sections (1795, 1858, 1897, 1959 and 2002);
http://www.hist.msu.ru/Dynamics/ - time-series on various aspects of Russian development (national level) in the 19th – early 20th century;
http://www.ggdc.net/maddison/ - Russian/Soviet statistics in cross-country comparison;
http://src-home.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/database/SESS.html - Soviet statistics;
http://www.hist.msu.ru/Labs/Ecohist/version/r_databa.htm - Russian statistics and some archival micro data;
http://www.demoscope.ru/weekly/pril.php - population statistics;
http://memo.ru/history/ - historical sources and statistics on political repression.
http://history.nsc.ru/kapital/project/about.html - historical sources and statistics on Siberia.

Introduction. Russian economic history before 1861.
Maddison, Angus. The World Economy: A Millennial Perspective. OECD, 2001;
Markevich Andrei and Mark Harrison. ‘Great War, Civil War, and Recovery: Russia's

2. Economics of serfdom.
https://cniss.wustl.edu/files/cniss/imce/gehlbach_paper.pdf;
Dennison, Tracy and Nafziger, Peter. ‘Micro Perspectives on Russian Living Standards, 1750–1917,’ *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 2013 42(3): 397-441;
Миронов Б.Н. Благосостояние населения и революции в имперской России: 18 – начало 20 веков. Москва, 2011.

**Russian empire as a development country**

3. Russian Industrialization before the 1917 revolution.
Gregg, Amanda. 'Factory Productivity and the Concession System of Incorporation in Late Imperial Russia,' *Mimeo* http://eh.net/eha/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Gregg.pdf;
Gregory, Paul R. ‘Russian Living Standards during the Industrialization Era, 1885-1913’, *Review of Income and Wealth*, 1980, 26(1);
Gregory, Paul R. *Before Command. An Economic History of Russia from Emancipation to the First Five-year Plan*, ch. 4;
Kahan Arcadius. ‘Government Policies and the Industrialization of Russia’, *The


Nafziger, Steven. ‘Peasant Communes and Factor Markets in Late Nineteenth Century Russia,’ *Explorations in Economic History*, 2010, 47(4): 381-402;


Nafziger, Steven. ‘Did Ivan’s Vote Matter? The Case of the Zemstvo in Tsarist Russia,’ *European Review of Economic History* 2011, 15: 393-441.

**Transition from market to plan.**

5. The First World War and an economic crises. Command economy of “the war communism” and an economic collapse.

Gatrell, Peter, and Mark Harrison. ‘The Russian and Soviet Economy in Two World Wars’, *The Economic History Review*, 1993, 46(3);


6. NEP mixed economy and the development debates.

Johnson, J., and Temin, P. ‘The Macroeconomics of NEP’, *The Economic History Review*, 1993, 46(4);
Erlich, Alexander. ‘Preobrazhenski and the Economics of Soviet Industrialization’ *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1950, 64(1);
Ellman, Michael. ‘On a Mistake of Preobrazhensky and Stalin,’ *The Journal of Development Studies*, 1978, 14(3);
Ellman, Michael. ‘Did the Agricultural Surplus Provide the Resources for the Increase in Investment in the USSR During the First Five Year Plan?’ *The Economic Journal*, 1975, 85(340);
Millar, James R. ‘Mass Collectivization and the Contribution of Agriculture to the First Five-Year Plan,’ *Slavic Review*, 1970, 33(4);

**The Soviet command economy under Stalin.**

7. The great leap forward: soviet industrialization and economic development in the 1930s.
Wheatcroft, Stephen and Robert Davies. ‘The Crooked Mirror of Soviet Economic Statistics’ in DHW;
Harrison, Mark. ‘National Income’ in DHW;

Berliner, J.S. *Factory and Manager in the USSR*, Harvard University Press, 1957;
Harrison Mark. ‘The Political Economy of a Soviet Military R&D Failure: Steam Power for Aviation, 1932 to1939,’ The Journal of Economic History, 2003, 63(1);
Nove, Alec. ‘The Problem of ‘Success Indicators’ in Soviet Industry,’ Economica, 1958, 25(97);
Хлевнюк О.В. Политбюро. Механизмы политической власти в 30-е годы. М.: Росспэн, 1996.

Ellman, Michael. ‘Soviet Repression Statistics: Some Comments,’ Europe Asia Studies, 2002, 54(7);
Бородкина Л.И., Грегори П., Хлевнюка О.В. (под ред.) Экономика принудительного труда. М.: РОССПЭН, 2005.

‘Late’ socialism.
Erkin Bairam. ‘Elasticity of Substitution, Technical Progress and Returns to Scale in Branches of Soviet Industry: A New CES Production Function Approach,’ The

Shleifer, Andrei, and Robert W. Vishny. ‘Pervasive Shortages under Socialism,’ RAND Journal of Economics, 1992, 23(2);
Корнаи, Януш. Экономика дефицита. М., 1990.

13. Legacy of Russian history in modern Russia.
This chapter deals with Russian economic geography and how it evolved from the time of formation of Russian centralized state to the present day. We review economic, geographical and historical literature on the subject and discuss factors which affect the spatial allocation of population and economic activity in Russia. We distinguish three such factors. The Russian Empire through most of its history tried to strengthen military presence in the East and South-East. The Soviet Union resettled population and implemented massive investment programs into Siberian and Far East regions.