

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Russia and Ukraine: Past and Present
HIS 2423G

BRIEF SYLLABUS
Winter 2016

Time: Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00
Classroom: TBA
Office Hours: TBA
Or by appointment

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok
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Course Description

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Why did Russia's president Putin stealthily invade Crimea and instigate war in eastern Ukraine in March of 2014? How did he narrate these actions in historical terms? What was the international reaction? This course examines the causes and consequences of the recent conflict in Ukraine through a historical lens. It will explore how the past is casting a shadow over the present. By looking at Russian and Ukrainian history, placing it in an international context, and exploring concepts such as state, empire, nation, and the role of mass media, it provides a larger framework for understanding what is happening today. This lecture course meets once a week. Students are required to attend all classes, including the film screening, participate actively in discussion, and will be asked to write one essay on a topic from a list that will be provided by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes

At the end of this class students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main developments in Russian and Ukrainian history;
- Critically evaluate competing historical narratives and sources;
- Explain the inter-connectedness of national and international history;
- Explain the meaning of concepts such as empire, state, nation;
- Explain the role of the mass media in politics; and

- Express themselves clearly and analytically in written assignments.

Evaluation

Mid-term in class test	20%
Participation	10%
Essay of 2500-3000 words	30%
Final Exam	40%

Readings

Weekly readings will be drawn from classic studies including:

Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined communities: Reflections on the origin and spread of nationalism* (London: Verso, 1983)

Gellner, Ernest, *Nations and Nationalism* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983)

Hall, Stuart, "Encoding/Decoding," in *Culture, Media, Language: Working Papers in Cultural Studies, 1972-1979* (London: Hutchinson, 1980): 128-38

Motyl, Alexander J., *Imperial ends: the decay, collapse, and revival of empires* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001)

Riasanovsky, Nicholas V. *A History of Russia*, 8th edition (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2011)

Subtelny, *Ukraine, A History*, 4th ed. (Toronto/Buffalo/London: University of Toronto Press, 2009)

And more recent works, including:

Dawisha, Karen. *Putin's Kleptocracy. Who Owns Russia?* (New York: Simon & Shuster, 2015)

Dyczok, Marta, "The Ukraine Story in Western Media," in Agnieszka Pikulicka-Wilczewska and Richard Sakwa (eds.) *Ukraine and Russia: People, Politics, Propaganda, and Perspectives* (London: e-international relations, 2015)

Plokhly, Serhii, *The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union* (New York: Basic Books, 2014)

Pomerantsev, Peter. *Nothing Is True and Everything Is Possible: The Surreal Heart of the New Russia* (New York: Public Affairs, 2014)

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements
(13 January 2016)

Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?
(20 January 2016)

II. A SURVEY of the UKRAINIAN-RUSSIAN HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER

Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion
(27 January 2016)

Week 4. The Short Twentieth Century
(3 February 2016)

Week 5. Ukraine and Russia 1991-2014
(10 February 2016)

15-17 February 2016 Reading Week, No Classes

Week 6. Mid-Term Test
(24 February 2016)

Week 7. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)
(2 March 2016)

Haytarma is a 2013 Crimean Tatar-language film. It portrays Crimean Tatar test pilot and Hero of the Soviet Union Amet-khan Sultan against the background of the 1944 deportation of the Crimean Tatars. The title of the film means "Return"

III. THE PRESENT

Week 8. Putin as President

(9 March 2016)

Week 9. Contemporary Ukraine: Revolution, Elections, War

(16 March 2016)

Week 10. The International Response

(23 March 2016)

Week 11. Media Narratives

(30 March 2016)

Week 12. Prospects for Peace

(6 April 2016)

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

Prerequisites and Antirequisites:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and

indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

Medical Issues:

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

SUPPORT SERVICES:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western), <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or msherif5@uwo.ca