

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Russia and Ukraine: Past and Present
HIS/POL 2423G

DRAFT SYLLABUS
Winter 2017

Time: Wednesday 4:30 – 6:30
Classroom: STVH 1119
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 a film review and 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

Film Review	15%
Mid-term in class test	15%
Participation	10%
Essay of 2500-3000 words	30%
Final Exam	30%

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements

(11 January 2017)

Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?

(18 January 2017)

Carr, E. H., *What Is History?* 2nd. ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1986) Chapter 1

Plokyh, Serhii. "History and Territory," Serhii Plokyh, in *Ukraine and Russia:*

Representations of the past: (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007),

Chapter 9

Smith, Anthony D., 'Nations and their Pasts'; Gellner, Ernst, 'Do nations have navels?'

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gellner/Warwick.html> [The Warwick Debates].

II. A SURVEY of the UKRAINIAN-RUSSIAN HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER

Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion (25 January 2017)

Kappeler, Andreas, *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* [translated by Alfred Clayton] (Harlow, England: Longman, 2001), Introduction

Lieven, Dominic, *Empire. The Russian Empire and Its Rivals* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001) Chapter 6

Plokyh, Serhii, *The Gates of Europe* (New York: Basic Books, 2015), Introduction

Magosci, Paul Robert, *A History of Ukraine. The Land and its Peoples.* 2nd ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010), Chapter 2

Week 4. The Short Twentieth Century

(1 February 2017)

Suny, Ronald Grigor, "Reading Russia and the Soviet Union in the twentieth century: how the 'West' wrote its history of the USSR," in *The Cambridge History of Russia*, Volume 3 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008) on-line

Week 5. Ukraine and Russia 1991-2014 (ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS)

(8 February 2017)

Larrabee, Stephen F. "Russia, Ukraine, and Central Europe: The Return of Geopolitics," in *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 63, No. 2 (Spring 2010)

White, Stephen and Valentina Feklyunina, *Identities and Foreign Policies in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: The Other Europes* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2014), pp. 55-69, 86-98, 99-110, 229-237 (on-line)

Week 6. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)

(15 February 2017)

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"

20 - 24 February 2017 Reading Week, No Classes

Week 7. Mid-Term Test (FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS)

(1 March 2017)

III. THE PRESENT

Week 8. Putin as President

(8 March 2017)

Dawisha, Karen, *Putin's Kleptocracy. Who Own's Russia?* (New York: Simon & Shuster, 2014), Introduction

Hill, Fiona and Clifford Gaddy. *Mr. Putin. Operative in the Kremlin* (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, 2015), Chapters 1 and 10

Official Russian Presidential website: <http://en.kremlin.ru/>

Week 9. Contemporary Ukraine: Revolution, Elections, War

(15 March 2017)

Klymenko, Andrii, "Human Rights Abuses in Russian-Occupied Crimea," Atlantic Council Freedom House, March 2015,
<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/20150306-ACCrimeaReport.pdf>

Sakwa, Richard. *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2015), Preface

Yekelchyk, Serhy, *The Conflict in Ukraine. What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) Chapter 5

Week 10. The International Response (ESSAY DUE IN CLASS)

(22 March 2017)

Mearsheimer, John J. "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault. The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 4 (September/October 2014), <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russia-fsu/2014-08-18/why-ukraine-crisis-west-s-fault>

Motyl, Alexander J. "The Surrealism of Realism: Misreading the War in Ukraine," in *World Affairs* (January/February 2015),
<http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/surrealism-realism-misreading-war-ukraine>

Pond, Elizabeth and Hans Kundani, "Germany's Real Role in the Ukraine Crisis. Caught Between East and West," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 94, No. 2 (March/April 2015),
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/eastern-europe-caucasus/germany-s-real-role-ukraine-crisis>

Week 11. Media Narratives

(29 March 2017)

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)

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

Pomerantsev, Peter, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible. The Surreal Heart of the New Russia* (New York: Public Affairs, 2014), Act 1. Reality Show in Russia

Makarenko, Olena. Crimean history. What you always wanted to know but were afraid to ask. Euromaidan Press, 11 April 2016,
<http://euromaidanpress.com/2016/04/11/crimean-history-what-you-always-wanted-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask/>

Week 12. Prospects for Peace

(5 April 2017)

Berman, Ilan, "Ukraine's Memory Palace. How Kiev is Fighting Russia's Misinformation Campaign," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 94, No. 5 (September/October 2015),
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2015-10-13/ukraines-memory-palace>

Gressel, Gustav, "The Ukraine-Russia War," European Council on Foreign Relations, 26 January 2015,
http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_the_ukraine_russia_war411

Karatnycky, Adrian and Alexander Motyl, "How Putin's Ukrainian Dream Turned into a Nightmare. Kiev and the West are winning. Now is not the time to let Moscow off the hook," *Foreign Policy*, 20 October 2015,
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/10/20/how-putins-ukrainian-dream-turned-into-a-nightmare/>

Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. *Hybrid reconciliation*. Eurozine 8 April 2016,
<http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2016-04-08-zhurzhenko-en.html>