

The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 2427G
HISTORY OF RUSSIA
Fall/Winter 2020-2021
DRAFT SYLLABUS

Wed 11:30-1:30, Online, Asynchronous

Instructor: Marta Dyczok, DPhil (Oxon) Associate Professor

Office Hours: TBA

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Lectures will take place in a virtual asynchronous format – on-line with no meeting time

Course Description:

This course traces the history of Russia from ancient times to the present. It looks at events on the territory which today is Russia from Middle Ages, through imperial expansion, reforms, revolutions into the 21st century. It explores domestic, regional, international factors, and how this complex history has been narrated.

Prerequisite(s):

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Unless you have either the requisites for this 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. The 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.

Antirequisite(s):

There are no antirequisites for this course.

Course Syllabus:

This lecture course will be held asynchronously, and the OWL site will be our virtual classroom. Please familiarize yourself with the course site. Every week students will be expected to complete the required readings, review the lessons, and participate in a small group discussion/activity. In Week 5 a film will be screened. There will be two written assignments: a film review and an essay, and a final exam.

Lessons and discussion questions/group activity will be posted on the course OWL site every Wednesday at 11:30. Students can view the lessons at their convenience. It is recommended that the readings be completed

ahead of watching the lessons. The class will be divided into small groups (8-10 per group) and each group will be required to meet each week after the lessons have been posted, to discuss the provided questions or complete the group activity. This will constitute the participation marks. Each group can decide how they want to meet, which platform they find works best (Facebook, Google Meets, Zoom, other) and post their result in the Forum tab. Detailed instructions will be provided.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main developments in Russian history;
- Explain the inter-connectedness of national and international history;
- Critically evaluate competing historical narratives and sources;
- Explain the meaning of concepts such as empire, state, nation;
- Express themselves clearly and analytically in written assignments.

Course Materials:

The textbook for this course is Gregory L. Freeze, (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009). The textbook may be purchased through The Bookstore at Western or on online. Readings for Week 1 and Week 12 are *not* from the textbook. They are listed in the syllabus and available on-line. Additional readings may be suggested during the course.

Methods of Evaluation:

Film Review (Due Week 6)	15%
Participation	30%
Essay of 2500-3000 words (Due Week 10)	25%
Final Exam (Exam Period)	30%

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements

(13 January 2021)

Readings:

Carr, E. H., *What Is History?* 2nd. ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1986) Chapter 1 (will be provided)
Plokyh, Serhii. "History and Territory," Serhii Plokyh, in *Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the past* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007), Chapter 9 (available online)

Week 2. From Kyiv to Muscovy. The Beginnings to 1450

(20 January 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapter 1

Week 3. Muscovite Russia 1450-1598. From Muscovy Towards St Petersburg 1598-1689

(27 January 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 2, 3

Week 4. The Petrine Era and After 1689-1740

(3 February 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapter 4

Week 5. FILM: Mr. Jones OR The Russian Ark (ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS)

(10 February 2021)

13 – 21 February 2021 Reading Week – No Class

Week 6. The Age of Enlightenment 1740-1801

(24 February 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapter 5

Week 7. Pre-Reform, Reform, and Counter Reform 1801-1890 (FILM REVIEW DUE IN CLASS)

(3 March 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 6, 7

Week 8. Revolutionary Russia 1890-1917

(10 March 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 8, 9

Week 9. The Soviet Experiment Part 1 (1917 – 1941)

(17 March 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 10, 11

Week 10. The Soviet Experiment Part 2 (1941-1991)

(ESSAY DUE IN CLASS)

(24 March 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 12, 13

Week 11. The Russian Federation 1991-2020

(31 March 2021)

Readings:

Freeze, Gregory L. (ed.) *Russia: A History* 3rd ed. (Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 14, 15

Week 12. Russia Today

(7 April 2021)

Readings:

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

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) (available on-line)

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

Pomerantsev, Peter, "The Kremlin's Information War," in *Journal of Democracy*, Vo. 26, No. 4 (October 2015): 40-50 (available on-line)

Selected Journals

Ab Imperio

American Historical Review

Canadian Slavonic Papers

Central Asian Survey

Central European History

Communist and Post-Communist Studies (formerly Studies in Comparative Communism)

Communist Economies and Economic Transformation

Daedalus

Demokratizatsiia

East European Constitutional Review

East European Politics and Societies

Europe-Asia Studies (formerly Soviet Studies)

Harvard Ukrainian Studies

Journal of Communist Studies

Journal of Democracy

Journal of World History

Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History

National Identities

Nationalities Papers

Nations and Nationalism

Post-Soviet Affairs (formerly Soviet Economy)

Problems of Post-Communism

Russian History

Russian Review

Slavic Review

Social Research

Theory and Society

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document, <https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>, for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness