

**The University of Western Ontario**  
**HISTORY 2423F**  
**Russia and Ukraine. Past and Present**  
**Fall 2023**

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## **DRAFT SYLLABUS**

### **What This Course is About**

In 2014 Russia launched a war against Ukraine. One dimension of the war is a history war, where Russia is promoting a false colonial narrative that Russians and Ukrainians are one people and always have been. This course looks at the Ukraine Russia historical encounter over the past 1,000 years and the current war through a historical lens. It explores how the past is casting a shadow over the present, how historical narratives were colonized and are now being de-colonized. 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.

**Antirequisite(s): Political Science 2423F/G**

### **How This Course is Structured**

This is an in-person lecture course which meets once a week. Every week students will be expected to complete the required readings, attend the lecture, participate in an in-class discussion, and afterwards to complete a short online quiz. Students will be asked to write one essay on a topic from a list that will be provided by the instructor, although there will be an option to select your own topic in consultation with the professor. At the end of the course there will be an in-person final exam.

### **What Students Will Learn**

This course is designed to increase student knowledge and skills. At the end of this course 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
- Express themselves clearly and analytically in written assignments.

### **What Students Need to Do**

- Complete the assigned weekly required readings and take individual notes
- Attend the weekly lectures, including the film, take individual notes, and participate in weekly in-class discussions
- Complete the weekly quiz, each one is worth 2% of the final mark
- Write a 2,500-3,000 word essay worth 30% of the final mark
- Complete the final exam worth 40% of the final mark

### **How Students Will Be Evaluated**

1.	Participation	10%
2.	Weekly quiz, each worth 2%	20%
2.	Essay of 2,500 – 3,000 words (Due Week 7)	30%
3.	Final Exam, Exam period	40%

Every week there will be a lecture followed by an in-class discussion. Afterwards students will be asked to complete a short online quiz based on the material from the required readings and lecture. The quizzes will be on the OWL site in the Tests and Quizzes section. Each quiz will have 2 short questions, each correct answer worth 1%, for a possible total of 2% per quiz. Students will have one week to complete each quiz. There will be 10 quizzes, for a total of 20% of the final mark. In Week 7 students will be asked to submit a 2,500-3,000 word essay, which will be worth 30% of your final mark. There will be a 2 hour final exam during the exam period. Students must complete all coursework. Failure to complete all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade.

# **COURSE SCHEDULE**

## ***I. INTRODUCTION***

**Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements**  
(7 September 2023)

**Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?**  
(14 September 2023)

## ***II. A SURVEY of the UKRAINIAN-RUSSIAN HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER***

**Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion**  
(21 September 2023)

**Week 4. New Ideas Challenge Imperialism**  
(28 September 2023)

**Week 5. The Short Twentieth Century**  
(5 October 2023)

**Week 6. The Blank Spots**  
(12 October 2023)

**Week 7. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)**  
(19 October 2023)

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. Contemporary History***

**Week 8. 1991-2014 Part 1: Russia**  
(26 October 2023)

**30 October – 5 November Fall Reading Week – No Class**

**Week 9. 1991-2014 Part 2: Ukraine**  
(9 November 2023)

**Week 10. Russia's War Against Ukraine (2014-2023)**  
(16 November 2023)

**Week 11. International Dimensions**  
(23 November 2023)

## **Week 12. Information and Historical Warfare**

(30 November 2023)

## **Week 13. De-colonizing History and Prospects for Peace**

(7 December 2023)

## **Course Materials**

A Course Reader with required readings will be available in the Bookstore, additional readings may be suggested during the term.

## **Additional Statements**

### **Use of Generative AI Tools**

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:

[https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

### **Use of Electronic Devices**

Electronic devices of any kind will not be allowed during tests and examinations.