

History 2423F

Russia and Ukraine. Past and Present

Fall 2024

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Office Hours: TBA

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 in week 10)	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. No extensions are possible for quizzes. There will be 11 quizzes, each student is required to complete 10 quizzes for a total of 20% of the final mark. In Week 10 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.

Make-up exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements
(11 September 2024)

Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?
(18 September 2024)

II. A SURVEY of the UKRAINIAN-RUSSIAN HISTORICAL ENCOUNTER

Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion
(25 September 2024)

Week 4. New Ideas Challenge Imperialism
(2 October 2024)

Week 5. The Short Twentieth Century and The Blank Spots
(9 October 2024)

12-20 October Fall Reading Week NO CLASS

Week 6. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)
(23 October 2024)

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 7. 1991-2014 Part 1: Russia
(30 October 2023)

Week 8. 1991-2014 Part 2: Ukraine
(6 November 2024)

Week 9. Russia's War Against Ukraine (2014-2024)
(13 November 2024)

Week 10. International Dimensions
(20 November 2024)

Week 11. Information and Historical Warfare
(27 November 2024)

Week 12. De-colonizing History and Prospects for Peace
(4 December 2024)

Readings

Readings will be posted weekly on the course OWL site in the Course Content Tab for each week. Most readings will be available online and students will not be required to purchase any reading materials.

Absences and Late Assignments

Students are expected to take responsibility for keeping up to date with the course. Attendance will not be taken and there are no participation marks in this course. However, in order to successfully answer the weekly quiz questions students need to attend the lectures. If you miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from a fellow student. There is no possibility of making up the weekly quiz. If you miss it, you miss it. There are 11 quizzes and you need to complete 10, so that provides for any absences for valid reasons. The essay is due in week 10. Extensions may be granted upon request.

Make-up exams can only be approved by Academic Counselling. Please see https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

Additional Statements

Use of Generative AI Tools

All work submitted in this course must be your own.

The use of generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be clearly acknowledged and explained. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Communication policies

The best way to communicate with me is at the end of class or during my office hours which I hold every week in my office. I set aside time every week and make myself available to students who have questions or would like additional information. Students can also contact me via email, and I do my best to respond within 48 hours on business days, **not weekends**.

Use of Electronic Devices

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

**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
for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.**

Course Schedule and Readings

[This section is optional. You may provide a complete schedule of topics and readings here, or a tentative list, or omit this section in the website version of your course outline, posting it in OWL Brightspace or distributing it in class once term begins. Note that course outlines posted on the open web are no longer supposed to contain classroom locations or the specific days and times that classes meet. This information should, however, be posted on your secure OWL Brightspace site.]

Additional Statements

[Communication policies: *Tell your students the best ways to get in touch with you, how they can access your office hours, etc. If you have specific expectations or rules about how you prefer to communicate with students, you may wish to lay them out here. You might wish to explain what office hours are (not all students know).]*

[Classroom behavior: *If you have specific expectations for classroom behavior, beyond standard rules of etiquette, you may wish to list them here.]*

[Include the following statement at the end of your course outline:]

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