

**History 2423F**  
**RUSSIA AND UKRAINE. PAST AND PRESENT**  
**Fall 2025**

Instructor: **Professor Marta Dyczok**

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Office: **Department of History, Lawson Hall Room 2246**

Office Hours: **TBA**

When: **Wednesday 1:30 – 3:30**

Where: **SEB-2202**

This is a **draft** outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

## **What This Course is About**

In 2014 Russia launched an unprovoked war against Ukraine. One dimension of the war is a history war. Russia is disseminating a false colonial narrative that Russians and Ukrainians are one people and always have been. This course examines the current war through a historical lens by exploring the encounters between Ukraine and Russia over the past 1,000 years. It investigates how the past is casting a shadow onto the present, how historical narratives were colonized and are now being de-colonized. Russian and Ukrainian histories are placed in a larger international context, and investigated through concepts of state, empire, and nation, as well as the role of mass media in construction of modern history. All of this provides a larger framework for understanding today's events.

**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.

This is a draft outline. 2025-26 version. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

## 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 20% of the final mark
- Complete the in person final exam worth 50% of the final mark

## How Students Will Be Evaluated

|    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | Participation                                 | <b>10%</b> |
| 2. | Weekly quiz, each worth 2%                    | <b>20%</b> |
| 2. | Essay of 2,500 – 3,000 words (due in week 10) | <b>20%</b> |
| 3. | Final Exam, Exam period                       | <b>50%</b> |

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 for any reason.** 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 20% of your final mark. There will be a 2-hour final exam during the exam period.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Part I. INTRODUCTION

This is a draft outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

**Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements**  
(10 September 2025)

**Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?**  
(17 September 2025)

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

**Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion**  
(24 September 2025)

**Week 4. New Ideas Challenge Imperialism**  
(1 October 2025)

**Week 5. The Short Twentieth Century and The Blank Spots  
+ Library Instruction with Jason Dyck**  
(8 October 2025)

**Week 6. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)**  
(15 October 2025)

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"

## **Part III. CONTEMPORARY HISTORY**

**Week 7. 1991-2014 Part 1: Russia**  
(22 October 2025)

**Week 8. 1991-2014 Part 2: Ukraine**  
(29 October 2025)

**2 November – 9 November 2025 - Fall Reading Week NO CLASS**

**Week 9. Russia's War Against Ukraine (2014-2024)**  
(12 November 2025)

**Week 10. International Dimensions ESSAY DUE**  
(19 November 2025)

**Week 11. Information and Historical Warfare**  
(26 November 2025)

**Week 12. De-colonizing History and Prospects for Peace**  
(3 December 2025)

## Readings

Readings will be posted 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.

**Students must complete all coursework. Failure to complete all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade.**

Make-up tests, midterms, and exams can only be approved by Academic Advising. Please see

[https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program\\_module\\_information/policies.html](https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html) for department procedures and requirements involving make-up tests and exams.

## Absences and Late Assignments

Students are expected to take responsibility for keeping up to date with the course. Attendance will be taken in class and 10% of your total mark is for participation. 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.

## 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](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.