

HISTORY 2490 W

History of Russia

2013-2014

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Russia is the largest country in the world. It covers one-eighth of the earth's surface and geographically resembles Canada. A power in world affairs, Russia has remained an enigma. This mind-opening course will acquaint you with the important aspects of Russia's historical experience from the beginning to the present. The method of instruction is biographical. The first section (800-1917) will focus on the formation of the Russian state and its dramatic transformation into a Eurasian empire. As well, attention will be paid to social and religious issues and to the development of Russian imperial culture. The second section (1917-2014) will be more specific, examining the Russian revolution, the Bolshevik/Communist ideology, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the Russian Federation.

Course Outline

1. Introduction.
2. Background to Russia: Medieval Kievan Rus' (860-1240), Orthodox Christianity and the making of Eastern Slavic civilization
3. The Mongol-Tatar conquest and fragmentation of Kievan Rus'.
4. The Tsardom of Muscovy (15-17 centuries): the rise of Moscow (Ivan III and IV); the Romanov dynasty: consolidation of autocratic power and serfdom; church-state relations; Ukraine.
5. The making of Imperial Russia (18 century): modernization of Russia (Peter I and Catherine II); territorial expansion; social unrest.
6. Imperial Russia as a Great Power: Russia and Europe, 1789-1825; Alexander I and Napoleon.

7. Ideological and social challenges to autocracy (the Decembrists); Nicholas I and the police state; Alexander II and the Great Reforms.
8. Modernization of Russia (Alexander III): Industrialization and capitalism.
9. Political radicalism : populism, terrorism and Marxism (Lenin and the Bolsheviks).
10. Russia as a multinational Eurasian empire.
11. Foreign relations, 1854-1905.
12. Nicholas II, the 1905 revolution and the Duma Monarchy (1906-1914).
13. World War I and its impact on Russia.
14. Russian revolutions, 1917-21: the end of tsarism; disintegration of the empire into independent states; Lenin, the civil war, the Bolshevik victory and its impact on the world.
15. The formation of the Soviet Union: social engineering in the 1920s.
17. Stalinism: Stalin and his version of terror-based socialism; Five Year Plans; the Ukrainian famine-genocide (*holodomor*).
18. The Soviet foreign policy (1918-1939) and World War II.
19. The Great Patriotic War (1941-45), the Soviet role in defeating Nazi Germany; the Cold War.
20. The Post Stalin period (1953-64): Khrushchev and de-Stalinization: the Soviet Union and the world.
21. The Brezhnev "stagnation" (1964-84): the dissident movement, unrest in Eastern Europe (Soviet satellites) and relations with the West.
22. The Gorbachev revolution (1985-91): efforts to reform the Soviet Union; the collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet empire.
23. Post-communist Russia and successor states: from Yeltsin to Putin, 1992- 2014.

Required Text:

Nicholas V. Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg, **A History of Russia**, Oxford UP

A selected reading list will be provided.

Term Work: 70%

Final exam: 30%

Term work: map assignment, two essays of 1800-2500 words each and a test.

Map	10%	due September 24
First essay	20%	due November 07
Test	20%	January 12
Second essay	20%	due March 12

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.

Students will receive their essay and test evaluation prior to the voluntary withdrawal dateline of March 19, 2014.

Grade Distribution

A+	91-100	C+	60-66
A	80-90	C	51-59
B+	75-79	D	50
B	67-74	F	49 and less

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Late assignments will be penalized.

Note: Students should acquaint themselves with the University policy on plagiarism, cheating and examination impersonation found in the University of Manitoba Undergraduate Calendar.

The common **penalty** in Arts for plagiarism **is F on the paper and** a final grade of **F (DISC)** (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as the purchase of an essay and repeat violations, **the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration** in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is **F** for the paper, **F (DISC)** for the course, and **one-year suspension** from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include **suspension for a period of up to five years** from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught or accepted for credit in this Faculty.

Note: Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.