

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**Russia and Ukraine: Past and Present**  
**HIS/POL 2423G**

**SYLLABUS**  
**Winter 2016**

Time: Wednesday 4:00 – 6:00  
Classroom: UCC 53  
Office Hours: TBA  
Or by appointment

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok  
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**Course Description**

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Why did Russia's president Putin stealthily invade Crimea and instigate war in eastern Ukraine in March of 2014? How did he narrate these actions in historical terms? What was the international reaction? This course examines the causes and consequences of the recent conflict in Ukraine through a historical lens. It will explore how the past is casting a shadow over the present. 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. This lecture course meets once a week. Students are required to attend all classes, including the film screening, participate actively in discussion, and will be asked to write one essay on a topic from a list that will be provided by the instructor.

**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this class 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; and
- Express themselves clearly and analytically in written assignments.

## Evaluation

Mid-term in class test	20%
Participation	10%
Essay of 2500-3000 words	30%
Final Exam	40%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### **Week 1: Introduction to course themes and requirements**

(13 January 2016)

#### **Week 2. What is History? Empire? State? Nation?**

(20 January 2016)

Carr, E. H., *What Is History?* 2nd. ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1986) Chapter 1

Plokyh, Serhii. "History and Territory," Serhii Plokyh, in *Ukraine and Russia: Representations of the past*: (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007), Chapter 9

Smith, Anthony D., 'Nations and their Pasts'; Gellner, Ernst, 'Do nations have navels?', <http://www.lse.ac.uk/collections/gellner/Warwick.html> [The Warwick Debates].

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

#### **Week 3. The Kyivan-Rus' Era and Muscovy's Imperial Expansion (27 January 2016)**

Kappeler, Andreas, *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* [translated by Alfred Clayton] (Harlow, England: Longman, 2001), Introduction

Lieven, Dominic, *Empire. The Russian Empire and Its Rivals* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001) Chapter 6

Plokyh, Serhii, *The Gates of Europe* (New York: Basic Books, 2015), Introduction

Magosci, Paul Robert, *A History of Ukraine. The Land and its Peoples*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010), Chapter 2

#### **Week 4. The Short Twentieth Century**

(3 February 2016)

Suny, Ronald Grigor, "Reading Russia and the Soviet Union in the twentieth century: how the 'West' wrote its history of the USSR," in *The Cambridge History of Russia*, Volume 3 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008) on-line

#### **Week 5. Ukraine and Russia 1991-2014**

(10 February 2016)

Larrabee, Stephen F. "Russia, Ukraine, and Central Europe: The Return of Geopolitics," in *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 63, No. 2 (Spring 2010)

White, Stephen and Valentina Feklyunina, *Identities and Foreign Policies in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: The Other Europes* (Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2014), pp. 55-69, 86-98, 99-110, 229-237 (on-line)

#### **15-17 February 2016 Reading Week, No Classes**

#### **Week 6. Mid-Term Test**

(24 February 2016)

#### **Week 7. Film: Haytarma (Akhtem Seitablayev, Ukraine, 2013)**

(2 March 2016)

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. THE PRESENT**

#### **Week 8. Putin as President**

(9 March 2016)

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

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

Official Russian Presidential website: <http://en.kremlin.ru/>

## **Week 9. Contemporary Ukraine: Revolution, Elections, War**

(16 March 2016)

Klymenko, Andrii, "Human Rights Abuses in Russian-Occupied Crimea," Atlantic Council Freedom House, March 2015,

<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/images/publications/20150306-ACCrimeaReport.pdf>

Sakwa, Richard. *Frontline Ukraine: Crisis in the Borderlands* (London: I.B. Tauris, 2015), Preface

Yekelchyk, Serhy, *The Conflict in Ukraine. What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) Chapter 5

## **Week 10. The International Response**

(23 March 2016)

Mearsheimer, John J. "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault. The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 4 (September/October 2014), <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russia-fsu/2014-08-18/why-ukraine-crisis-west-s-fault>

Motyl, Alexander J. "The Surrealism of Realism: Misreading the War in Ukraine," in *World Affairs* (January/February 2015), <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/article/surrealism-realism-misreading-war-ukraine>

Pond, Elizabeth and Hans Kundani, "Germany's Real Role in the Ukraine Crisis. Caught Between East and West," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 94, No. 2 (March/April 2015), <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/eastern-europe-caucasus/germany-s-real-role-ukraine-crisis>

## **Week 11. Media Narratives**

(30 March 2016)

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)

Hall, Stuart, "Encoding/Decoding," in *Culture, Media, Language: Working Papers in Cultural Studies, 1972-1979* (London: Hutchinson, 1980): 128-38

Pomerantsev, Peter, *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible. The Surreal Heart of the New Russia* (New York: Public Affairs, 2014), Act 1. Reality Show in Russia

## **Week 12. Prospects for Peace**

(6 April 2016)

Berman, Ilan, "Ukraine's Memory Palace. How Kiev is Fighting Russia's Misinformation Campaign," in *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 94, No. 5 (September/October 2015),

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2015-10-13/ukraines-memory-palace>

Gressel, Gustav, "The Ukraine-Russia War," European Council on Foreign Relations, 26 January 2015,

[http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary\\_the\\_ukraine\\_russia\\_war411](http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_the_ukraine_russia_war411)

Karatnycky, Adrian and Alexander Motyl, "How Putin's Ukrainian Dream Turned into a Nightmare. Kiev and the West are winning. Now is not the time to let Moscow off the hook," *Foreign Policy*, 20 October 2015,

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2015/10/20/how-putins-ukrainian-dream-turned-into-a-nightmare/>

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"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. This 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."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

## **Submission of Course Requirements**

**ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.**

**THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.**

## **Attendance Regulations for Examinations**

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

## **Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.**

Students registered in Social Science should refer to

[http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having\\_problems/index.html](http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html) for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## **University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct**

**Plagiarism:** Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic\\_policies/index.html](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html)

## PLAGIARISM\*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991



**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Registrar's office can be accessed for Student Support Services at <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at:  
<http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Services can be reached at: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western  
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.