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## **History 3365: Russian History**

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**Fall Semester 2017 – 3 Units Credit**

**Section 01--CID 80289: 2:00 - 2:50 am MWF ACADEMIC BUILDING IV  
303**

**Instructor: Nicholas Pappas**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural history of Russia and the Soviet Union from earliest times to the present. The first part of the course will look into origins of the Eastern Slavic states up until the Mongol Invasion of the 13th century. The second part will investigate the impact of Mongol and Tatar rule and the rise of Moscow as a Eurasian empire. The Third part of the course will look at the impact of Russia's interaction with Europe from Peter the Great to Nicholas II. The fourth part of the course will investigate the domestic and foreign crises of the Russian Empire, which led to World War, revolution and the foundation of the Soviet Union. The fifth part of the course will evaluate the 74 years of Soviet rule. The Final part will briefly survey the Post-Soviet era. Among the subjects and themes to be covered in the course will be: the origins of the Kievan Rus', Kievan Rus' Society and Culture, Mongol and Tatar

Rule, the gathering of the Russias under Muscovy, Ivan the Terrible, the Time of Troubles, the Rise of the Romanovs, Muscovite Society and Culture, westernization under Peter I and his successors; Russia as the first developing country; Russia and European affairs, internal and external problems of Tsarism, Reaction Under Nicholas I; Reform under Alexander II, the revolutionary movement in Russia; the industrial revolution and agrarian crisis of pre-revolutionary Russia; political reaction under Alexander III and Nicholas II; Russian foreign policy in the age of imperialism; the 1905 Revolution; the Dumas between autocracy and constitutional monarchy; and Russia in the First World War; the Russian Revolutions of 1917; the Russian Civil War and the Bolshevik struggle for power; the New Economic Policy; the rise of Stalin; the Five-Year Plans; politics, the party, and the purges; Soviet foreign policy in the interwar period; the Soviet Union in World War II, the last years of Stalin; the origins and the development of the Cold War; Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev; Soviet society and economy; Soviet politics and government; the nationality question; official and unofficial culture in the Soviet Union; and the Soviet Union in world affairs; the Fall of the Soviet Union; and Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States; and Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Russia Under Yeltsin and Putin.

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#### **PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE:**

- To acquaint students with the political, social, economic and cultural development of the Russia and its empire from earliest times to the present.
- To sharpen the students' skills in historical interpretation and writing.

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#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

Philip Longworth, *Russia: The Once and Future Empire From Pre-History to Putin*, New York: St. Martin's Press, 2006 [Longworth] Aside from hard copy, it is also available Nook; Kindle; and GoogleBooks.

Walter Kirscher, *An Outline of Russia* (New York, 1958). HTML5 flipbook.

B. H. Sumner, *Survey of Russian History* (London, 1944). HTML5 flipbook.

**Web Readings in Russian History.** Aside from the above texts, some public domain primary and secondary sources in Russian History will be included. These primary and secondary web readings include excerpts from U. S. Government country studies and from works published many years ago. While some of these older sources' information, interpretations, and language may be considered antiquated, obsolete and "politically incorrect" by some, they

**nonetheless constitute valuable milestones to see how far and in what direction historiography has gone in the last seventy years.**

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#### **REQUIRED SUPPLIES:**

- Please bring an electronic device or notebook and writing instruments to take notes in class. Use of these (including phones) for any other purpose during class will not be tolerated.
  - Please use of a computer with a broadband internet connection for viewing web sources and doing assignments. If you do not have a computer at home, please make use of computer labs on campus.
  - **Please use computer labs to take exams and quizzes. If you get knocked off an exam or quiz, the instructor needs confirmation from the lab before he can reset the exam or quiz.**
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#### **ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Students are expected to regularly attend lectures. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades. **The instructor reserves the right to lower the letter grade of students who have more than three unexcused absences in an MWF course. Please refer to the attendance policy in THE ATTENDANCE AND CONDUCT POLICY below.**

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#### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE:**

- **The class schedule will consist of three fifty minute sessions each week.**
  - **Lectures supplement and complement reading assignments.**
  - **Brief outlines of lectures, maps and other supplementary readings will be distributed to students online.**
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#### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE:**

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to regularly attend lectures and participate actively in classroom discussions. Attendance will be taken regularly and each student is responsible for keeping up with the class through attendance and blackboard announcements. Good attendance will be weighed as a factor in borderline grades. Since there is no penalty for absences and there are no make-ups on assignments, there will be no excused absences.
- **Reading assignments:** Readings from the text and supplementary sources are given on a weekly basis.
- **Examinations:** Exams will be presented on the fourth, eighth, twelfth and finals week. Each examination consists of one essay question from a field

of three or four (100 points); multiple-choice section, consisting of ten multiple-choice questions each based upon quotations taken from the web readings (50 points ); and identification section (50 points). Each exam will be worth 200 points. In total, the four examinations will count 400 points toward the course grade. All in-term exams will be administered as timed exams on BLACKBOARD rather than in class. The final exam will be administered according to the university final schedule. The lowest scored exam will be dropped. The instructor reserves the right to change the dates of examinations in the Course Schedule and Outline.

- **Map Quizzes:** There will be about fifteen to twenty map quizzes in class about each week on the geography of subjects we are studying. They will be worth ten points each and both students taking the exams or doing the film review option have to take these in class.
- **Opinion Discussion Questions.** There will be discussion question forums in which you will read one source or text reading, answer one opinion question in one short paragraph, and respond to other's comments. There will be about 25 to 30 such forums, each worth ten points. They will count a total 250 points toward the course grade. There will be about a two-day window of opportunity to participate on each question.
- **Makeup assignments:** There are normally no makeup assignments for this class, since the lowest of exam scores and the lowest three 3 to 5 map quiz scores are dropped. The same can be said for Discussion forums. Only students with legitimate excuses backed up with written documentation will be allow to make up an exam that they have missed. Since movie reviews are optional, there are no makeup reviews or late reviews accepted. Beyond extraordinary documented circumstances, there are no make-ups. There are no exceptions. DO NOT ASK.

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### **GRADING PLAN:**

- The three highest-scored Examinations will count 600 points towards the course grade.
- The Map Quizzes will count 150 points towards the course grade.
- Opinion Discussion Questions is worth up to 10 points each. In total, they will be worth 250 points towards the course grade.
- Student attendance and participation will play a role in the grading in cases of borderline grades. Students with three or less absences will receive grade boost if they are one percentage point below the next highest grade.
- The grade scale will be: 900-1000=A; 800-899=B; 700-799=C; 600-699=D; 0-599=F
- There will be no extra credit in this class.

- Only students who cannot finish the course because of documented health or emergency problems will be allowed a grade of “X” in order to complete coursework.
- **Evaluation of student performance:** a) Examinations [600 points]; b) Discussion forums [250 points]; and Map Quizzes [150 points]

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**ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS REQUIRED BY THE UNIVERSITY.**

**STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH THESE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES IN ATTENDING THIS CLASS. A DETAILED LIST OF THESE CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LINK:**

**<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>**

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**COURSE OUTLINE:**

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**MODULE #1**

- **Lecture 1: INTRODUCTION, GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING AND ANCIENT HISTORY**
- **Lecture 2: THE EASTERN SLAVS & THE SCANDINAVIANS**
- **Lecture 3: THE STATE, SOCIETY AND CULTURE OF THE KIEVAN RUS'**
- **Lecture 4: THE DISSOLUTION OF THE KIEVAN STATE**
- **Lecture 5: RELIGION UNDER FOREIGN DOMINATION**

**5-6 Discussion Questions (one or two after each Lecture)**

**Map Quizzes #1 through #5**

**READINGS WILL BE UP AFTER EACH LECTURE**

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**MODULE #2 (The 1st on-line examination will be up for one week during this module)**

- **Lecture 6: THE THIRD ROME: MUSCOVY & IVAN THE TERRIBLE**
- **Lecture 7: THE TIME OF TROUBLES & RECOVERY UNDER THE ROMANOVs**
- **Lecture 8: CRISIS IN SOCIETY & CULTURE IN 17TH CENTURY MUSCOVY**
- **Lecture 9: THE REIGN OF PETER**
- **Lecture 10: THE SUCCESSORS OF PETER: POLITICS, SOCIETY & FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**5-6 Discussion Questions (one or two after each Lecture)**

**Map Quizzes #6 through #9**

**READINGS WILL BE UP AFTER EACH LECTURE**

**MODULE #3 (The 2nd on-line examination will be up for one week during this module)**

- **Lecture 11: THE ENIGMATIC TSAR: THE POLICIES OF ALEXANDER I**
- **Lecture 12: RUSSIA UNDER NICHOLAS I**
- **Lecture 13: ALEXANDER II--EMANCIPATION, REFORM, AND RADICALISM**
- **Lecture 14: RUSSIA IN THE THROES OF CHANGE, 1850-1905**
- **Lecture 15: THE DEVELOPMENT OF RUSSIAN CULTURE & THOUGHT, 1800-1905**

**5-6 Discussion Questions (one or two after each Lecture)**

**Map Quizzes #10 through #13**

**READINGS WILL BE UP AFTER EACH LECTURE**

**MODULE #4 (The 3rd on-line examination will be up for one week during this module)**

- **Lecture 16: POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1905.**
- **Lecture 17: POLITICAL IMPASSE AND WORLD WAR.**
- **Lecture 18: THE FEBRUARY AND OCTOBER REVOLUTIONS OF 1917**
- **Lecture 19: THE CIVIL WAR, THE N.E.P. AND THE ORIGINS OF TOTALITARIANISM**
- **Lecture 20: THE RISE OF STALIN, THE FIVE YEAR PLANS AND THE TERROR**

**5-6 Discussion Questions (one or two after each Lecture)**

**Map Quizzes #14 through #16**

**READINGS WILL BE UP AFTER EACH LECTURE**

**MODULE #4 (The 4th on-line examination will be up for one week during this module)**

- **Lecture 21: THE SOVIET UNION AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR**
- **Lecture 22: POST-WAR POLICIES UNDER STALIN.**
- **Lecture 23: THE SOVIET UNION AFTER STALIN, 1953-1985.**
- **Lecture 24: WHAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION**
- **Lecture 25: TWENTY-YEARS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES.**



- **Lecture 26: SOME CONCLUDING THOUGHTS--NEW REALITIES, NEW PERCEPTIONS.**

**5-6 Discussion Questions (one or two after each Lecture)**

**Map Quizzes #17 through #20?**

**READINGS WILL BE UP AFTER EACH LECTURE**