

MARY BALDWIN UNIVERSITY

Baldwin Online/ Adult Program

FALL 2020

HIST. 255WA

History of Russia

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HISTORY OF RUSSIA

This course covers a wide sweep of the history of Russia, from the earliest Kiev state, and monarchs such as Olga and Vladimir, up to the leadership of Mikhail Gorbachev and the fall of the Soviet Union. It includes, but is not limited to, a consideration of the influence of the Russian Orthodox Church, the foreign policy of Russia through the time of the Tsars up to the end of the twentieth century, and the economic challenges of a huge country which remained largely agricultural until well into the twentieth century. This is an online course, but you will work independently, and it contains a lot of reading. Although there is no formal prerequisite, if you have not already taken a 100- level history course, please think carefully and consult with your adviser before committing to HIST 255WAC.

REQUIRED READING

These five books have been listed for HIST 255WAC with the Mary Baldwin University online bookstore. They should be available in paperback, and relatively inexpensive. (Please note the two secondary sources overlap but I am using them as students have found them more helpful and readily accessible than the previous single volume text).

Secondary Sources

A History of Russia. Walter Moss. Volume I: to 1917. McGraw Hill. (Any edition).

ISBN 978-0-070-43480-6

A History of Russia. Walter Moss. Volume II: Since 1855. McGraw Hill (Any edition).

ISBN 978-0-070-43482-0.

Primary Sources

ISBN 978-0-6740-6195-8 (any edition – exists in paperback)

The Domostroi: Rules for Russian Households in the Time of Ivan the Terrible. Edited and translated by Carolyn Johnston Pouncy. Cornell University Press.

ISBN 978-0-8014-9689-9

Fathers and Sons. Ivan Turgenev. Penguin Classics.

ISBN 0-140-44147-6 (any edition, but use the Penguin Classic as it has a useful introduction)

The Girl from the Metropol Hotel: Growing Up in Communist Russia. Ludmilla Petrushevskaya.

Translated by Anna Summers. Penguin. ISBN 978-0-14-312997-4

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Initial first assignment to indicate good faith start on course	No credit, but required
Three 4 to 6 page papers on the “primary source” readings (<u>Domostroi, Fathers and Sons and The Girl from the Metropol Hotel</u>)	3 x 10 = 30 %
Five “identifying papers” of minimum 500 words / two pages each, explaining people, concepts, events, places or policies – list will be made available (Based on reading of secondary texts by Walter Moss, and selected additional sources)	5 x 10 = 50%
One Final Exam (A prepared essay, using material from the entire course)	1 x 20 = 20% ----- 100 points

Federal Financial Aid regulations require that you demonstrate that you have made a good faith start on this course. For this reason, you will need to email me a list of three things, expressed in a single paragraph, submitted to our class Canvas site about the Kiev Rus state, and the rule of Olga and Vladimir by the end of the first two weeks of class, Friday September 4th by 9 am.

More about the assignments....

There will be more information about the assignments on the class Canvas site, but here is some additional explanation about them. Assignments will have due dates, and I will expect you to turn them in online, by the due date, or to communicate with me if you have not met the deadline for that particular assignment.

“Identifying Papers” – these are informational papers, of a minimum of 500 words, which is approximately two pages each, double spaced in length, which explain a variety of topics (people, places, events, etc.) which are particularly important in Russian History. **The topics will be listed, on the class Canvas site.** You will start with the two secondary textbooks by Walter Moss to write these short papers. You will use your own words in these papers, and it is unnecessary to quote extensively in these papers, but you should indicate, through footnotes or endnotes, the pages from which you have gathered the information. You may also choose to do additional reading for the “Identify” papers, and I have included instructions about what are appropriate sources to help you.

“Primary Source” readings papers – these are based on the last three books listed in the **REQUIRED READING** list. Each of those books provides our course with a primary source – some writing which actually comes from the time period it considers.

The **Domostroi** was a set of Household Rules, written during the time of Ivan the Terrible, almost certainly for the “service gentry” so not intended for the poorest or the wealthiest people, but an elite

group of civil servants. It contains information on a wide variety of subjects, from pickling vegetables, to wedding rituals and the importance of religious observances within a household.

Fathers and Sons is a nineteenth century Russian novel about two college friends and their families, and how the generation gap effects their friendship, the relationships with their parents and the women in their lives. It is a reflection of the era in which it was written, so can be read as a primary document.

The Girl from the Metropol Hotel is an autobiographical account of growing up in Communist Russia between 1938 and 1958. It tells of what severe economic deprivation was inflicted on the families of Communist party members who fell out of favor. It is a story of childhood survival, and the political and social realities of life's consequences for a girl who had not made the original "mistakes" of her family.

You will use the secondary texts by Walter Moss as a jumping off point to help you understand the political/ economic/ domestic and foreign policies behind each of these primary source readings. You may consult additional sources, if you wish too, and then write a four to six page paper exploring the historical themes and insights gained from the primary source. (There are three primary source reading papers in total so you will write three papers in total).

Final Exam. This will need to be completed by the last date of the Mary Baldwin University Exam Week, which this year will be by December 4, 2020. The final exam will be an open book prepared essay on a wide ranging general topic and will need to include material from across the breadth of the course. It will be submitted online. Expect this essay, which is worth 20 points, to take considerable preparation and be at least 5 pages in length, double spaced.

Please note; there will be additional information on the assignments, including due dates, on the class Canvas site once the semester has begun. If you are not able to meet a class due date deadline, please email to let me know.

ETs or Extended Time; generally I am happy to grant these, depending on circumstances, but would remind you of the following....

- 1) You need to communicate with your adviser first in order for an ET to take effect**
- 2) You need to pay a fee to complete the process**
- 3) This semester in particular, as we approach the holiday season, most students would like to avoid having to take an ET.**

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