

**Camosun College
School of Arts and Sciences
Humanities Department**

HISTORY 202

RUSSIA AND THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES

September-December 2004

Course Outline

1. Instructor Information

Dr. Elena Baraban
Office: Young 232
Ph. (250) 721-7322
Office hours: Thursday 2:20-3:15 p.m., and by appointment
Tuesday: Lecture 3:30-5:20 p.m. (Young 217)
Thursday: Seminar A 3:30-4:20 p.m. (Young 217)
Seminar B 4:30-5:20 p.m. (Young 217)
E-mail: elenka@uvic.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Through reading textbooks and primary source materials, listening to faculty lectures and participating in seminars, writing papers and performing tests, students will

- learn about the key historical, political, social, and cultural developments in Russia since 1800s;
- explore the problems of Russia's transition from monarchy to socialism;
- examine Russia's transition from socialism to democracy;
- explore Russia's role in modern world.

By the end of the course, students will develop their ability

- to think critically about historical issues and historiography of Russia;
- to evaluate arguments by historians;
- to use their knowledge of history in comprehending the achievements, failures, and setbacks of today's world;
- to conduct academic research;
- communicate clearly in writing and speaking.

3. Required Materials

1. David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran, *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond* (Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2002).
2. Gale Stokes, ed. *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1996).

3. Course package includes selected texts from:

- 1) Sheila Fitzpatrick and Yuri Slezkine, eds., *In the Shadow of the Revolution: Life Stories of Russian Women: From 1917 to the Second World War* (Princeton University Press, paperback, 2000);
- 2) Gregory L. Freeze, *From Supplication to Revolution: A Documentary Social History of Imperial Russia* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1988).

(The books and the course package are available in the College Bookstore)

4. Course Description

This lecture course surveys the history of Russia since the beginning of the 19th century. (An introductory lecture will survey the previous historical developments). The imperial period in Russian history, and the 19th century in particular, is important for understanding contemporary Russia, as post-Soviet society turns to past in search for a new national identity. Through exploring issues of political development, culture, and social history in Russia's "European century," we will consider the questions, which have become pertinent in post-Soviet Russia: Was the late imperial period Russia's "golden era" interrupted by the revolution? Why did the revolution become possible? We will then move on to the Soviet and post-Soviet periods in Russian history and examine the historical factors that gave a peculiar meaning to such universal categories as egalitarianism, the welfare state, social hierarchy, gender, individual rights, ideology, consumerism, and culture. We will concentrate on several of the most important landmarks of Russian history: the war with Napoleon, the golden era of Russian arts, the abolition of serfdom, the crisis of monarchy, the Revolution and the foundation of the Soviet Union, Stalinist social transformations, World War II, "developed socialism," the collapse of the Soviet Union, and dilemmas of post-Soviet transition in the USSR's successor states. The lectures, assigned readings, documentaries, and discussion sessions will help us engage with substantive questions about the causes and effects of political, social, and cultural change.

COURSE CALENDAR

WEEK ONE

- 7 September ((Tuesday) Introduction to the course.
The Rise of Russia (includes a 20-min. documentary).
- 9 September (Thursday) Russia's European century begins. Alexander I, 1801-1825.
The Napoleonic wars. The Decembrist revolt.
- Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 3-9; 211-222; 225-237; 243-257.

WEEK TWO

- 14 September (Tuesday) The "IronTsar" Nicholas I, 1825-1855. Social and cultural development. Salvophiles versus Westerners. The Crimean War.
- 16 September (Thursday) Discussion.
- Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 258-296.

WEEK THREE

- 21 September (Tuesday) Modern Russia. Reforms and counter reforms.
Alexander II and Alexander III.
- 23 September (Thursday) Discussion.
- Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 299-345.
Package, *From Supplication to Revolution*, 101-107; 170-175.

WEEK FOUR

- 28 September (Tuesday) Opposition to monarchy. Russian Marxism.
Revolution, reaction, and reform, 1905-1914.
WWI and the Final Crisis of the Monarchy.
- 30 September (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 347-396; 399-416.

WEEK FIVE

- 5 October (Tuesday) The Final Crisis of the Russian monarchy (cont.). The two Revolutions
of 1917 (includes a documentary). The Civil War and War Communism.
- 7 October (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 399-445;
Package: *In the Shadow*: 123-139; 169-179; 113-122.

WEEK SIX

- 12 October (Tuesday) NEP and Its Contradictions. Stalin's Rise to Power.
(includes a 20-min. documentary).
- 14 October (Thursday) MIDTERM (IN-CLASS).
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 447-464;
Package: *In the Shadow*, 243-251; 219-240.

WEEK SEVEN

- 19 October (Tuesday) Collectivization, Industrialization, and the Five-Year Plans.
The Great Terror.
- 21 October (Thursday) Discussion.
(Please note that the discussion will be based on both, this and the previous week readings)
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 464-497;
Package: *In the Shadow*, 252-276; 324-330.

WEEK EIGHT

- 26 October (Tuesday) The Great Terror. Stalinism and the Outbreak of WWII.
Documentary (Stalin & Stalinism)
- 28 October (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 520-539.

WEEK NINE

- 2 November (Tuesday) The Great Patriotic War. The Cold War Begins.
- 4 November (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 543-561; Stokes, 13-32; 33-42.

WEEK TEN

- 9 November (Tuesday) The Cold War Begins. De-Stalinization.
- 11 November (Thursday) NO CLASS. Remembrance Day.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 498-519.

WEEK ELEVEN

- 16 November (Tuesday) De-Stalinization and Khrushchev's Reforms.
The Beginnings of Détente.
- 18 November (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 562-582; 655-661.
Stokes, 82-93; 101-106.

WEEK TWELVE

23 November (Tuesday) Brezhnev's Long Reign: "Stability" and Social Crisis. Dissent.
25 November (Thursday) Discussion.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 583-626; 661-669.
Stokes, 122-134; 156-166.

WEEK THIRTEEN

30 November (Tuesday) Glasnost and Perestroika. The Limits of Reform & the Fall of the Soviet Union.
2 December (Thursday) Discussion. **PAPERS DUE**.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 627-654; 670-675; 679-693.
Stokes, 209-213; 224-231; 243-253.

WEEK FOURTEEN

7 December (Tuesday) Dilemmas of the Post-Communist Transition.
9 December (Thursday) Conclusions and an Overview.
Reading for the week: MacKenzie & Curran, 695-738. Stokes, 289-294.

Final Exam—time and place TBA.

5. Basis of Students Assessment

Attendance and participation:	10%
Midterm examination:	20%
Term paper:	30%
Final exam:	40%

(See REQUIREMENTS IN DETAIL following the Calendar.)

6. Grading System

The following percentage conversion to letter grade will be used:

MARK	LETTER GRADE
95-100%	A+
90-94%	A
85-89%	A-
80-84%	B+
75-79%	B
70-74%	B-
65-69%	C+
60-64%	C
50-59%	D
0.0-49%	F

7. Learning Support and Services for Students

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at <http://www.camosun.bc.ca>

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

<http://www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html>

8. Students' Responsibility

History 202 is a university level course, directly applicable to a university degree. It is therefore expected students perform at a university standard.

Attendance will be taken regularly during lectures, documentary screenings, and discussion sections. The participation component will be determined by your comments and presentations during the discussion sections and on other occasions. Active participation as such does not guarantee an excellent mark—it is important that your comments are substantial, reveal thorough preparation, and demonstrate your analytical abilities.

On Thursdays Seminar A will meet at 3:30 p.m.; Seminar B will meet at 4:30 p.m. In each session, we will discuss the readings assigned for the week. Each of you will have to serve as a discussion leader. There will be approximately six discussion leaders for every discussion section and each of them will be expected to speak for some two-three minutes about the readings, as well as to answer the instructor's and her/his comrades' questions.

The art of public speaking is an essential component of your college education and the ability to express your ideas verbally is a requirement for a good mark. However, some people do not feel comfortable speaking in public. If this is the case with you, please let me know early on in the course and arrange for regular one-on-one meetings during my office hours. Alternatively, you may want to submit your comments regularly via e-mail or in writing. If you do not do so and do not speak in class, I cannot evaluate your "participation" as satisfactory.

The midterm exam will be held in class on 14 October. It will last one hour and consist of 10 short identification questions covering lecture topics from 3 September through 14 October. The exam will be marked in percentages, an ideal exam being worth 20%.

Your term paper is due on 2 December. The list of suggested paper topics will be posted on the door of my office. You are welcome to sign up for your topic on a first come first served basis. No more than two people per topic, please. I encourage you to write on your own original topics, as long as you clear them with me by 20 October. Term papers should be 8-9 double-spaced pages in length, with footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography. You are required to use at least four sources (books, articles, or websites). Our textbooks may be used as well but they do not count. If you are not sure how to use the library catalogue to search for books and articles on your topic, please advise me. (You may want to ask a reference librarian first, however). A good term paper features a clearly formulated thesis, a well-balanced structure, and a convincing analysis of evidence to support its main argument. It is helpful (but not required) to begin your paper by stating its aims and/or main thesis. Please remember to include the paper's title!

You may use any system of reference, as long as it makes clear the name of the author, the title of the work, and the place and year of publication. A bibliography is a must.

The paper you submit must be your own original creation, written in your own words. Do not plagiarize as those found guilty of plagiarism will receive a failing grade for the offending piece and will not be permitted to redo it. Papers submitted late without an extension or legitimate reason will lose 1% of the final grade per day including weekends and holidays. (Remember that an outstanding paper submitted on time can earn you up to 30% of the final grade.) Requests for extensions will be granted only in advance and for a good reason—e.g., illness (in which case a medical certificate must be submitted) or compelling personal circumstances (in which case a letter from Counseling Services must be submitted). (I need to see the original certificates and letters, please; do not bring photocopies.) If you do not submit your paper in class on 2 December, please bring it to the Department's general office where it will be stamped with the date on which it was received. It is my policy to disregard claims that the department or some other person has "lost" your essay. If in doubt, please e-mail me to make sure that your essay has arrived in my mailbox, and keep an electronic copy of your work.

The final exam (date and time TBA) will last three hours and will consist of 10 short identification questions covering the lecture topics for the course (Part A, 20%), one short essay question based on Russian history in general (Part B, 10%), and one short essay question on Soviet history in general (Part C, 10%; covering the lecture topics from 14 October through 7 December). With both essay questions, you will be provided with a list of three topics from which you will select one.

Good luck!