

Revised: Fall 2016

HIS 242

History of Russia II

COURSE OUTLINE

Prerequisites: None

Course Description:

Surveys history of Russia from earliest times to the present. Includes political, economic, multi-national, social, and cultural aspects of Russian and Soviet history. Part II of II.

Upon completing HIS 242, the student will have gained a greater understanding of the influences that have shaped modern Russia. The student will have acquired an appreciation for the cornerstones of Russian culture and the forces and events that gave rise to Imperial Russia, the Soviet Union and the present-day Russian Federation. HIS 242 will provide the “how, who, and whys” of Russia’s last two hundred years...1801-2001.

Semester Credits: 3 Lecture Hours: 3

HIS 242: History of Russia II

Course Outcomes:

At the completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Understand the important events of Tsar Alexander II's reign.
- Analyze the key issues involved with ending Serfdom in Russia.
- Comprehend the critical social, economic, political, intellectual forces and trends which prevailed in Imperial Russia during the last half of 19th century.
- Identify the key figures and understand the determining factors involved in Russia's Revolutions of 1905 and 1917.
- Understand how the Bolsheviks came to power and what they did to retain it.
- Comprehend the audacity and scope of the "Stalin Era."
- Appreciate the workings of the Soviet system -politically, socially, and ideologically during the decades of the Cold War.
- Identify the key personalities of post-Stalinist Soviet Union.
- Understand the forces and event which brought about the collapse of the U.S.S.R.
- Compare/contrast life in Soviet Union and in a post-1991 Russia.

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Required Materials:

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

Riasanovsky, Nicholas V. and Stein, M.D. A History of Russia, (8th ed.) New York: Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-19-534197-3

The following supplementary materials are available: None

HIS 242: History of Russia II

Topical Description:

Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century

Tsar Alexander I, 1802-1825

Tsar Nicholas I, 1825-1855

Tsar Alexander II, 1855-1881

Tsar Alexander III, 1881-1894

Tsar Nicholas II-early years, 1894-1905

Film Study: "Battleship Potemkin," by Sergei Eisenstein.

Tsar Nicholas II- last years, 1905-1917

Russian Culture, Society and Economy 1855-1917

Revolution and Civil War, 1917-1921

Lenin, World War I, Communism, and the N. E. P., 1921-1928

Stalin and Russia's new "autocrat," 1928-1941

World War II and Cold War, 1941-1953

Post-Stalinist USSR, 1953-1981

Gorbachev and 'glasnost': Collapse of the Monolith, 1984 & beyond

The Russian Federation, 1991-present

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Notes to Instructors

- None