

Virginia Western Community College

HIS 242

History of Russia II

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

Required Materials

1. Textbook
2. Internet access
3. Blackboard

Textbook:

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

Other Required Materials:

None

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.

Topical Description

1	Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century
2	Tsar Alexander I, 1802-1825
3	Tsar Nicholas I, 1825-1855
4	Tsar Alexander II, 1855-1881
5	Tsar Alexander III, 1881-1894
6	Tsar Nicholas II-early years, 1894-1905
7	Film Study: "Battleship Potemkin," by Sergei Eisenstein.
8	Tsar Nicholas II- last years, 1905-1917
9	Russian Culture, Society and Economy 1855-1917
10	Revolution and Civil War, 1917-1921
11	Lenin, World War I, Communism, and the N. E. P., 1921-1928
12	Stalin and Russia's new "autocrat," 1928-1941
13	World War II and Cold War, 1941-1953
14	Post-Stalinist USSR, 1953-1981
15	Gorbachev and 'glasnost': Collapse of the Monolith, 1984 & beyond
16	The Russian Federation, 1991-present

Notes to Instructors

None