

# Virginia Western Community College

## HIS 241

### History of Russia I

#### **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 I of II.

Upon completing HIS 241, the student will have gained a greater understanding of the influences that shaped early Russia. The student will have acquired an appreciation for the cornerstones of Russian culture and the individuals, forces, and events that gave rise to Kievan Rus, Muscovite Russia, and early Imperial Russia. HIS 241 will provide the “how, who, and whys” of Russia’s formation.

**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 (8<sup>th</sup> 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:**

- Identify principal geographic features relative to Eurasia, Russia and adjoining territories.
- Understand what role Russia's geography and climate play in terms of future development.
- Identify important "Early Migrations" of non-Slavic peoples- pattern and cultures.
- Compare and contrast the several theories behind the Rise of the Kievan State.
- Understand the importance of Kievan Rus: Its economy, social institutions, and political structure.
- Appreciate the importance of Eastern Orthodoxy in Russia's development.
- Define and describe "Appanage" Russia.
- Analyze the effect that the Mongol invasion had upon Russia's development.
- Know the details of Muscovite Russia's formation, including key personalities and events.
- Comprehend the details of Muscovite Russia: Economy, Religion, Culture, and Socio-political institutions.
- Analyze the events surrounding the "Time of Troubles" and the rise of Imperial Russia.
- Gain familiarity with the "life and times" of imperial rulers like Peter the Great and Catherine the Great; understand the importance of their reigns.
- Appreciate the aspects of life in Eighteenth and early Nineteenth Century Russia.
- Be familiar with the reigns of Tsars Alexander I and Nicholas I.

## Topical Description

1	Overview of Russian Geography
2	Beginnings of Kievan Rus
3	Kievan Rus-Politics, Economics, Social, Religious, & Cultural aspects
4	Appanage Russia-Introduction and socio-economic characteristics
5	The Mongols
6	Lord Novgorod the Great/ the "Southwest and the Northeast"
7	Lithuanian Russia
8	Rise of Muscovy
9	Ivan the Terrible and family
10	Muscovite institutions: Society and Culture
11	Peter the Great/ early Imperial Russia, 1725-1762
12	The "not so great" rulers of Russia, 1725-1762

13	Catherine the Great, 1762-1796
14	Russian Society and Culture in the Eighteenth Century
15	Tsar Alexander I, 1801-1825
16	Russian socio-economics, 1800-1850
17	Culture in the first half of the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century

### **Notes to Instructors**

None