

HIST 3395  
 History of Russia  
 Fall 2014  
 TR 11:00 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

The University of Texas at Tyler  
 Dr. Patricia A. Gajda BUS 205C  
 Off. Hrs. TR 9:30-10:30 a.m. and also by appt.  
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Since early times, the meaning of Russian identity has been sought, articulated, and redefined by outsiders as well as by Russians themselves. Sweeping across the space of the Eurasian continent and the time of more than twelve centuries, the land that came to be known as Russia has been called many things: Asiatic, European, nationalist, imperialist, and global. Many in the West have found it enigmatic, exotic, "other." This course examines some of these identities as it focuses on the history of Russia, beginning with the founding of the Kievan state and society, the period of medieval appanages, and the rise of Muscovy. It continues with Russia's emergence from the traumatic Time of Troubles with the establishment of the Romanov dynasty, destined to rule for three centuries over a growing empire. Finally, the course concludes with the reforms and revolutionary changes experienced by Russia in modern times under imperial, Soviet, and post-Soviet rule. Please Note: Announcements, supplementary reading assignments, and class materials are posted electronically in Blackboard.

Required Textbooks: (1) Thompson, John M. Russia and the Soviet Union: A Historical Introduction from the Kievan State to the Present, 7th ed. (2013).

(2) Figes, Orlando. Natasha's Dance: A Cultural History of Russia. (2002).

<u>Grading the Course:</u>	Exam #1	(includes cultural essay)	33 1/3%
	Exam #2	(includes cultural essay)	33 1/3%
	Exam #3	(includes cultural essay)	33 1/3%

Course Outline:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject of the Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment</u>
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**Unit I: From the Founding of Russia to Catherine the Great**

Aug.	26	Orientation and Prologue: Russia in Global Perspective	
	28	The Kievan State and Society	
Sep.	2	Feudal Russia: The Appanages	
	4	The Rise of Muscovy	
	9	Muscovite Russia, 1533-1682	
	11	Muscovite Russia (continued)	
	16	Peter the Great and His Successors	
	18	Peter the Great (continued)	
	23	Reign and Reforms of Catherine the Great	Thompson, 1-7
	25	<b>EXAM #1</b>	Figes, 1-3

## Description of Assignments

**Study Guides.** The professor has prepared three study guides that help students in various ways. They familiarize students with historical geography, provide practice in writing precise and substantive identification items, help students discern the author's main line of argument, and provide opportunities to construct solid answers to essay questions while preparing for the three written examinations. These are designed to be used weekly, not merely prior to scheduled exams. Students are encouraged to complete these even though the guides are not submitted as formal assignments. They are posted in Blackboard under Assignments.

**Written Assignment.** Three cultural essays, one per unit of study, are required in this course. Each is submitted along with the in-class portion of the exam and becomes part of that exam. Each cultural essay is worth 20% of the exam.

Read the assigned chapters from Natasha's Dance. Select some topic or theme covered in these chapters that you have found to be particularly informative or interesting. Use it as the title of your essay. Your reader should know, by the end of the first paragraph, what your thesis or theme is and what points you will cover about it in the paper. Underline this thesis sentence. The last paragraph may be either a brief summary or an explanation of your conclusions, whichever you deem to be more appropriate.

Cultural Essays are based solely on the assigned chapters of Natasha's Dance. The essays call for some critical thinking, analysis, and personal evaluation. Because these are not traditional research papers, do not include any footnotes or bibliography. While all your material will come from this book, do not use lengthy direct quotations or the author's wording, which might constitute plagiarism.

**Format of Cultural Essay.** Place your title at the top of the first page. Do not underline it. The essay must be double-spaced. Required font is 12 pt. Times New Roman. The paper's minimum length is two full pages. The maximum length is three full pages. Pages should be numbered at the top center (except for page 1), beginning with page 2, and have one-inch margins on all four sides of the page. Indent paragraphs on the left. Place your name at the top right of the first page only. Staple the paper once at the upper left (or leave it unstapled). No clip, folder, or title page. No added information such as course number, title, or professor's name. While first-person references are ordinarily inappropriate in formal writing, they are acceptable in these essays. The grade is adversely affected if you fail to write clearly and precisely or to follow these directions.

**Please note:** Bring your essay with you to the exam. Place it face down on the floor under your seat while you are taking the exam. When you are finished with the exam, place your cultural essay behind the exam and submit it to me for stapling. **No essays can be accepted after the test period.**

## Class Policies

- (1) Attendance. Attendance at all class sessions is expected. Because illness or emergencies can occur, you are permitted up to four “free” absences. These accrue no penalties. If you use them, do so wisely. You will be asked to withdraw from the course if you are absent more than four times. If special circumstances apply that necessitate your missing more than four classes (e.g., hospitalization, extended illness), immediately discuss them with the professor. Do not wait until the end of the semester to do this.
  
- (2) Courtesy.
  - Tardiness is not acceptable. It is disruptive to the class and discourteous to both professor and students. Habitual tardiness will affect the final course grade and is cause for withdrawal.
  - As a matter of common courtesy, all students should remove caps and hats in class.
  - Recorders are permitted; laptops are permitted only if used to take notes for this class.
  - Pagers, telephones, ear pieces, and all other electronic devices must be turned off and placed out of sight during class.
  - During exams, students must place all personal effects (including purses, jackets, electronics, etc.) on the floor at the front of the classroom, use only the paper that is provided.
  - University regulations do not allow food in the classroom.
  - When corresponding with the professor via e-mail, please use your patriots account only.
  - If a rare emergency should require that you leave the classroom while class is still in session, be considerate; do not disturb others and do not slam the door either upon exiting or returning.
  
- (3) Deadlines. Assignments may be submitted at any time but no later than at class-time of the announced deadline. Late assignments will not be accepted.
  
- (4) Make-Up Exams. There are no make-up exams.
  
- (5) Reporting of Grades. As soon as exams are graded, you will receive an e-mail message alerting you that the grades have been posted in Blackboard and (at the end of the semester) also in myUTTyler