

HIST 3779 - Russia 1855 to Present

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 01, CRN 43551,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

Brian Bonhomme

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Dr. Brian Bonhomme

Instructor Professional Qualifications: Ph.D., *Late Modern European History, The Graduate Center of the City University of New York (2000)*; B.A., *History, City College of New York (1993)*.

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Course Description

3779. Russia 1855 to Present. The Russian Empire from the Great Reforms of Alexander II to its collapse during WWI, the Revolutions of 1917, the rise and fall of the Soviet Union (1922-1991), and Soviet successor states to the present. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	A Concise History of Russia	Paul Bushkovitch	978-0-521-54323-1

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Textbook: Prologue	Introduction: Concepts, Themes, Developments: Russia from Origins to 1855	
8/31	Textbook, Chapter 11	Alexander II and the Great Reforms: 1855-1881	Term Project, Step 1 (Hereafter, TPS#) by Friday 9/4
9/7	Textbook, Chapter 12	From Serfdom to Industry and Early Capitalism: Successes and Failures	TPS2 by Friday 9/11
9/14	Textbook, Chapters 13-14	Golden Age of Russian Culture; Expansion of Empire	First In-class Exam this Friday, 9/18
9/21	Textbook, Chapter 15	Late Imperial Period; Modernization and Tradition; Political Conflict	TPS3 by Friday, 9/25
9/28	Textbook, Chapter 16	The First World War and the Russian Revolution	TPS4 (scheduled students) all week
10/5	Textbook, Chapter 17	1917-28: Revolution; Civil War; the Early Soviet Union	TPS4 (scheduled students) all week
10/12	Textbook, Chapter 18	From Lenin to Stalin	
10/19	Textbook, Chapters 19-20	Stalinism; Domestic Policy; International Relations; the 1930s	TPS5 Second In-class Exam this Friday, 10/23
10/26	Textbook, Chapters 19-20	The Coming of the Second World War	TPS6, Friday 10/30
11/2	Textbook, Chapters 19-20	The USSR in the Second World War; Expansion into Eastern Europe	

11/9	Textbook, Chapter 21	Post-war Stalinism; Khrushchev and Brezhnev; The Early Cold War	TPS7 (scheduled students) all week
11/16	Textbook, Chapters 22-23	The Soviet Union at its Apogee: Influence and Stagnation 1960s-80s	TPS7 (scheduled students) all week
11/23	Textbook, Chapter 23	Short Week for Thanksgiving. Gorbachev and Reagan. Chapter 23 wrap-up	
11/30	Textbook, Chapter 23 and Epilogue	The Collapse of the USSR; Yeltsin and Putin: Wrap-Up and Reflections: Russia past, present, future? Prepping the last assignment	TPS7 (scheduled students) all week. AND: Third In-class Exam this MONDAY (11/30)
12/7	Reflective Essay due 12/8. Post to BlackBoard	Reflective Essay due 12/8. Post to BlackBoard	Reflective Paper due December 8 @ 11:59PM. Post to BlackBoard.

The course schedule, policies, procedures, and assignments in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, by mutual agreement, and/or to ensure better learning.