

IVAN THE TERRIBLE: THE RUSSIAN MONARCHY IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY

Ivan the Terrible (1533-1584), the first Russian ruler who assumed the title of tsar, is known as one of the most controversial figures in Russian history. Was Ivan's reign essential for the transformation of the principality of Moscow into a multiethnic empire? Or was this period just a series of sporadic acts of a madman? Was Ivan running the show or was he a puppet in the hands of influential court clans? What do we know about Ivan's personality and how do we know what we think we know? This course will introduce students to the political, social, cultural, and economic aspects of Ivan's reign. To put Ivan's rule in a wider historical and cultural context, we will also examine the reigns of his immediate predecessors and successors, Vasilii III (1505-1533) and Fedor Ivanovich (1584-1598). Care will also be taken to examine Russia's place in the sixteenth-century international system and to compare the development of the Russian monarchy with contemporary early modern European states. The latter part of the course will concentrate on various interpretations of the reign of Ivan the Terrible offered by historians, writers, and artists. We will examine how the image of Ivan IV evolved from the sixteenth to the twenty first century, from Western Renaissance travel literature and the ideologists of early Romanovs, through Stalinist historiography and the famous film of Sergei Eisenstein, to the latest revisionist and post-modernist interpretations and the extravagant attempts to canonize Ivan. The set texts for the course, all available in English translation, include chronicles, legal codes, edicts, administrative records, polemical works, legal charters, household rules, proceedings of church councils, epistles, diplomatic papers, foreign accounts. The sources utilised during the course will also include a large amount of visual material, like works of iconpainting, architecture, portraits, engravings, and films. Students are expected to contribute actively to classes in the form of tutor- and student-led discussions, class presentations, seminar papers, short reports and a long essay.

PRELIMINARY READING

Recommended text-book for the course:

Andrei Pavlov, Maureen Perrie, *Ivan the Terrible* (2003).

The following surveys provide useful introductions to the reign:

Robert Crummey, *The Formation of Muscovy, 1304-1613* (1987), chapters 4, 6.

Janet Martin, *Medieval Russia, 980-1584* (1995), chapter 11.

Isabel de Madariaga, *Ivan the Terrible, First Tsar of Russia* (2005)

S. F. Platonov, *Ivan the Terrible*, ed. and tr. Joseph L. Wieczynski, with 'In search of Ivan the Terrible' by Richard Hellie (1986)

Ruslan Skrynnikov, *Ivan the Terrible* (1981)

Course title:	Ivan the Terrible: the Russian Monarchy in the Sixteenth Century
Course code:	SEHI3006/9006
Course-unit value:	2.0
Level:	Advanced
Availability 2009/10:	No
Open to:	All third-year undergraduates
Prerequisites:	Students should normally have passed at least one full History course-unit at Advanced Level
Course leader:	Dr. Sergei Bogatyrev, Room 311; tel: 0207 679 8721, email: s.bogatyrev@ssees.ucl.ac.uk

Aims:

1. To examine critically and in depth the policies and activities of Ivan the Terrible and his circle and their influence on Russia's political, social, economic and cultural developments.
2. To encourage the critical interpretation of sources, both primary and secondary, relating to the period of Ivan the Terrible's reign and to his legacy.

Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:

1. Knowledge and understanding of a key period in Russian history, including an appreciation of the complexity and diversity of situations, events and intellectual outlooks in late 16th-century Russian culture and society.
2. An understanding of the major historiographical debates, up to the present day, in relation to Ivan the Terrible and his reign.
3. Enhanced ability to read, critically analyse and evaluate primary sources (in English translation) and secondary literature in order to make informed judgements, as well as appreciating the limits and challenges of the extant record.
4. Enhanced ability to frame an argument in a sustained manner both orally and in writing. Arguments should be structured, coherent, relevant, and concise, and should take into account all aspects of a given problem.
5. Enhanced generic skills: these may be defined as –
 - (i) self-direction and self-discipline
 - (ii) independence of mind, and initiative
 - (iii) the ability to work with others and to have respect for the reasoned views of others
 - (iv) the ability to identify, gather, deploy and organize evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of achieving this
 - (v) analytical ability and the capacity to consider and solve problems, including complex problems
 - (vi) structure, clarity and fluency of expression, both written and oral
 - (vii) intellectual maturity and integrity
 - (viii) empathy and imaginative insight
 - (ix) ability to organize time, work and personal resources to optimal effect.

<u>Teaching & Learning Methods:</u>	<u>Number of Hours:</u>
Lectures	n/a
Classes	60
Private Study	540

ASSESSMENT:

Coursework: Written coursework to the total of 5000 words will count for 25% of the total mark for the course. See the Course Programme for details. Written coursework is moderated by an internal examiner, and may be submitted for scrutiny to the external examiner.

Examination: A three-hour unseen written examination of nine questions, of which three must be answered. Question 1, consisting of three commentaries on short extracts from set documents, is compulsory. All questions carry equal marks. The aggregate mark counts for 75% of the total mark for the taught part of the course. Examinations are normally held in May.

Dissertation (Extended essay): 10,000 words on some aspect of the course, worth one unit of the course.

AFFILIATE STUDENTS: See regulations posted elsewhere

100% fulfilment of coursework is required for the successful completion of this course. If this requirement is not met by the final departmental deadline, it will normally lead to you being debarred from the exam and the course unit being marked as incomplete on your final degree transcript.