HISTORY OF RUSSIA FROM 1917 HIS 343M.85655 UTC 4.112 M-F 11:30-1:00

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The devout Russian people no longer needed priests to pray them into heaven. On earth they were building a kingdom more bright than any heaven had to offer, and for which it was a glory to die.

-- John Reed

The sufferings of the Russian people are incomparable.

--Nadezhda Mandelstam

It was the Russians who tore the guts out of the German Army.

--Winston Churchill

The most dangerous time for a bad government is when it starts to reform itself.

--Alexis de Tocqueville



Course Description: Winston Churchill described the Soviet Union as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." I hope you will find the country somewhat less perplexing after studying the political, social, economic, cultural, diplomatic, and military developments that shaped Russian history during the 20th century. We will devote particular attention to four milestones of Soviet history: the Russian Revolutions; Stalin's "Revolution from Above"; World War II; and the Collapse of the Soviet System. We will also focus on the Cold War, why attempts at reform failed under Khrushchev and Gorbachev, and the emergence of a dissident movement during the Brezhnev era. How state policies affected ordinary people will be examined throughout the course.

Grading: An in-class midterm exam worth 30%, a final exam worth 60%, and class participation worth 10%. No make-up exams will be given without prior clearance and a verifiable medical excuse. Students are expected to attend all class meetings and are responsible for signing an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. While regular attendance is a substantial factor in your class participation grade for, you can earn credit for participation by being actively engaged in the class.

- * In keeping with the university's revision of its grading options, this course will be graded with the use of +/- grades (for example A-, C+, etc.).
- * The outlines for each class will be distributed in class and posted on blackboard.
- * The possible essay topics for the exams will also be posted on blackboard so you can prepare for the exams well before the exam dates.
- * No laptops, cell phones, or texting in the classroom.
- * Refrain from wandering in late or leaving the classroom during class. It is distracting both to me and your fellow students. If for some reason you have to leave class early, sit near the door and let me know beforehand.

Readings:

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*John Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 1917
Martin McCauley, *Stalin and Stalinism*Geoffrey Roberts, *Victory at Stalingrad*Martin McCauley, *The Khrushchev Era*William Thompson, *The Soviet Union under I*

William Thompson, *The Soviet Union under Brezhnev* (in the course packet) David Marples, *The Collapse of the Soviet Union, 1985-1991*

*Course Packet: On the class schedule an asterisk notes Packet selections.

The Packet is available from Paradigm, 407 W. 24th St., 472-7986.

CLASS SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Monday, July 11

Introduction: Imperial Russia

Film clip: "Why We Fight"

Tuesday, July 12

Opposition to Tsarism

Reading: Fitzpatrick, 15-36

Thompson, 1-9

*"Father Gapon's Petition"

Wednesday, July 13

In War and Revolution

Reading: Fitzpatrick, 37-45, 1-14

Thompson, 9-35

*Mendel, "The Question Remains Open"

Thursday, July 14

The Revolution Moves Leftward

Reading: Fitzpatrick, 46-57

Thompson, 37-84

Friday, July 15

Bolshevik Seizure of Power

Reading: Fitzpatrick, 57-68

Thompson, 85-157

WEEK TWO

Monday, July 18

The Civil War & War Communism

Reading: Fitzpatrick, 68-92

Thompson, 158-189

Tuesday, July 19

NEP Russia & Stalin's Path to Power

Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 3-4, 24-35; docs. 1-2

Fitzpatrick, 93-119

Wednesday, July 20

Assault on the Countryside: Collectivization

Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 39-41; docs. 3-4, 6, 24 Fitzpatrick, 120-129, 135-141

Thursday, July 21

Breakneck Industrialization

Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 41-46, 57-60; docs. 5, 7, 17a, 27 Fitzpatrick, 129-134, 141-147

Friday, July 22

The Great Terror

Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 46-54, 61-63; docs. 8-15 Fitzpatrick, 148-172

WEEK THREE

Monday, July 25

*** Midterm Exam ***

Tuesday, July 26

How War Came

Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 54-57 Film clip: "The Darkness Descends"

Wednesday, July 27

Operation Barbarossa: War of Annihilation

Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 64-68; docs. 16a, 17a, 18a Roberts, *Victory*, 17-45

Thursday, July 28

Victory at Stalingrad and Kursk

Reading: Roberts, 3-14, 49-136; docs. 1-2

McCauley, Stalinism, 69-75; docs. 16b, 17b, 18b, 19-21

Film clip: "The Citadel

Friday, July 29

Soviet Liberation, Soviet Conquest

Thursday, March 9

Reading: Roberts, 139-194

McCauley, Stalinism, 69-75; docs. 16c, 17b, 18b, 19-21

WEEK FOUR

Monday, August 1

Reconstruction and the Origins of the Cold War

Tuesday, March 22

Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 8-12, 76-88; docs. 22, 25-28

Tuesday, August 2

The Khrushchev Years: Perils of Reform

Reading: McCauley, Khrushchev, 1-51; docs. 1-14

Wednesday, August 3

Khrushchev: On Top of the World

Reading: McCauley, Khrushchev, 52-74; docs. 15-18

Thursday, August 4

Khrushchev's Fall

Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 76-99; docs. 19-20 *Tompson, 1-11

Friday, August 5

Brezhnev Era Foreign Affairs

Reading: *Tompson, 13-63

WEEK FIVE

Monday, August 8

From Growth to Stagnation and Decline

Reading: *Tompson, 64-118

Tuesday, August 9

The Rise of Gorbachev and the Beginnings of Reform

Reading: Marples, 1-29; docs. 1-5

Wednesday, August 10

Foreign Policy and the National Question

Reading: Marples, 39-64; docs. 6, 11-14

Thursday, August 11

The Gorbachev Experiment: Unintended Consequences

Reading: Marples, 29-38, 65-81; docs. 7-10

Friday, August 12

The Death of the Soviet Union

Reading: Marples, 82-110; docs. 15-21
*Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR"

*** Final Exam ***

Monday, August 15, 2-5