

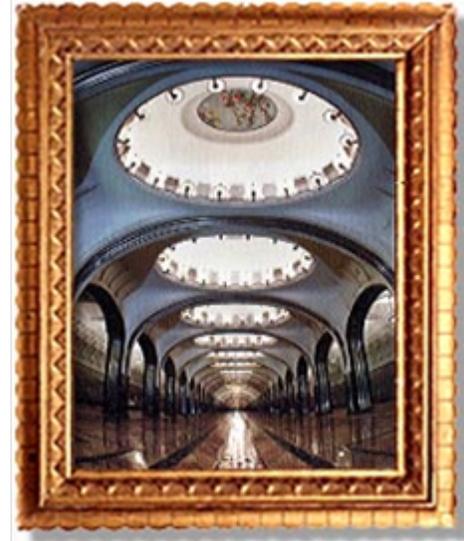
COURSE SYLLABUS

# Russia in the Twentieth Century: History and Culture



**Russian 330**

**Fall 2013**



**Course designations:** Russian (RUS) 330 (unique number: 45606). Cross-listed as:  
Comparative Literature (CL) 323 (unique number: 34043)  
Humanities (HMN) 350 (unique number: 40401)  
Russian and East European Studies (REE) 325 (unique number: 45256)

**Class meetings:** Tuesday, Thursday: 2.00 –3.30 pm  
Benedict 1.106

**Instructor:** Prof. Gilbert Rappaport  
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies  
Personal office: Burdine 460 (mailbox in department office: Burdine 452)  
E-mail: [grapp@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:grapp@mail.utexas.edu)  
Phone: 471-3607

Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 12.30-1.30 and by appointment

**Prerequisites:** None, except for upper-division standing or permission of the instructor.  
Classes and readings are in English; no knowledge of Russian is expected.

**Degree credit:**

- This course satisfies core curriculum requirements for an undergraduate degree with flags for **Writing** and for **Global Cultures**;
- It can count toward the undergraduate major or minor in Russian East European, and Eurasian Studies;
- It can serve as an elective in any undergraduate degree plan;
- Under certain conditions it can count toward the M.A. degree in Russian East European, and Eurasian Studies

### **Goals and content of the course**

This course is a survey of the political, social, and cultural history of the Russian people during the Soviet period, from the revolutionary events of 1917 until the dissolution of the Soviet government and political system in December 1991. We begin by setting the stage with a sketch of Russia before the twentieth century and conclude the course with post-Soviet and contemporary perspectives. The three threads of political, social, and cultural history are viewed as different dimensions of same object of study. Moreover, we include cultural developments grounded in the Russian heritage even as if they developed outside the Soviet Union, in the Russian emigré societies of Europe and America. Cultural history focuses on music, art, poetry, theater, film, philosophy, ideology, popular culture, and even sports, with special attention to those developments best understood in their political and social context. Coursework will consist of lectures, reading and discussion in English.

And what lies ahead for the new Russia we now face? As Winston Churchill said, 'I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.'

**Learning resources.** There is no textbook for the course. There will be numerous handouts, including lecture notes, which should be kept in a loose-leaf binder. Several course packets will be made available over the course of the semester, as announced in class. The class lecture notes effectively constitute the textbook; a preliminary version is distributed in class and a corrected version is posted on Blackboard after the class, if necessary.

### **Useful supplementary sources (not required)**

- Suny, Ronald Grigor. *The Soviet experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the successor states*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford University Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0195340556.
- Riasanovsky, Nicholas and Mark Steinberg. *A history of Russia*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN-13: 978-0195341973.

**Student responsibilities.** You are expected to attend classes regularly, do the assigned readings on time, take careful notes during class, participate actively in class discussions, take all three in-class exams, and do the four writing assignments. This syllabus will be supplemented by a *Block Schedule* overview of the semester and a detailed *Daily Assignment Schedule*, which describes assigned preparation and in-class activities. You should thus be ready for each class meeting with relevant observations and questions.

Regular attendance is essential and expected: absences inevitably affect your course participation grade (if you aren't in class, you can't participate). If you miss a class, it is **your** responsibility to contact your instructor or another student, find out what was covered, and make up the missed work. It is also your responsibility to get any handouts distributed in a class which you do not attend.

**Student evaluation:** Course grades will be assigned by weighting class and homework activities as follows:

Four writing assignments: <sup>1</sup>	50%
Three in-class exams: <sup>2</sup>	40%
Class participation: <sup>3</sup>	10%

<sup>1</sup>The first three **writing assignments** (10% of the course grade each) are to be at least 800 words in length (typically 3-4 pages double-spaced). Topics and guidelines will be distributed in class. The final paper (at least 1600 words, 20% of the course grade) is intended to be a revision and expansion of one of the previous three papers, bringing a broader perspective possible at the end of the course. (A completely new paper is acceptable, but in no way preferable.) The quality of written expression will be an important component in determining the grade on the assignments, and ultimately on the course grade. The assignments are due (as shown on the block schedule) on the following dates.

October 3, Thursday (class 11)

October 31, Thursday (class 19)

November 26, Thursday (class 27)

May 13 (by noon on Friday of the examination period, one week after the end of classes)

A penalty may be assessed for an assignment submitted after the time it is due.

<sup>2</sup>**Exams** will be based on both the class lectures and preparatory reading assignments. We will be covering a considerable amount of factual and conceptual material; it will be made clear, however, what will be required of you for examination purposes. The exams (as shown on the block schedule) are held in class on the following dates:

September 26, Thursday (class 9)

October 29, Tuesday (class 18)

December 5, Thursday (class 28)

In-class exams cannot be rescheduled or delayed, nor can make-up exams be offered.

<sup>3</sup>**Class participation** includes not only attendance, but completing reading assignments on time and taking an active part in class discussion.

The result of these calculations will be on a number on a scale of 0-100. Plus/minus grading will apply. This numerical grade will be converted to a letter grade as follows:

93	≤	A	≤	100	73	≤	C	<	77
90	≤	A-	<	93	70	≤	C-	<	73
87	≤	B+	<	90	68	≤	D+	<	69
83	≤	B	<	87	63	≤	D	<	67
80	≤	B-	<	83	60	≤	D-	<	63
77	≤	C+	<	80			F	<	60

*Attendance policy.* Regular attendance and active participation in class are expected. Your attendance will be recorded by the instructor. You may miss 3 classes (out of the 30 class meetings) without a direct, automatic penalty. Beyond that, each absence without documented and proper justification will result in a penalty of 3 points (out of 100) on your course grade. That is a substantial penalty, so you should make class attendance a high priority.

An Incomplete in the course (grade of X) will be granted only under the direst of circumstances (e.g., an unexpected family or health crisis preventing you from continuing your academic work) and you will be asked to substantiate any such circumstances.

These rules will be strictly observed by your instructor.

## **GENERAL MATTERS**

*Concerns.* If you have any concerns of any kind relating to this course, please communicate them to the instructor. He will make every effort to resolve the issue promptly and fairly.

### *Course policy on electronic devices*

- Please ensure that your cell phone and any other electronic communication devices are **OFF** and **OUT-OF-SIGHT** throughout the class period.
- Laptop computers may be utilized during class, but **EXCLUSIVELY** for purposes related to the activities of the class that day and **ONLY** with the permission of the instructor.
- Failure to observe these courtesies will affect your class participation grade.

### *Scholastic dishonesty*

Students are expected to maintain the standards of academic integrity. At a minimum, this means the following ([http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint\\_student.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php)):

- Acknowledge the contributions of other sources to your scholastic efforts;
- Complete your assignments independently unless expressly authorized to seek or obtain assistance in preparing them;
- Follow instructions for assignments and exams, and observe the standards of your academic discipline; and
- Avoid engaging in any form of scholastic dishonesty on behalf of yourself or another student.

Scholastic dishonesty includes unauthorized collaboration, plagiarism, and multiple submission of the same work. The consequences of scholastic dishonesty can be severe, and may include grade-related penalties (possibly a failing grade), suspension, or even expulsion, from the University. Academic dishonesty violations can be resolved by the individual faculty member through a “faculty disposition” process or be referred to Student Judicial Services (SJS) in the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. For more information on academic integrity and scholastic dishonesty, see the Student Judicial Services website (<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/>).

*Accommodations for disabilities:* Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the *Services for Students with Disabilities* (SSD) area of the *Division of Diversity and Community Engagement* by email ([ssd@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ssd@austin.utexas.edu)), voice phone (471-6259), or video phone (866-329-3986, then 512-232-2937) as soon as possible in the semester to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

- Details of a student’s disability are confidential. Faculty are not informed of a student’s condition or diagnosis when receiving an official accommodation letter. For more information, see the SSD website: <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.
- Please notify me as quickly as possible if the material being presented in class is in any way not accessible to you.

### *Internet*

- In this class we will use *Blackboard* (<https://courses.utexas.edu>), a web-based course Management system with password-protected access, to distribute course materials and information. Help in using Blackboard is available at the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- According to the University policy, it is every student's responsibility to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, including coursework. Certain communications may be time-critical. E-mail should be checked daily, but no less frequently than twice per week. It is further the student's responsibility to keep the University and instructor informed as to changes in e-mail address. The policy, along with instructions for updating your e-mail address in University records, is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

*Religious holidays*

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

*Counseling Services*

Student life can be stressful. You should be aware of the many services offered to all of us in the UT community by the University's *Counseling and Mental Health Center* (CMHC). See their website for further information: <http://cmhc.utexas.edu/>. The CMHC offers a telephone counseling line: 471-2255. <http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/24hourcounseling.html>

*Behavior concerns advice line (BCAL)*

If you are worried about anyone's behavior, especially if it may place others at risk, you are encouraged to use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss this matter by phone. This service is provided through a partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 at any time or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

*Emergency Evacuation*

The *Office of Campus Safety and Security* (512-471-5767; <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>) recommends the following with regard to the emergency evacuation of buildings:

- Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated or an official announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.
- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by one of the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- For more information on emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures, visit <http://www.utexas.edu/emergency>.

**DISCLAIMER**

This syllabus is a good faith statement of the instructor's plans and objectives at the beginning of the semester. The details here are subject to change. Such changes will be communicated in class and in writing by e-mail in a timely fashion.



Let's have a great semester!