HISTORY OF RUSSIA FROM 1917
HIS 343M.39600/ REE 334.45230  UTC 4.112  TTh 12:30-1:45

“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 Revolution; 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. You will gain an appreciation of the almost unimaginable suffering the Soviet people experienced. Many of the readings have been selected with an eye toward introducing you to primary documents and the major historiographic debates in Soviet history. We will also read a memoir and a novel and view film clips and documentary footage.

**Grading:** Three in-class examinations worth one-third each. No make-up exams will be given without prior clearance and a verifiable medical excuse.

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.).

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

For an explanation of academic dishonesty, students should consult the Office of Student Judicial Services at [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/).

**Texts:**
John Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia, 1917.*
Martin McCauley, *Stalin and Stalinism.*
John Scott, *Behind the Urals.*
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon.*
Geoffrey Roberts, *Victory at Stalingrad.*
Martin McCauley, *The Khrushchev Era.*
Robert Strayer, *Why Did the Soviet Union Collapse?*

*Course Packet:* An asterisk next to a reading in the weekly schedule indicates a selection from the Packet. The Packet is available from Paradigm, 407 W. 24th St., 472-7986.
**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

*The outlines for each class will be posted on blackboard so you can bring them to class. Students are expected to attend all lectures. In case of absences it is your responsibility to find out about schedule changes or other information, as well as any readings distributed in class.

*Refrain from leaving the classroom during class. It is distracting both to me and to your fellow students.

**WEEK ONE**

**Introduction: Imperial Russia**
Tuesday, January 18
Film clip: “Why We Fight”

**Opposition to Tsarism**
Thursday, January 20
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 1-9
   *“Petition of Workers and Residents of St. Petersburg”*

**WEEK TWO**

**In War and Revolution**
Tuesday, January 25
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 9-35
   McCauley, *Stalinism*, 13-14
   *Mendel, “The Question Remains Open”*

**The Revolution Moves Leftward**
Thursday, January 27
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 37-110

**WEEK THREE**

**Bolshevik Seizure of Power**
Tuesday, February 1
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 111-157
   McCauley, *Stalinism*, 15-16
   Strayer, *Why*, 21-27
   *Pipes, “Why Did the Bolsheviks Triumph?”*

Film clip: “Reds”
The Civil War
Thursday, February 3
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 158-189
McCauley, *Stalinism*, 5-6, 17-25
*Fitzpatrick, “The Civil War”*

WEEK FOUR
NEP Russia & Stalin’s Path to Power
Tuesday, February 8
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 3-4, 24-35; docs. 1-2
Strayer, *Why*, 27-37

Assault on the Countryside: Collectivization
Thursday, February 10
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 39-41; docs. 3-4, 6, 24
Scott, *Urals*, 95-99, 117-126

WEEK FIVE
Building Socialism: Breakneck Industrialization
Tuesday, February 15
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 41-46, 57-60; docs. 5, 7, 17a, 27
Scott, *Urals*, ix-xxv, 3-51, 63-92, 128-133, 148-150, 164-170, 209-244

Thursday, February 17
*** Exam 1 ***

WEEK SIX
The Stalinist Political Order
Tuesday, February 22
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 46-54, 61-63; docs. 8-15
Koestler, *Darkness*, 1-96

The Great Terror
Thursday, February 24
Reading: Koestler, *Darkness*, 97-167
WEEK SEVEN
The Problem of Confession
Tuesday, March 2
Reading: Koestler, Darkness, 169-272

How War Came
Thursday, March 4
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 54-57
Film clip: “The Darkness Descends”

WEEK EIGHT
The Great Patriotic War: Road to Stalingrad
Tuesday, March 8
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 64-68; docs. 16, 18a
Roberts, Victory, 17-45

The Great Patriotic War: Road to Berlin
Thursday, March 9
Reading: Roberts, Victory, 3-14, 49-210; docs. 1-2
McCauley, Stalinism, 69-75; docs. 17b, 18b, 19-21
Film clips: “The Citadel” and “Fall of Berlin”

*** Spring Break ***

WEEK NINE
Reconstruction and the Origins of the Cold War
Tuesday, March 22
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 76-88; docs. 22, 25, 26

Stalinism Assessed
Thursday, March 24
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 8-12, 91-103
Strayer, Why, 37-44
*Read, “Main Currents of Interpretation”
*Cohen, “Bolshevism and Stalinism”

WEEK TEN
Tuesday, March 29
***Exam 2***
The Khrushchev Years: Perils of Reform
Thursday, March 31
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 1-51; docs. 1-14
Strayer, *Why*, 46-51

WEEK ELEVEN
Khrushchev: On Top of the World
Tuesday, April 5
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 52-74; docs. 15-18

Khrushchev’s Fall
Thursday, April 7
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 76-99; docs. 19-20
* Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 1-11

WEEK TWELVE
Brezhnev Era Foreign Affairs
Tuesday, April 12
Reading: * Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 13-63

From Economic Growth to Stagnation and Decline
Thursday, April 14
Reading: * Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 64-97
Strayer, *Why*, 52-83
*M Millar, “The Little Deal”
*B Bushnell, “New Soviet Man”
*F Feifer, “No Protest: The Case of the Passive Majority”

WEEK THIRTEEN
From Sakharov to Andropov
Tuesday, April 19
Reading: Thompson, *Brezhnev*, 98-118
*H Hosking, “Return of the Repressed”

The Rise of Gorbachev and the Beginnings of Reform
Thursday, April 21
Reading, Strayer, *Why*, 86-106
WEEK FOURTEEN
The Gorbachev Experiment
Tuesday, April 26
Reading, Strayer, Why, 106-130
*Brown, “Gorbachev and Foreign Policy”

Economic Crisis and Social Awakening
Thursday, April 28
Reading, Strayer, Why, 132-171

WEEK FIFTEEN
The Death of the Soviet Empire
Tuesday, May 3
Reading: Strayer, Why, 3-20, 174-205
*Malia, “The Perverse Logic of Utopia”
*Dallin, “Causes of the Collapse of the USSR”
*Rowley, “Interpretations of the End of the Soviet Union”

Thursday, May 5
***Exam 3***