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 Brezhnev* (in the course packet)

*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