HISTORY OF RUSSIA FROM 1917
HIS 343M.39320/REE 335.44665 UTC 4.112 TTh 9:30-11

“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 30% each 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 checking in with the T.A. before the beginning of each class. While regular attendance is the main factor in your class participation grade, 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.
* 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 the T.A. know beforehand.
* No cell phones or texting in the classroom. Use of laptops only in the first two rows.
* 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/.
Texts:
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*: 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.

#Online: Download or Read Online at University of Texas Libraries

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE
**Introduction: Imperial Russia**
Tuesday, January 17

**Opposition to Tsarism**
Thursday, January 19
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 1-9
“Petition of Workers and Residents of St. Petersburg” (Handout)

WEEK TWO
**In War and Revolution**
Tuesday, January 24
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 9-35
McCauley, Stalinism, 13-14
*Mendel, “The Question Remains Open”*

**The Revolution Moves Leftward**
Thursday, January 26
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 37-110
WEEK THREE

**Bolshevik Seizure of Power**

Tuesday, January 31
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 111-157
   McCauley, *Stalinism*, 15-16
   *Suny, “Toward a Social History of the October Revolution”
   *Pipes, “Why Did the Bolsheviks Triumph?”

**The Civil War**

Thursday, February 2
Reading: Thompson, *Revolutionary Russia*, 158-189
   McCauley, *Stalinism*, 5-6, 17-25
   *Raleigh, “The Russian Civil War”

WEEK FOUR

**NEP Russia & Stalin’s Path to Power**

Tuesday, February 7
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 3-4, 24-35; docs. 1-2
   *Ball, “Building a New State and Society”
   #Naimark, “The Making of a Genocidaire”

**Assault on the Countryside: Collectivization**

Thursday, February 9
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 39-41; docs. 3-4, 6, 24
   #Naimark, “Dekulakization” & “The Holodomor”

WEEK FIVE

**Building Socialism: Breakneck Industrialization**

Tuesday, February 14
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 41-46, 57-60; docs. 5, 7, 17a , 27
   *Scott, “Behind the Urals”

Thursday, February 16
*** Exam 1 ***

WEEK SIX

**The Great Terror**

Tuesday, February 21
Reading: McCauley, *Stalinism*, 46-54, 61-63; docs. 8-15
   #Naimark, “The Great Terror”
The Gulag  
Thursday, February 23  
Reading: #Mochulsky, “Gulag Boss,” xv-48

WEEK SEVEN  
The Road to War  
Tuesday, February 28  
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 54-57  
*Kershaw, “Stalin Decides He Knows Best”

Operation Barbarossa  
Thursday, March 1  
Reading: Roberts, Victory, 17-45  
McCauley, Stalinism, 64-66; docs. 16a  
Film clip: “The Darkness Descends”

WEEK EIGHT  
The Great Patriotic War: Battle of Stalingrad  
Tuesday, March 6  
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 64-68; docs. 16a, 17b, 18a  
Roberts, Victory, 3-14, 49-104

The Great Patriotic War: Road to Berlin  
Thursday, March 8  
Reading: Roberts, Victory, 3-14, 49-210; docs. 1-2  
McCauley, Stalinism, 69-75; docs. 16b, 16 c, 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 20  
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 76-88; docs. 22, 25, 26  
*Kennedy-Pipe, “The Cold War and Competition with the US”

Stalinism Assessed  
Thursday, March 22  
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 8-12, 91-103  
*Cohen, “Bolshevism and Stalinism”
WEEK TEN
Tuesday, March 27
***Exam 2***

The Khrushchev Years: Perils of Reform
Thursday, March 29
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 1-30; docs. 1-14
   *Dobson, “Khrushchev’s Cold Summer”

WEEK ELEVEN
Khrushchev: On Top of the World
Tuesday, April 3
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 30-74; docs. 15-18

Khrushchev’s Fall
Thursday, April 5
Reading: McCauley, *Khrushchev*, 76-99; docs. 19-20
   *Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 1-11

WEEK TWELVE
Brezhnev Era Foreign Affairs
Tuesday, April 10
Reading: *Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 13-63

From Economic Growth to Stagnation and Decline
Thursday, April 12
Reading: *Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 64-97
   *Millar, “The Little Deal”
   *Bushnell, “New Soviet Man”
   *Feifer, “No Protest: The Case of the Passive Majority”

WEEK THIRTEEN
From Sakharov to Andropov
Tuesday, April 17
Reading: *Tompson, *Brezhnev*, 98-118
   *Hosking, “Return of the Repressed”

The Rise of Gorbachev and the Beginnings of Reform
Thursday, April 19
Reading: Marples, 1-29; docs. 1-5
WEEK FOURTEEN
Foreign Policy and the National Question
Tuesday, April 24
Reading: Marples, 39-64; docs. 6, 11-14

The Gorbachev Experiment: Unintended Consequences
Thursday, April 26
Reading: Marples, 29-38, 65-81; docs. 7-10

WEEK FIFTEEN
The Death of the Soviet Empire
Tuesday, May 1
Reading: Marples, 82-110; docs. 15-21
  * 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 3
***Exam 3***