“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 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.

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 outline for each lecture 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 to 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 three rows.
* Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.
* Outside of class, check out the History Department website, www.notevenpast.org, which provides dynamic, accessible, short articles on every field of History

Texts:
John Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 1917.
Martin McCauley, Stalin and Stalinism.
Martin McCauley, The Khrushchev Era.
William Thompson, The Soviet Union under Brezhnev (in the course packet).
#Norman Naimark, Stalin’s Genocides.
Richard Overy, Russia’s War.
#Online: Download or Read Online at University of Texas Libraries
*Course Packet: An asterisk next to a reading in the weekly schedule indicates a selection from the Packet. The Packet is available from Paradigm, 2116 Guadalupe St. (inside Austin Textbooks), 472-7986
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

WEEK ONE

Introduction: Imperial Russia
Tuesday, January 15

Opposition to Tsarism
Thursday, January 17
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 1-9
“Petition of Workers and Residents of St. Petersburg” (Handout)

WEEK TWO

In War and Revolution
Tuesday, January 22
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 9-35
McCauley, Stalinism, 13-14
*Mendel, “The Question Remains Open”

The Revolution Moves Leftward
Thursday, January 24
Reading: Thompson, Revolutionary Russia, 37-110

WEEK THREE

Bolshevik Seizure of Power
Tuesday, January 29
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, January 31
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 5
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 3-4, 24-35; docs. 1-2
#Naimark, The Making of a Genocidaire, 30-50
*Ball, “Building a New State and Society”
Assault on the Countryside: Collectivization
Thursday, February 7
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 39-41; docs. 3-4, 6, 24
  #Naimark, “Dekulakization” & “The Holodomor”, 51-79

WEEK FIVE
Building Socialism: Breakneck Industrialization
Tuesday, February 12
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 41-46, 57-60; docs. 5, 7, 17a, 27
  *Scott, “Behind the Urals”

Thursday, February 14
*** Exam 1 ***

WEEK SIX
The Great Terror
Tuesday, February 19
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 46-54, 61-63; docs. 8-15
  #Naimark, “Removing Nations” & “The Great Terror,” 80-120

The Gulag
Thursday, February 21

WEEK SEVEN
The Road to War
Tuesday, February 26
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 54-57
  Overy, “The Hour before Midnight,” 34-72

Operation Barbarossa
Thursday, February 28
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 64-66; docs. 16a
  Overy, “Between Life and Death,” 73-124
Film clip: “The Darkness Descends”

WEEK EIGHT
The Great Patriotic War: Battles of Stalingrad and Kursk
Tuesday, March 5
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 64-68; docs. 16a, 17b, 18a
The Great Patriotic War: Road to Berlin
Thursday, March 7
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 69-75; docs. 16b, 16 c, 18b, 19-21
Overy, “Fall of the Swastika,” 255-289
Film clips: “The Citadel” and “Fall of Berlin”

*** Spring Break***

WEEK NINE
Reconstruction and the Origins of the Cold War
Tuesday, March 19
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 76-88; docs. 22, 25, 26
Overy, “The Cult of Personality,” 290-322

Stalinism Assessed
Thursday, March 21
Reading: McCauley, Stalinism, 8-12, 91-103
*Cohen, “Bolshevism and Stalinism”
Overy, “Epilogue,” 323-330

WEEK TEN
Tuesday, March 26
***Exam 2***

The Khrushchev Years: Perils of Reform
Thursday, March 28
Reading: McCauley, Khrushchev, 1-51; docs. 1-14
*Taubman, “From the Secret Speech to the Hungarian Revolution,” 270-299

WEEK ELEVEN
Khrushchev: On Top of the World
Tuesday, April 2
Reading: McCauley, Khrushchev, 52-75; docs. 15-18

Khrushchev’s Fall
Thursday, April 4
Reading: McCauley, Khrushchev, 76-99; docs. 19-20
*Tompson, Brezhnev, 1-11

WEEK TWELVE
Brezhnev Era Foreign Affairs
Tuesday, April 9
Reading: *Tompson, Brezhnev, 13-63
From Economic Growth to Stagnation and Decline
Thursday, April 11
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 16
Reading: *Tompson, Brezhnev, 98-118
*Hosking, “Return of the Repressed”

The Rise of Gorbachev and the Beginnings of Reform
Thursday, April 18
Reading: Marples, 1-29; docs. 1-5

WEEK FOURTEEN
Foreign Policy and the National Question
Tuesday, April 23
Reading: Marples, 39-64; docs. 6, 11-14

The Gorbachev Experiment: Unintended Consequences
Thursday, April 25
Reading: Marples, 29-38, 65-81; docs. 7-10

WEEK FIFTEEN
The Death of the Soviet Empire
Tuesday, April 30
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 2
***Exam 3***