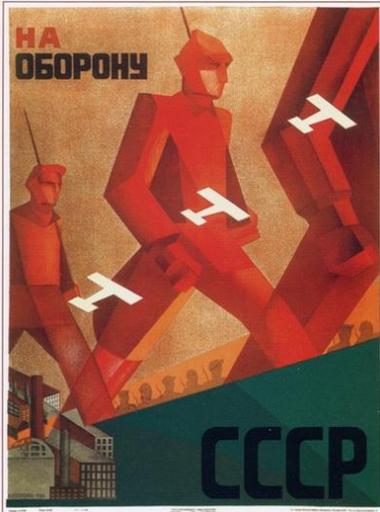
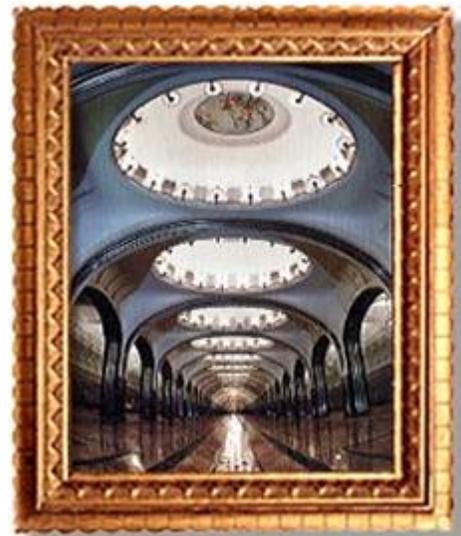


COURSE SYLLABUS

# RUSSIA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY: HISTORY AND CULTURE



**RUSSIAN 330**  
**SPRING 2011**



**Course designations:** Russian (RUS) 330 (unique number: 45570). Cross-listed as:  
Comparative Literature (CL) 323 (unique number: 33990)  
Humanities (HMN) 350 (unique number: 40215)  
Russian and East European Studies (REE) 325 (unique number: 45185)

**Class meetings:** Tuesday, Thursday: 2.00 –3.15 pm  
Parlin 103

**Instructor:** Prof. Gilbert Rappaport  
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies  
Personal office: Calhoun 1 (mailbox in department office: Calhoun 415)  
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.

**Degree credit:** This course has flags for **Writing** and for **Global Cultures**. It can also count toward the major or minor in either Russian or in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. It can also serve as an elective in any degree plan.

## 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 will set the stage with a sketch of Russia before the twentieth century and will conclude with post-Soviet and contemporary perspective. 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.

## 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.

**Accommodations for disabilities.** Any student with a documented disability (physical or cognitive) who requires academic accommodations should contact the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 (voice) or 471-4641 (TTY for users who are deaf or hard of hearing) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations.

## 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/>).

### **Internet**

- In this class we will use *Blackboard*, a web-based course management system with password-protected access at <http://courses.utexas.edu>, 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 is available at <http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

### **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/>. Two particular resources of importance are available **at all times**:

- The CMHC offers a telephone counseling line: 512-471-2255.  
<http://www.cmhc.utexas.edu/24hourcounseling.html>
- If you are concerned about the behavior or well-being of someone else on campus, the Behavior Concerns Advice Line provides a central resource for us to share our concerns: 512-232-5050 or <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal>.

**Problems:** If there are any questions or problems about any aspects of this course, feel free to contact the instructor.

**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.

March 1 (Tuesday in class)

April 5 (Tuesday in class)

April 28 (Thursday in class)

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:

February 10 (Thursday)

March 29 (Tuesday)

May 5 (Thursday)

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

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

**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* will be granted only under the direst of circumstances (e.g., an unexpected family or health crisis preventing you from continuing your academic work). You will be asked to substantiate any such circumstances.

These rules will be strictly observed by your instructor.

#### **IV. 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.



**Block Schedule for the Semester's Work**

Dates	Tuesday	Thursday
Week 1: Jan. 18, 20	<sup>1</sup> Introduction to the course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of course organization</li> <li>• Survey of 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia</li> <li>• Recurring themes to consider</li> </ul>	<sup>2</sup> Background survey of Russia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History and geography</li> <li>• The legacy of three capitals:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kievan Rus</li> <li>○ Moscovy</li> <li>○ Imperial Russia(St. Petersburg)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Week 2: Jan. 25, 27	<sup>3</sup> Political transition to the new order under Lenin: 1914-1918	<sup>4</sup> What is (was?) communism? History, theory and practice
Week 3: Feb. 1, 3	<sup>5</sup> Lenin's rule and the transition to Stalin in control (1918-1928) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civil War</li> <li>• War communism</li> <li>• Russo-Polish War</li> <li>• Introduction of NEP</li> </ul>	<sup>6</sup> Literature of the period: Prose
Week 4: Feb. 8, 10	<sup>7</sup> Classical music of the period Review for exam	<sup>8</sup> <b>In-class exam #1</b>
Week 5: Feb. 15, 17	<sup>9</sup> Literature of the period: Poetry	<sup>10</sup> Soviet silent film (before 1928)
Week 6: Feb. 22, 24	<sup>11</sup> Shostakovich: The early years (to 1936)	<sup>12</sup> Stalinism I (1928-1939) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industrialization (the 5-year plans)</li> <li>• Collectivization</li> <li>• The Terror</li> <li>• Cult of personality</li> </ul>
Week 7: Mar. 1, 3	<sup>13</sup> Cultural life under siege. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The birth of 'socialist realism'</li> <li>• The campaign against 'formalism'</li> </ul> <b>Writing assignment #1 due</b>	<sup>14</sup> Later films about the Stalinist period: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Repentance'</li> <li>• 'Burnt by the Sun'</li> </ul>
Week 8: Mar. 8, 10	<sup>15</sup> Shostakovich and the new cultural order: 1936-37	<sup>16</sup> Culture as resistance: 1930's <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Akhmatova's 'Requiem'</li> </ul>

*Spring Break*

<p>Week 9: Mar. 22, 24</p>	<p><sup>17</sup> World War II-A</p>	<p><sup>18</sup> World War II-B Review for the exam</p>
<p>Week 10: Mar. 29, 31</p>	<p><sup>19</sup> <b>In-class exam #2</b></p>	<p><sup>20</sup> Stalinism II (1945-1953)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zhdanovshchina</li> <li>• Plots and paranoia</li> <li>• Eastern Europe 'joins' the Empire</li> </ul>
<p>Week 11: Apr. 5, 7</p>	<p><sup>21</sup> Khrushchev:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress (1956)</li> <li>• The Thaw (to 1964)</li> </ul> <p><b>Writing assignment #2 due</b></p>	<p><sup>22</sup> War movies and the canon of Socialist Realism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Cranes are Flying' (1957)</li> <li>• 'Ballad of a Soldier' (1959)</li> </ul>
<p>Week 12: Apr. 12, 14</p>	<p><sup>23</sup> Solzhenicyn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich' (1962)</li> </ul>	<p><sup>24</sup> The poet Joseph Brodsky</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brezhnev's cultural policy</li> </ul>
<p>Week 13: Apr. 19, 21</p>	<p><sup>25</sup> Shostakovich and the Thaw</p>	<p><sup>26</sup> Leonid Brezhnev (1964-1982)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal 'stagnation'</li> <li>• The 'Brezhnev' doctrine</li> <li>• Detente with the West</li> <li>• Emigration in the 1970's</li> </ul>
<p>Week 14: Apr. 26, 28</p>	<p><sup>27</sup> The Russian bards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vysotsky</li> </ul>	<p><sup>28</sup> The end (1985-1991)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gorbachev's reforms             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Glasnost'</li> <li>◦ Perestroika</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The dissolution of the USSR</li> </ul> <p><b>Writing assignment #3 due</b></p>
<p>Week 15: May 3, 5</p>	<p><sup>29</sup> Course review</p>	<p><sup>30</sup> <b>In-class exam #3</b></p>