

HIS 342: 20th Century Russia/Soviet Union Spring 2019

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Office Hours: Generally, between 2:30 and 5:00, M-F.

Course Description

This is part two of a two semester survey of Russian history from the ninth century to the present. (Note that the first semester, while useful, is not a prerequisite for this course). In this semester we will examine the history of Russia and the Soviet Union from 1900 to the present. Topics covered include the demise of the Romanov dynasty, the October Revolution and the rise of Communism, the reign of terror under Stalin, the Cold War, the long decline and eventual collapse of the Soviet system, and the post-Soviet world of Russia and other successor states. We will be reminded throughout this course that the area we commonly call Russia is made up of many non-Russian peoples, for whom the last few decades represent a period of increased nationalist sentiment.

Course Outcomes

Successful completion of this course should give you a basic background knowledge of the issues and events which shaped the course of Russian and Soviet history in the 20th century. Since the USSR was such a major player on the world scene in this century, you should also gain a deeper understanding of global history during this same time period. In addition, you will be introduced to some of the key areas where scholars have yet to reach consensus in their interpretations of historical events and given some (limited) ability to evaluate these controversial subjects for yourself. Also, by means of an extensive historiographical research project, you will gain better understanding of how historical argumentation is formulated, and at the same time sharpen your own analytical skills.

Texts

The following required texts are available for purchase in the bookstore:

Smith, S.A. *Russia in Revolution: An Empire in Crisis, 1890-1928*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Ward, Chris. *Stalin's Russia*. Second Edition. London: Arnold, 1999.

Applebaum, Anne, ed. *Gulag Voices: An Anthology*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2011.

Petrone, Karen, and Kenneth Slepyan, eds. *The Soviet Union and Russia, 1939-2015: A History in Documents*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Alexievich, Svetlana. *Voices from Chernobyl: The Oral History of a Nuclear Disaster*.

Translated by Keith Gessen. New York: Picador, 2006.

Assignments and Expectations

1. Regular class attendance and active participation in discussions is essential for your success in this course. Poor attendance or obvious lack of preparation will adversely affect your grade. Note that you should complete the reading assignments as indicated on the course calendar before coming to class, and be prepared to discuss them.
2. Numerous quizzes and reflections will be given to assist you in your textbook reading, as well as to cover basic names, dates, events, etc. In addition, you will complete two short (4 page) reflection papers on the Appelbaum and Alexievich books.
3. A mid-term and a final examination will be given. Both of these will consist of a mix of essay questions, short answers, etc.
4. You will complete a 10-12 page book review/historiographical research paper on a topic we mutually agree upon. More information on this project, which will involve several steps, will be found on a separate handout.
5. Your grade will be calculated approximately as follows:

Attendance, participation	--10%
Quizzes/Reflections/Short Papers	--15%
Mid-term	--25%
Final Exam	--25%
Book Review Project	--20%
The Mother of all Map Tests	--5%

Course Calendar

(Note: This is subject to change! You are responsible for any changes announced in class.)

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>	
T	JAN	8	Course Introduction	None Assigned
W		9	Russia in Revolution	Smith, 1-8; 374-393
F		11	Roots of Revolution	Smith, 9-34
M		14	Prelude to Revolution	Smith, 34-47
W		16	1905 Revolution	Smith, 47-59
F		18	The Stolypin Era	Smith, 60-80
M		21	NO CLASS	
W		23	World War I	Smith, 80-100
F		25	February Revolution	Smith, 101-124; Map Test
M		28	The October Revolution	Smith, 124-151
W		30	Civil War & Bolshevik Power	Smith, 152-183
F	FEB	1	<i>cont.</i>	Smith, 183-216
M		4	War Communism	Smith, 217-242
W		6	<i>cont.</i>	Smith, 242-262
F		8	N.E.P: Politics & Economy	Smith, 263-291

M		11	<i>cont.</i>	Smith, 291-312
W		13	N.E.P.: Society & Culture	Smith, 313-345
F		15	<i>cont.</i>	Smith, 345-373
M		18	Stalin's Russia: Intro	Ward, 1-38
W		20	Industrialization	Ward, 39-72
F		22	Collectivization	Ward, 73-105
M		25	Purges & Politics	Ward, 106-147
W		27	Catch-up & Review (?)	
F	MAR	1	Mid-Term Examination	
“Spring Break”--No Class—READ <i>Gulag Voices!</i>				
M		11	World War II/Great Patriotic War	Ward, 148-188; Documents 1
W		13	<i>cont.</i>	Ward, 189-227
F		15	Stalin's Final Years and legacy	Ward, 228-268; Documents 2
M		18	The Gulag Experience	Applebaum
W		20	Khrushchev & De-Stalinization	Documents, chapter 3
F		22	<i>cont.</i>	
M		25	Beginning of Cold War	
W		27		[Start reading Alexievich]
F		29	Brezhnev and Stabilization	Documents, chapter 4
M	APR	1	<i>cont.</i>	
W		3	Stagnation & Gerontocracy	
F		5	Gorbachev Era & Reform	Documents, chapter 5
M		8	<i>cont.</i>	Alexievich
W		10	Collapse of the USSR	Documents, chapter 7
F		12	Yeltsin and “Russian Devolution”	
M		15	<i>cont.</i>	
W		17	Putin and Russia?	Documents, chapter 8
F		19	NO CLASS—EASTER BREAK	
M		22	NO CLASS—EASTER BREAK	
W		24	<i>cont.</i>	
F		26	Conclusions/Review/Catch-up	

Final Examination: Friday, May 3, 7:30-10:00

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To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

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If you have a diagnosed disability, please contact PLNU's Disability Resource Center (DRC) within the first two weeks of class to demonstrate need and to register for accommodation by phone at 619-849-2486 or by e-mail at DRC@pointloma.edu. See [Disability Resource Center](#) for additional information.

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