

# **HIS 378: Russia Since 1900**

**Fall 2011**

**Monday & Wednesday 3:30-4:45pm**

**Bryon Building: Room 205**

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## **Contact Information**

**Instructor:** Therese M. Strohmer  
**Office:** MHRA 2112  
**Office Hours:** Mon & Wednesday 1-3 and by appointment  
**E-mail:** tmstrohm@uncg.edu

## **Course Description**

This course will engage the student in the major historical issues and debates of Twentieth Century Russian/Soviet History. It begins with the economic, social and political problems of the late Russian empire that led to the collapse of the tsarist regime. Our examination of how a new Soviet Union emerged out of the ashes of this collapsed empire is a complex study in contradictions that were based on hopes and fears of its people. We will examine the 1905 uprisings, Bloody Sunday, World War I, the Russian Civil War, Stalin's rise to power and influence on the economic, cultural and political transformation of Russian society. Students will develop an appreciation for not only the "Revolution from Above," but understand the perspective of the workers and peasants whose lives were affected by Stalinist policies. Students will also develop an appreciation for the cultural diversity of the Russian/Soviet people and understand how the state and its people shaped each other and the Soviet system. This course will also examine the nationalities policies, collectivization, industrialization, gender issues, the Second World War, Khrushchev Destalinization, Brezhnev and the Cold War, the Gorbachev 'Glasnost' years, and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

## **Teaching Strategies**

This course will involve lectures, films and groups discussions. There will be an emphasis on group exercises and active participation to enhance critical thinking skills. Students will take part in small group activities on a weekly basis to help facilitate a learning community.

## REQUIRED Textbooks & Course Materials

(Available at UNCG Bookstore, and Amazon)

- ❖ Suny, Ronald Grigor, ed. *The Structure of Soviet History: Essays and Documents*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- ❖ Smith, S.A. *The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- ❖ Gheith, Jehanne M. and Katherine R. Jolluck. *Gulag Voices: Oral Histories of Soviet Incarceration and Exile* (Palgrave Studies in Oral History) Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- ❖ Hellbeck, Jochen. *Revolution on My Mind: Writing a Diary Under Stalin*. Harvard University Press, 2006.
- ❖ <http://www.soviethistory.org/> [Selected readings] and Assigned E-Reserve Readings on Blackboard and handouts

## OPTIONAL Textbooks

- Suny, Ronald Grigor. *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR and the Successor States*, 2nd Edition. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.
- Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 2007

## Course Learning Objectives

**Learning Objectives** --- By the end of the Course, students will be able to:

**Research:** Demonstrate knowledge of historical methods by locating, evaluating and differentiating between primary and secondary source material from a variety of sources.

**Teamwork:** Support a positive team climate by contributing constructively to weekly historical themes within a defined group.

**Analysis:** Identify a historical issue or theme based on your evaluation of an assigned book and make an argument using evidence to support your interpretation.

**Interpretation:** Analyze an historical problem or debate by working and participating cooperatively with a team to form a thoughtful and informed interpretation of the past by preparing a group presentation.

**Comprehension:** Discuss twentieth century Russian and Soviet historical issues, problems and major debates.

You will meet the objectives listed above through a combination of the following activities in this course:

- ✓ Attend Class and be actively engaged in class discussions.
- ✓ Complete all readings and assignments and be prepared to analyze and discuss the material.
- ✓ Complete all assignments on time.

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## Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance (5%)**: Students are required to complete the assigned readings before class and come prepared to discuss them. Print out all documents that are not in the reader and bring to class. **Laptops are not acceptable for viewing documents.** Class participation will be structured to give everyone the opportunity to participate and contribute. Excellence in class participation will be taken into consideration when determining the final grade. Attendance is essential and mandatory to participate.
2. **Group Exercises (15%)**: Each Unit will provide team exercises that facilitate sharing of ideas and collaborative learning. Each team will work together to complete a worksheet for these exercises.
3. **Exams (20% each)**: There will be a Mid-term and Final Exam.
4. **Group Presentation (15%)**: Each team will select (or be assigned) a historical topic or debate. The team will research and collectively analyze primary and secondary material related to this topic. You will work together to complete a worksheet on specific questions about the documents and present an oral presentation to the class on your findings. Each individual will complete a précis on a singular aspect of the chosen topic as part of the assignment.
5. **Analysis Paper (15%)**: Select one of two books for analysis for this course (*Gulag Voices: Oral Histories of Soviet Incarceration and Exile* or *Revolution on My Mind: Writing a Diary Under Stalin*). Detailed Instructions will be provided on blackboard for this assignment. Important note--Both books are required reading, only one book will require a paper to be turned in as an assignment.
6. **Film Analysis (10%)**: Select one movie from a separate handout and prepare a reaction essay that identifies and evaluates the historical themes relevant to our course. Specific instructions will be provided in detail on blackboard.

## Summary of Grades

Points	Description	Due Date	
5	<b>1. Attendance</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	
15	<b>2. Group Exercises</b>	<b>Various</b>	
40	<b>3. Exams (2 total)</b>		
	Mid Term	20 points	September 26
	Final Exam	20 points	December 9
15	<b>4. Group Presentation</b>		
	Individual	5 points	To Be Determined
	Group	10 Points	To Be Determined
15	<b>5. Film Analysis</b>	October 19 <sup>th</sup>	
10	<b>6. Book Analysis</b>	November 16	
<b>100</b>	<b>Total Points Possible</b>		

## Topic Outline/Course Schedule

**Important Note:** Refer to the course calendar on Blackboard for specific meeting dates and times. Specific reading requirements, assignment details and other information will be explained in detail on the Course Schedule available on blackboard.

**Important Note:** This syllabus, along with course assignments and due dates, are subject to change. It is the student's responsibility to check their UNCG email and Blackboard for corrections or updates to the syllabus. Any changes will be clearly noted in course announcement or through email.

Week 1	August 22 August 24	<b>Introduction</b> Russia Enters the 20 <sup>th</sup> Century Reform and Modernization	<i>Movie: Russia's Last Tsar</i>  [Begin Reading: Revolution on My Mind: Writing a Diary Under Stalin]
Week 2	August 29 August 31	<b>Death of an Empire</b> 1905 War, Bloody Sunday  World War I	Lecture, Film and Group Worksheet
Week 3	Sept 5 <sup>th</sup> (no Class)  Sept. 7	<b>Revolutionary Passion</b>  February and Provisional Government	Lecture
Week 4	September 12 September 14	<b>Bolsheviks and Civil War</b> October and Bolsheviks seize power  Civil War	Lecture and Group Worksheets
Week 5	September 19 September 21	<b>USSR Emerges</b>  NEP  Nationalities	Lecture
Week 6	September 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>MID TERM EXAM</b>	<b>MID TERM EXAM September 26<sup>th</sup></b>
	September 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Power Struggle and Rise of Stalin</b>	Lecture  [Begin Reading: Gulag Voices: Oral Histories of Soviet Incarceration and Exile]
Week 7	October 3 October 5	<b>Stalin</b>  Collectivization  Industrialization	Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>
Week 8	October 10 <sup>th</sup> (No Class)  October 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Stalin</b>  Terror and Purges	Mini-Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>

Week 9	October 17 October 19	<b>Stalin</b> Daily Life and Resistance Cultural Wars	Mini-Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>  <b>Film Analysis Due</b>
Week 10	October 24 October 26	<b>Great Patriotic War</b>	Mini Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>
Week 11	October 31 November 2	<b>The Cold War</b>	Mini-Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>
Week 12	November 7 November 9	<b>Gender and Culture</b>	Lecture and <b>Group Presentations</b>
Week 13	November 14 November 16	<b>Post Stalinism</b> Khrushchev Brezhnev	Lecture and Group Worksheets  <b>PAPER ANALYSIS DUE</b>
Week 14	November 21 November 23 (No class)	<b>The Rise of Gorbachev</b> Perestroika and Glasnost	Lecture and Group Worksheets
Week 15	November 28 November 30	<b>Collapse of USSR</b> Dissent Yelsin	Lecture and Group Worksheets
Week 16	December 5	<b>Modern Russia</b>	Lecture
FINAL EXAM	December 9	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<a href="http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/exam_Cal/Fall.html">http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/exam_Cal/Fall.html</a>

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## Grading Policy

### Letter Grade Assignment

Final grades assigned for this course will be based on the percentage of total points earned and are assigned as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Performance</b>
A+	97-100	Excellent Work
A	93-96%	Nearly Excellent Work
A-	90-92%	Superior Work
B+	87-89%	Very Good Work
B	83-86%	Good Work
B-	80-82%	Mostly Good Work
C+	77-79%	Above Average Work
C	73-76%	Average Work
C-	70-72%	Mostly Average Work
D+	67-69%	Below Average Work
D	60-66%	Poor Work
F	0-59%	Failing Work

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## Course Policies

### Participation and Attendance

Attendance is mandatory and roll will be taken every class period. This class requires group exercises and interactive assignments during the class period and all students are expected to participate in all activities as listed on the course calendar. More than two unexcused absences will affect your grade. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor to make up any material missed due to an absence.

## Communication

Students are responsible for checking Blackboard and UNCG email on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to utilize email to contact the instructor at [tmstrohm@uncg.edu](mailto:tmstrohm@uncg.edu). Students should allow at least 24 hours for a response and up to 48 hours on weekends.

## Late Assignments

Late assignments will not be accepted without a penalty unless previous arrangements have been arranged with the instructor. There will be a 1/3 drop in grade for each day that the assignment is past the due date. (A grade of B will drop to a grade of B- and so on).

## Class Citizenship

- Turn off all Electronic devices and put them out of sight. Cellphone texting or talking and laptop surfing is disruptive.
- Inappropriate behavior such as arriving late to class, leaving early, sleeping, and making side conversations will not be tolerated and you may be asked to leave class resulting in an unexcused absence.
- Be respectful of views that differ from your own.
- Listen and debate courteously.

## Commit to Integrity

As a student in this course (and at this university), you are expected to maintain high degrees of professionalism, commitment to active learning and participation, and integrity in your behavior in and out of the classroom. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. *Plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source.*

Please review the UNCG policy at <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/> for more information.

<p><b>Important Note:</b> Any form of academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, may be reported to the office of student affairs.</p>
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