

HIS 378: Russia Since 1900

Spring 2013

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00-11:50 am

MHRA Room 2211

Contact Information

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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*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
- ❖ Merridale, Catherine. *Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2006.
- ❖ <http://www.soviethistory.org/> [Selected readings] and Assigned E-Reserve Readings on Blackboard and handouts

OPTIONAL Textbooks

- *Russia in the Twentieth Century: The Quest for Stability*. David R. Maples. Harlow, U.K., Longman, 2011.
- Rampolla, Mary Lynn. *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 5th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin, 2007

Course Learning Objectives

Learning Goals (LG) --- By the end of the Course, students will be able to:

Comprehension (LG1): Analyze historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures in a wide variety of places and periods.

Analysis (LG2): Use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.

Research (LG3): Demonstrate knowledge of historical research methods by locating, investigating, evaluating, interpreting and differentiating between primary and secondary source materials from a variety of sources.

Interpretation (LG4): Use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing. 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

Teamwork (LG5): Support a positive team climate by contributing constructively to weekly historical themes within a defined group.

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.

Course Requirements

1. **Participation and Attendance (10%)**: 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 or hand held devices 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/Quizzes (10%)** : 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. There will also be unannounced individual quizzes. There will be no makeup for missed quizzes.
3. **Exams (20% each)**: There will be a Mid-term and Final Exam.
4. **Group Presentation (20%)**: 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 an essay on a singular issue of the chosen topic as part of the assignment.
5. **Analysis Paper (15%)**: Identify historical issue or theme based on your evaluation of an assigned book and make an argument using evidence to support your interpretation. Select one of two books for analysis for this course (*Gulag Voices: Oral Histories of Soviet Incarceration and Exile* or *Ivan's War.*) Both books are required reading, however, only one book will require a paper to be turned in as an assignment. Detailed Instructions will be provided on blackboard for this assignment.
6. **Film Analysis (5%)**: 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	
10	1. Attendance	Weekly	
10	2. Group Exercises & Quizzes	Various	
40	3. Exams (2 total)		
	Mid Term	20 points	February 15 th
	Final Exam	20 points	May 8 th
20	4. Group Presentation		
	Individual	10 points	To Be Determined
	Group	10 Points	To Be Determined
5	5. Film Analysis	March 18 th	
15	6. Book Analysis	April 12 th	
100	Total Points Possible		

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 schedule and assignment 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 Introduction: Russian Empire & Reform		
January 14	Introduction	<i>Lecture</i>
January 16	Economic, Social, Political Conditions	<i>Mini-Lecture & Group Worksheets</i>
January 18	Reform & The Last Tsar	<i>Mini-Lecture & Movie: The Last Tsar</i>
Week 2 Death of An Empire		
January 21	MLK Jr. Holiday	No Class
January 23	1905 Revolution	<i>Mini- Lecture & Movie</i>
January 25	World War I	<i>Lecture</i>
Week 3 Revolutionary Passion		
January 28	February Revolution	<i>Lecture</i>
January 30	October Revolution	<i>Lecture</i>
February 1	Bolsheviks	<i>Mini-Lecture & Group Worksheets</i> <i>Begin Reading: Gulag Voices</i>
Week 4 Civil War and NEP		
February 4	War Communism & Red Terror	<i>Lecture</i> DECIDE ON GROUP PROJECT THEME
February 6	Resistance to Bolsheviks	<i>Mini-Lecture and Worksheets</i>
February 8	NEP	<i>Lecture</i>
Week 5 USSR Emerges		

February 11	Constructing a Soviet People	<i>Lecture</i>
February 13	Soviet Culture	<i>Lecture</i>
February 15	MID TERM EXAM	<i>MID TERM EXAM</i>
Week 6 Stalin's Rise to Power		
February 18	Power Struggle	<i>Lecture</i>
February 20	Collectivization	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
February 22	Industrialization	<i>Lecture & Group Worksheet</i>
Week 7 Terror and Purges		
February 25	Terror	<i>Lecture</i>
February 27	Purges	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
March 1	Gulag	<i>Mini-Lecture and Discussion</i>
Week 8 Daily Life and Resistance		
March 4	Children in the USSR	<i>Lecture Begin Reading: Ivan's War</i>
March 6	Culture and Everyday Life	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
March 8	Resistance	<i>Lecture & Group Worksheet</i>
Week 9 Spring Break/No Class		

March 11-15	Spring Break Week	No Class
Week 10 Great Patriotic War		
March 18	World War II	<i>Lecture Film Analysis Due</i>
March 20	The Soldiers Experience	<i>Mini-Lecture & Group Discussion</i>
March 22	The Homefront/Reconstruction	<i>Lecture & Group Presentation</i>
Week 11 The Cold War: Politics		
March 25	The Cold War Emerges	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
March 27	Foreign Policy	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
March 29	Spring Holiday	No Class
Week 12 Culture: Gender and Resistance		
April 1	Culture and Stalin	<i>Lecture</i>
April 3	Hopes and Fears	<i>Lecture & Group Worksheet</i>
April 5	Gender	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
Week 13 Post Stalinism		
April 8	Death of Stalin & The Thaw	<i>Lecture</i>
April 10	Khrushchev	<i>Lecture & Group Presentation</i>
April 12	Stability or Stagnation	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations Book Analysis Due</i>

Week 14 The Rise of Gorbachev		
April 15	Perestroika	<i>Lecture & Group Presentations</i>
April 17	Glasnost	<i>Lecture & Group Worksheet</i>
April 19	Nationalism	<i>Lecture</i>
Week 15 Collapse of The Soviet Union/Putin		
April 22	Yelsin	<i>Lecture</i>
April 24	Collapse	<i>Lecture & Group Worksheet</i>
April 26	Putin	<i>Lecture</i>
Week 16 Modern Russia/Final Thoughts		
April 30	Modern Russia	<i>Lecture</i>
Week 17 Final Exam		
May 8	Final Exam	
8:00am-11:00am	http://www.uncg.edu/reg/Calendar/examCal/Sp13.html	

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:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Performance
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

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. **Excessive absences will affect your final grade. More than two unexcused absences will result in a 3 point reduction in your final grade for each instance over two.** (*Example: your final points equal 85 or B, and you have 4 unexcused absences. Your final grade will be reduced by 6 points to 79 or a C+.*) Students are responsible to complete on all work on time, which includes assignments due on days in which they were absent.

Communication

Students are responsible to check Blackboard and UNCG email on a regular basis for important announcements, assignment updates, and changes to the course Schedule or syllabus. Students are encouraged to utilize email to contact the instructor at tmstrohm@uncg.edu and should allow at least 24 hours for a response and up to 48 hours on weekends.

Late Assignments

All course requirements must be completed to receive a grade for the class. 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

- Laptops, Tablets and Netbooks can be used for note-taking, but you must turn off all electronic devices that are not being used to take notes and put them out of sight. 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.
- Do not pack up bags to leave until class is completed
- 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.*

For More information, Please review the UNCG policy at:
<http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

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