HISTORY 1280


Professor Terry Martin

Emerson 101
Tues./Thurs. 10-11

Office Hrs. Thurs. 12-1
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Course Description

This course analyzes the history of the Soviet Union from its establishment after the October revolution of 1917 to its collapse in 1991 after the failed reforms of Mikhail Gorbachev. There will be two hours of lectures a week and an hour of discussion. The lectures will address some of the following issues: revolutionary class politics, the role of terror, nationalism and ethnic relations, everyday social practices, the experience of total war, the Cold war, the rise of political dissent, gender, and the causes of the collapse of the Soviet Union. The discussion will be based on the reading of primary sources designed to give the students a sense of what it was like to live in the Soviet Union. We will read two novellas, three memoirs by Soviet émigrés, as well as numerous autobiographies of Soviet citizens, three accounts by western journalists, confidential documents on the Cold War, and a selection of propaganda, poems, songs and jokes. The goal will be to give the student an understanding of how the Soviet system worked (and failed to work) as a society, culture and state.

Undergraduate Requirements

Section Participation 10%       Regular participation in section.
Take-Home Midterm 20%           Distributed October 9th. Due October 14th. Two short essays on lectures and assigned readings.
Term Paper 35%                  Due Dec. 8th. 10-12 page paper on topic of student's choice. A bibliography of English-language primary sources is available on the course web site.
Final Exam 35%                  Standard 3 hour final.

Graduate Requirements

Take-Home Midterm 20%           Handed out October 9th. Due October 14th. Two short essays on lectures and assigned readings.
Research Paper 80%              Due Dec. 15th. 15-20 page research paper.
Schedule of Readings

Week 1 (Sept. 2-4)  No section

Week 2 (Sept. 9-11)  Dune, *Notes of a Red Guard*
Von Geldern and Stites, 3-32.
Suny, chaps. 1-4

Week 3 (Sept. 16-18)  Dolot, *Execution by Hunger*
VGS, 142, 148-56.
Suny, chaps. 7,9

Week 4 (Sept. 23-25)  Scott, *Behind the Urals*
VGS, 128-38, 156-63, 172-81, 212-13
Suny, chaps. 8,10

Week 5 (Sept. 30-2)  Andreev-Khomiakov, *Bitter Waters*
Suny, chaps. 12

Week 6 (Oct. 7-9)  Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*
VGS, 298-302, 315-21, 325-27, 328-30
Suny, chap. 11

Week 7 (Oct. 14-16)  WWII sources, web site
Jensen, *Origins of the Cold War*
Suny, chaps. 13-16

Week 8 (Oct. 21-23)  Alexeyeva, *The Thaw Generation*
VGS, 450-89
Suny, chaps. 17-18

Week 9 (Oct. 28-30)  Spufford, *Red Plenty*

Week 10 (Nov. 4-6)  Baranskaya, *A Week Like any Other*, 1-62
Suny, chap. 19

Suny, chap. 20

Week 12 (Nov. 18-20)Gorbachev sources, web site.
Suny, chap. 21

Week 13 (Nov. 25)  No readings - Thanksgiving

Week 14 (Dec. 2)  Review. Conclusions.
Books Available at the Coop and on Reserve at Lamont

Alexeyeva, Ludmilla and Goldberg, Paul. *The Thaw Generation. Coming of Age in the Post-Stalin Era*

Andreev-Khomiakov, Gennady *Bitter Waters. Life and Work in Stalin's Russia* (*also available online through the Hollis catalog*)

Baranskaya, Natalya, *A Week Like Any Other*

Chukovskaya, Lydia. *Sofia Petrovna*

Dolot, Miron. *Execution by Hunger. The Hidden Holocaust*

Dune, Eduard, *Notes of a Red Guard*

Jensen, Kenneth ed., *The Origins of the Cold War*

Scott, John. *Behind the Urals. An American Worker in Russia’s City of Steel*

Spufford, Francis. *Red Plenty*

Suny, Ronald. *The Soviet Experiment. Russia, The USSR and the Successor States*

Books and Articles on the iSite

Smith, Hedrick, *The Russians*


Teaching Fellow

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