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SUMMER I, 2004
M, Th, W, T, 2:00-4:00
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History of the Soviet Union

Course description:

This course covers the history and politics of modern Russia and the Soviet Union. The various eras of Soviet history will be treated and analyzed. The Soviet system and its different elements will be studied: economic, social and cultural. The development of the system and then the different phases leading to its dissolution will be analyzed. The major trends in Soviet Communist ideology will be analyzed together with Stalinism. Sovietization of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Bloc will be examined. Major political and scholarly interpretations of the Soviet system will be considered. Specific case studies will be analyzed. The class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of the Soviet Union and its realities in terms of history, culture, politics, and the Soviet system. Priority is given to conceptualization of different phenomena and their historical development. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of the Soviet Union and beyond.

Required readings:

Dziewanowski M. K., *A History of Soviet Russia and Its Aftermath*.

or

Mac Kenzie D., Curran M. W., *A History of Russia, the Soviet Union, and Beyond*.

Recommended readings:

Motyl A., *Sovietology, Rationality, Nationality*.

Allworth E., *Soviet Nationality Problems*.

Riasanovsky N. V., *A History of Russia*.

Bremmer I., Taras R., *Nations and Politics in the Soviet Successor States*.

General readings:

Shaw W., Pryce D., *Encyclopedia of the USSR. 1905 to the Present, Lenin to Gorbachev*.

Schopflin G. (Ed.), *The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. A Handbook*.

Brown A., Fennell J., Kaser M., Willetts H. T., *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Russia and the Soviet Union*.

Shukman H., *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Russian Revolution*.

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

Dr. Zivago, The Inner circle, Burnt by the sun.

Journals:

Soviet Studies, Slavic Review, Russian Review, Russian History, Soviet Studies in History, Harvard Ukrainian Studies, Canadian Slavic Studies, East European Quarterly, Nationalities Papers, Current History.

Data bases:

Historical Abstracts. Social Sciences Abstracts. Sociological Abstracts. UNBIS-United Nations, Economist.

Internet sites:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/commonwealth.html>

<http://www.cia.gov/csi/books/princeton>

<http://www.marxists.org/history/ussr>

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/frd/cs/sutoc.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/1112551.stm>

<http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/chrono3.html>

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/his/webcours/russia/documents>

Program:

<u>Unit 1</u> (May 24)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions.	
<u>Unit 2</u> (May 25)	The Russian Empire on the Eve of the Revolution. The 1905 Revolution.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 3</u> (May 26)	Russian terrorism, Anarchism, Marxism, Communism, Leninism.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 4</u> (May 27)	Revolution of 1917. Bolsheviks and Mensheviks. Lenin. End of Autocracy. Communists in Power.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 5</u> (May 31)	The Civil War. War Communism. The Kronstadt Revolt of 1921.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 6</u> (June 1)	The Comintern. New Economic Policy.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 7</u> (June 2)	The Formation of the Soviet Union. Federalism versus Centralism.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 8</u> (June 3)	After Lenin. The Stalin -Trotsky Struggle. Socialism in One Country.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 9</u> (June 7)	Industrialization. The Economic Debate. Bukharin. The Left's Opposition. The Five-Year Plans.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 10</u> (June 8)	*PORTFOLIO	
<u>Unit 11</u> (June 9)	*MIDTERM EXAM	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 12</u> (June 10)	The Purges. The Kirov Affair. The Reshaping of the Party. Stalinism.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 13</u> (June 14)	Soviet Life in the 1930s. Socialist Realism. Soviet Culture.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 14</u> (June 15)	Prelude to WW II. The Nazi – Soviet Pact. "The Great Patriotic War".	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 15</u> (June 16)	The Post-war reconstruction. Sovietization of Eastern Europe. The Crisis of the Stalin System.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 16</u> (June 17)	Khrushchev. The Twentieth Party Congress. Reforms. The Soviet Bloc.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 17</u> (June 21)	Brezhnev. The Dissident Movement. Eastern Central Europe. The Third World.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 18</u> (June 22)	Gorbachev. Glasnost and Perestroika. The End of Soviet Union. The post-Soviet Union. Nations and Nationalities.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 19</u> (June 23)	*FINAL PAPER, *PORTFOLIO	
<u>Unit 20</u> (June 24)	*FINAL EXAM	

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).

A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).

A Presentation (for extra credit).

Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exam has two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one theme out of three proposed, and will write a well organized essay. The second part of the exam is made of ten terms to be concisely identified.

Final paper: The final paper (three to five typed pages) will be on any topic of student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be focused and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. An individual written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Final paper format:

Cover page:

title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages:

a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 20%; final exam, 20%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 30%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it

Announcements: