Fall 2008  Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays  9:40-10:30 a.m.  220 Stubbs Hall

Instructor
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“Russia is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” - Winston Churchill

Course Overview:
Why was Russia susceptible to communism? What are the origins of Russian communism? What are the legacies of the Soviet leaders - Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and Gorbachev? How did Soviet policies affect the lives of women, men, and ethnic minorities? What led to the fall of the Soviet Union? What impact has Yeltsin and Putin had on Russia’s transition? How have Soviet institutions - e.g. military and police - been affected by transition? How have Russian institutions - e.g. media, parties, executive, legislature - been influenced by Yeltsin and Putin? Why do some still have nostalgia for the old Soviet system? Has Russia come to grips with its Soviet past? What lies ahead for Russia’s future? What role does and will Russia play in the international community?

Russia is a country that presents a conundrum for Western analysts. Russia has always been a country full of rich tradition and intrigue that has stressed charting its own course while also desiring to be part of the international community. And in nowhere is this more exemplified than in Russia’s seeming rejection of Western notions of democracy. Political Science 4070 is a comprehensive examination of Russia’s economic, political, and social directions from its Soviet past to its post-Soviet present. This course examines these changes taking into account a historical-cultural perspective including gender, ethnicity, religion, literature, language, and film.

Organization of the Course:
The course will be divided into seven sections. These seven sections will trace Russian history from the end of the tsars through Vladimir Putin’s second term in office. Through this exploration, you will see the rise of Russia’s communism, the breakdown of the Soviet empire, the difficult transition to a market democracy, and the emergence of a new Russia. There will be examination of the leaderships and ideologies of Lenin, Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Putin. There will also be an analysis of the consequences and implications of these leaders’ policies on political, cultural, and economic institutions and concepts.

Required Readings:
The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States (1998) by Ronald Grigor Suny


Supplementary Readings: Additional readings come from book chapters and journal articles, and each is available online. Book chapters will be on Moodle, and journal articles will be on JSTOR.

Access to JSTOR: Journal articles are available through JSTOR. Go to the LSU Libraries. Once there, click on Indexes and Databases. Stroll all the way to the bottom of the page and under Social Sciences, click on Political Science. Stroll down until you see JSTOR.
Course Objectives:

By the end of this course you will have an understanding of:

- Soviet/Russian institutions, historical events, and major players
- Soviet/Russian ideology
- Soviet/Russian cultural, political, and economic characteristics
- Gender, ethnicity, and religion in the Soviet Union/Russian Federation

Course Requirements:

- Two non-cumulative exams that include four short-answer identifications and two essay questions. A review sheet will be given out before each exam.
  
  Midterm Exam: 25% - covers Part I, Part II, and Part III
  Final Exam: 25% - covers Part IV, Part V, Part VI, and Part VII
  (50% total)

  ***Makeup midterms will be given during the final exam period.***

- Eight unannounced quizzes will be distributed throughout the semester. The best five grades achieved on these quizzes will count toward your grade in the course. These quizzes will be based on the most recent readings, lectures, and in-class films. The questions will be multiple choice or written responses. Quizzes: 2% each (10% total)

  ***I will not allow makeup quizzes because only five of the quizzes will count towards your final grade.***

- In order to understand the political development of the Soviet Union, you must know the geography of the region. There will be two scheduled map quizzes of (1) Former Soviet republics and (2) Warsaw Pact countries/Balkan countries.
  
  Map Quizzes: 5% each (totaling 10%)

Former Soviet Republics
Russia (Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Kaliningrad), Armenia (Yerevan), Azerbaijan (Baku), Belarus (Minsk), Estonia (Tallinn), Georgia (Tbilisi), Kazakhstan (Astan), Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek), Latvia (Riga), Lithuania (Vilnius), Moldova (Chisinau), Tajikistan (Dushanbe), Turkmenistan (Ashgabat), Ukraine (Kyiv), Uzbekistan (Tashkent)

Warsaw Pact countries
Bulgaria (Sofia), Czech Republic (Prague), Slovakia (Bratislava), Hungary (Budapest), Poland (Warsaw), Romania (Bucharest)

Balkan countries
Slovenia (Ljubljana), Croatia (Zagreb), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Sarajevo), Serbia (Belgrade), Montenegro (Podgorica), Macedonia (Skopje), Kosovo

  ***Makeup map quizzes will be given during the final exam period.***

- A critical paper of 10-12 pages about Soviet/Russian film or literary works will be required. You will have two options: (a) attend two evening films, participate in post-film discussions (15-20 minutes), and write a critical review of the two films or (b) write a critical review of one of the books below (or an approved choice). Remember critical does not necessarily mean negative, so if you enjoyed the work say so.
  
  Critical paper: 20%
Critical reviews should include:
● A brief summary of the films/book
● The films/book’s primary argument(s) and evidence to support your assumption (s)
● The films/book’s strengths and weaknesses (how these could be improved)
● How the films/book fits into the overall themes of the class (please be specific and explain thoroughly)
● Your overall opinion of the films/book
● Would you recommend the films/book to someone interested in studying Russia?

***Papers that just merely summarize will receive no higher than a C.***

Paper Format:
● An equivalent font to Times New Roman 12 pt.
● 1-inch margins
● Cover page, abstract, and bibliography
● You can use any formatting style you like as long as you inform me of the style (on the cover page)
● Typed and double-spaced with page numbers
● Must cite all sources (Wikipedia and encyclopedias are not proper sources!)
● Hard copy that must be stapled or paper-clipped

***Papers that do not follow the format requirements will receive no higher than a C.***

***Papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class on December 5 (a written copy). Late papers will not be accepted.***

***I have no problem reading drafts as long as I receive it by November 21.***

Books Suggestions:
The Gulag Archipelago (1973) by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
Cancer Ward (1968) by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
The Blue Lantern (2000) by Victor Pelemin
White Guard (1966) by Mikhail Bulgakov
The Master and the Margarita (1966) by Mikhail Bulgakov
A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with the Red Army, 1941-1945 by Vasily Grossman
Life and Fate (1980) by Vasily Grossman
Kolya's Tales (1978) by Varlam Shalamov
Russia as It Is (2000) by Matthew Maly
The Hidden War by Artyom Borovik
A Russian's Diary: Journalist's Final Account of Life, Corruption, and Death in Putin's Russia by Anna Politkovskaya

***Those who do not chose one of the books above, please inform me of your selection.***

Class participation is a necessity for a good class. Discussion allows for all of us to learn from each other. At the end of Friday class periods, there will be time (20-25 minutes) reserved for discussion of current events and readings/lecture related to Russia. Groups of three or four students will be required to lead class discussion. Groups will meet with me the Wednesday before their Friday discussion to converse about the topics and/or articles.

***Each individual person in the class is expected to come up with three written, quality questions from the topics and/or articles before class.***

Class Participation: 5%
Leading Class Discussion: 5%
(10% total)

***Links to topics and/or articles will be posted on Moodle by Thursday.***
Russian sites:
*Johnson's Russia List*: [www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/default.cfm](http://www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/default.cfm)
*Kremlin site*: [www.kremlin.ru/eng](http://www.kremlin.ru/eng)
*Pravda*: [english.pravda.ru/](http://english.pravda.ru/)
*Russia Today*: [www.russiatoday.ru/](http://www.russiatoday.ru/)

You can also examine Russian related topics from other news sources, such as *The New York Times*, *The Economist*, BBC, just to name a few.

Grading Policy/Grading Scale:
- A: 90-100 pts
- B: 80-89 pts
- C: 70-79 pts
- D: 60-69 pts
- F: 0-59 pts

Course Expectations:
- You are expected to attend all in-class lectures and films. Those who do not attend lectures and films will not do well in this course.
- You are expected to keep up with the assigned readings according to the schedule below. This means dedicating substantial time to careful reading and thoughtful reflection before coming to class. Those who do not keep up with assigned readings will not do well in this course.
- You must respect others’ opinions. No view is forbidden, but equally important, no view is protected from critical challenges. However, this does not mean personal attacks, humiliations or dismissal.
- You are expected to keep your cell phones on vibrate or silent.
- You are expected not to read other texts or newspapers, surf the internet, do crossword puzzles, sleep, or anything else that could be considered disruptive while in class. All attention should be focused completely on this class.
- You are expected to be on time for class. It is distracting when people come in and get settled while class is being conducted. If there is a reason why you would be perpetually late, please come see me as soon as possible.
- Class ends at exactly 10:30, Therefore, you are expected to not begin packing up before class is over. It is extremely disruptive and disrespectful to me and fellow classmates.

Instructor’s Pledge:
- I will be more than happy to help you throughout the semester with any questions. However, do not wait until right before the exams to ask them.
- I will consistently maintain office hours and check my email on a regular basis. If at anytime I have to cancel office hours or class, I will post an announcement on Moodle.
Access to Moodle: The course uses Moodle: go to Paws Account to login. Once in paws, go to Student Services and click on Moodle. Once you are in the course site, you will have access to the syllabus, announcements, grades, and additional readings.

Students with disabilities: Anyone in this class who has a disability that may require some modification of testing or other class requirements please come see me after class or during office hours.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is the copying of another's work without proper citation. This act can result in failure of a class and expulsion from the university. Most plagiarism is the result of carelessness and laziness. Please do not copy directly from the internet; provide references for all your sources of information; and never reprint published material without adequate citation. For more information on plagiarism, or on proper citation form, see the LSU library webpage on plagiarism: http://www.lib.lsu.edu/instruction/plagiarism2.html.
Course Outline and Readings

Readings are subject to change. I will inform you in class of any changes in the syllabus. Readings are meant to be read prior to the class.

Class 1 (August 25): Course Introduction
- Where is Russia now?
- Overview of the Course

Part I. Crisis and Revolution

Class 2 (August 27): Imperial Legacy
- Suny, Chapter 1

Class 3 (August 29): Film: Russia: Land of the Tsars
***I will be attending a conference.***

Class 4 (September 1): No Class (Labor Day)
***Final day for dropping courses without receiving a “W” (September 2)***

Class 5 (September 3): Lenin’s Version of Marxism
- Tucker, “Chapter I. Class Society and the State,” in The Lenin Anthology, pg. 313-325
- Tucker, “Chapter V. The Economic Basis of the Withering Away of the State,” in The Lenin Anthology, pg. 369-384
- Tucker, “The Three Sources and Three Component Parts of Marxism,” in The Lenin Anthology, pg. 640-644

Class 6 (September 5): Events of 1917
- Suny, Chapter 2

Class 7 (September 8): Civil War and War Communism
- Suny, Chapter 3

Class 8 (September 10): Resistance to One-Party Rule and Retreat-New Economic Policy
- Suny, Chapter 5; Chapter 6- pg. 140-164

Class 9 (September 12): The New Russians
- Suny, Chapter 7; Chapter 8

Class 10 (September 15): This Is the Soviet Union
- Suny, Chapter 4

Part II. Collectivization, Terror, and War

Class 11 (September 17): Consolidating Stalinism: You Will Not Win, Peasants!
- Suny, Chapter 6- pg.164-168; Chapter 9
Class 12 (September 19): Consolidating Stalinism: Terror and Control
● Suny, Chapter 10; Chapter 11

Class 13 (September 22): A New Soviet State
● Suny, Chapter 12
*** Evening Film #1 (Stubbis 220 @ 6:00 p.m.) ***

Class 14 (September 24): The Great Fatherland War
● Suny, Chapter 13; Chapter 14
*** Map Quiz #1 ***

Class 15 (September 26): And It Begins... The Cold War
● Suny, Chapter 15; Chapter 16

Class 16 (September 29): Film: Stalin: The Myth, Pt. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (History Channel)

Part III. The Changing of the Tide and the Beginning of the End

Class 17 (October 1): The Reforms of Khrushchev
● Suny, Chapter 17; Chapter 18

Class 18 (October 3): The Stagnation of Brezhnev and Aging Leadership
● Suny, Chapter 19, Chapter 20- pg. 449-451

Class 19 (October 6): Reflections on the People in the USSR

Class 20 (October 8): No Class (Fall Holiday)
*** Review sheet placed on Moodle ***

Class 21 (October 10): No Class (Fall Holiday)

Class 22 (October 13): Review for Midterm

Class 23 (October 15): Midterm Exam
*** Bring a Bluebook ***

Part IV. Reform Before the Fall

Class 24 (October 17): Radical Reforms: Glasnost, Perestroika, Democratization, and New Thinking
● Suny, Chapter 20, pg. 451-462
● Brown, “Political Change in the Soviet Union,” in The Soviet System: From Crisis to Collapse, pg. 111-125
Class 25 (October 20): Radical Reforms: Letting the Genie Out of the Bottle

- Fish, “The Emergence of Independent Associations and the Transformation of Russian Political Society,” in The Soviet System: From Crisis to Collapse, pg. 147-159

***Evening Film #2 (Stubbs 220 @ 6:00 p.m.)***

Class 26 (October 22): The Rise of (New) Nations

- Suny, Chapter 20, pg. 462-468
- Lapidus, “Gorbachev’s Nationalities Problem,” in The Soviet System: From Crisis to Collapse, pg. 365-376

***Map Quiz #2***

Class 27 (October 24): The Fall of Gorbachev and the Rise of Yeltsin

- Suny, Chapter 21
- Yeltsin, “Speech to the RSFSR Congress of People’s Deputies and to the Citizens of Russia,” in The Soviet System: From Crisis to Collapse, pg. 632-637
- Gorbachev, “Resignation Speech,” in The Soviet System: From Crisis to Collapse, pg. 644-647

Class 28 (October 27): Reflections on the USSR


Part V. The Rise and Decline of the Russian State

Class 29 (October 29): Building the Russian State: Gaidar’s Shock

- Suny, Chapter 22, pg.486-493
- Film: Commanding Heights, Pt. 2 (1:00 hour in)

Class 30 (October 31): Building the Russian State: Brink of Civil War and Subsequent Consequences

- Suny, Chapter 22, pg.493-496
- Medvedev, “Civil War in Moscow,” Post-Soviet Russia: A Journey through the Yeltsin Era, pg. 103-130

Class 31 (November 3): Building the Russian State: Constitutional Design

- Sheinis, “The Constitution,” in Between Dictatorship and Democracy, pg. 56-82
- Huskey, “Democracy and Institutional Design in Russia,” Contemporary Russian Politics, pg. 29-45

Class 32 (November 5): Building the Russian State: Institutions

- Chaisty, “Legislative Politics in Russia,” Contemporary Russian Politics, pg. 103-120
- Huskey, “Legislative-Executive Relations in the Yeltsin Era,” Contemporary Russian Politics, pg. 121-130

Class 33 (November 7): One Big Happy Russian Family?: Federalism and the Problem of Chechnya

- Suny, Chapter 22, pg.496-506
- Petrov, “Federalism,” in Between Dictatorship and Democracy, pg. 213-238

***Final day for dropping courses***

***Final day for rescheduling a final exam when three exams are scheduled within 24 hours***
Class 34 (November 10): Yeltsin’s Second Term: State Crisis, Economic Crisis, and Identity Crisis
- Baranovsky, “Russia: A Part of Europe or Apart from Europe,” Contemporary Russian Politics, pg. 429-442
- Rutland and Kogan, “The Russian Mafia: Between Hype and Reality,” Contemporary Russian Politics, pg. 139-147

Part VI. The Shift and the Consolidation of Putinism

Class 35 (November 12): Who is This Man Named Putin?
- Herspring, Chapter 1; Chapter 2

Class 36 (November 14): We Need a Strong Russia!- Putin’s Reforms (Economy and Law)
- Herspring, Chapter 5; Chapter 6

Class 37 (November 17): We Need a Strong Russia!- Putin’s Reforms (Regions and Parties)
- Herspring, Chapter 3; Chapter 4
- ***Evening Film #3 (Stubbs 220 @ 6:00 p.m.)***

Class 38 (November 19): Mother Russia and the Global Arena (Military and Foreign Policy)
- Herspring Chapter 8; Chapter 9

Class 39 (November 21): Film: Ruling Russia, Pt. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (CNN)
- ***I will be attending a conference.***

Class 40 (November 24): Stalinist Putin, Czarist Putin, or Something Else?

Class 41 (November 26): No Class (Thanksgiving)

Class 42 (November 28): No Class (Thanksgiving)

Class 43 (December 1): Russia’s Civil Society
- Schwirtz (2007), “Russia’s Political Youths,” Demokratizatsiya, pg. 73-84

Part VII. What’s (Who’s) Next?

Class 44 (December 3): Communist Past, Russian Present, ...Future?
- Film: Stahin Nostalgia (2007)
Class 45 (December 5): Class Reflections and Review for the Final
***Critical Paper Due***
***Review sheet placed on Moodle***

Class 46 (December 11): Final Exam (7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.)
***Bring a Bluebook***