History 347 (CRN 32682)

Twentieth-Century Russia and Soviet Union

Instructor: Alexander Kashirin
Time: MWF, 11:00-11:50 a.m.
Place: 229 MCK
Office: 340 X at MCK
Office Hours: 12:30-2:00 p.m. on Fridays
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Course Description: This is a lecture-discussion survey course on the history of Russia and Soviet Union in the twentieth century. The course is organized topically and focuses on major developments and landmarks of Russian-Soviet history, beginning with the challenges the late imperial Russia faced on the eve of WW I and culminating in the collapse of the Soviet Union and its aftermath.

Requirements: The students are expected to attend lectures, participate in discussions of assigned readings, write a 5-7 page paper on one of the assigned topics (20%), take pop-up quizzes (20%), a midterm (30%), and a non-cumulative final (30%).

Required readings (available in bookstore):
Geoffrey Hosking, The First Socialist Society
Nicolas Werth, Cannibal Island

Other required readings are posted on Canvas

Week One: Russia on the Eve of WW I: Potential and Challenges

March 28
Readings: Reginald E. Zelnik, “Revolutionary Russia, 1890-1914” (on Canvas).

March 30 (No class in observance of the Memorial Day, but read the assigned texts below)
Readings: “The Russian Peasantry’s Mentalities and Economic Performance” and Leonard Shapiro’s “Stolypin” (on Canvas).

April 1

Week Two: WW I and the 1917 Revolutions

April 4
Readings: Melissa Stockdale, “The Russian Experience of the First World War” (on Canvas).
April 6
Readings: “Shackled to a Corpse” from Hew Strachan’s *The First World War* (on Canvas).

April 8

**Week Three: From The Russian Civil War to the NEP**

April 11

April 13

April 15

*Over the weekend, start reading Nicolas Werth’s *Cannibal Island***.

**Week Four: Stalinism: Collectivization, Industrialization, Social Engineering**

April 18

April 20

April 22
Readings: Oleg Khlevniuk’s “The Great Terror” (on Canvas); prepare to discuss Nicolas Werth’s *Cannibal Island* in class.
Week Five: Stalin’s USSR on the Eve of WW II

April 25

April 27

April 29  Midterm Examination

Week Six: The Great Patriotic War

May 2

May 4
Readings: Karel Berkhoff, “The Holocaust of the Jews and Roma” and “Prisoners of War” (on Canvas).

May 6

Week Seven: The Onset of the Cold War and Khrushchev’s De-Stalinization

May 9
Readings: Geoffrey Hosking, *The First Socialist Society*, p. 298-325; “Novikov’s Telegram” (on Canvas); D. Belyaev, “Stilyaga” (on Canvas).

May 11

May 13
Readings: Dimitry Pospelovsky’s “Persecutions under Khrushchev” (on Canvas).

Week Eight: Brezhnev and the Era of “Developed Socialism”

May 16

May 18
Readings: Andrei Siniavsky’s “Socialist Realism” (on Canvas).

May 20
Week Nine: The Decline and Fall of the Soviet Union

May 23
Readings: Andrei Sakharov’s “Progress, Coexistence and Intellectual Freedom” and Alexander Solzhenitsyn’s “As Breathing and Consciousness Returns” (on Canvas).

May 25

May 27
Watching Leslie Woodhead’s How the Beatles Rocked the Kremlin in class.

Week Ten: Coming to Terms with the Past and Moving toward the Uncertain Future

May 30
Readings: “Soviet Union” from Dominic Lieven’s Empire: The Russian Empire and its Rivals (on Canvas).

June 1
Readings: Tatyana Tolstaya, “The Great Terror and the Little Terror” and “Yeltsyn Routs Gorbachev” (on Canvas).

June 3 (Papers are due in class)
Readings: Gregory Freeze, “Meltdown, Rebuilding, Reform, 1996-2001” (on Canvas)

The Final Examination is scheduled for June 7, Tuesday, at 10:15 a.m.