History 427:
History of Soviet Russia

Winter 2007
Section 1: TR, 1:40-3:00 p.m.
Bldg. 52-A11

Prof. Tom Trice
Office:
Faculty Office Bldg. 47-25P
Office Hours:
MW, 2:00-4:00; TR, 12:00-1:00
Contact:
756-2724; ttrice@calpoly.edu

Course Description:

This course provides an overview of Russian history from the revolutionary overthrow of imperial Russia’s tsarist regime in 1917 to the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991. Major themes include the Bolshevik (Communist) Party’s attempts to consolidate its power and build the world’s first socialist society, economic, social, and cultural reform, political terror and resistance, World War II, the Cold War, and the dissident movement.

This course requires that each student consistently take an active role in discussing and writing about Russia’s past and its relationship to the present. In keeping with this goal, you will be asked to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of historical facts, themes, and ideas
- Demonstrate the ability to reason through analysis and synthesis of historical evidence
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate historical knowledge and reasoning through discussion, debate, and writing
- Assess the notion that history is rewritten by each generation according to the needs, aspirations, and frames of reference of each ensuing age
Required Texts:

Natalya Baranskaya. *A Week Like Any Other* (Blackboard)
Eugen Ia. S. Ginzburg. *Journey into the Whirlwind*
Ronald Grigor Suny, ed. *The Structure of Soviet History*
James von Geldern and Richard Stites, eds. *Mass Culture in Soviet Russia*

Additional readings and handouts will be available via Blackboard and online databases.

Course Requirements

Assignments marked with an asterisk (*) are not required of graduate students.

Class Participation 20%
Analytical Essay* 30%
Film Reviews (2 @ 5% each) 10%
Exams (2 @ 20% each) 40%

**Class Participation** (20%) is an essential part of this class. Attendance alone does not constitute participation. Come to class having read all assigned material thoroughly and be prepared to discuss it in a thoughtful manner.

**Analytical Essay** (30%) of 12-15 pages on some aspect of Soviet history (1917-1991) fulfills the research unit for this class. See *Attachment A* for specific guidelines regarding format and documentation.

Students will select a research topic in consultation with me during office hours, so plan to meet with me at least once during the first two weeks of the quarter to discuss your interests and ideas. See *Attachment B* below for a list of websites which may assist you in identifying potential research topics, including two exceptionally useful bibliographies.

**DUE: Friday, 9 March** by noon. The penalty for late essays will be 5% of the value of the assignment per day. Please leave essays with department secretary.

**Film Reviews** (2 @ 5% each) (10%) of 2-4 pages. See *Attachment C* below for specific guidelines. Some films are available from Insomniac Video, Blockbusters, etc. You may also borrow copies from me.

**DUE: within one week of the class period for which the film is assigned.**

**Exams** (2 @ 20% each) (40%) will consist of essays based on reading assignments and lectures. Sample questions will be distributed at least one week prior to each exam.

**Exam #1:** Thursday, 15 February
**Exam #2:** Friday, 23 March (this is not a cumulative exam)
Graduate Students only: In lieu of the analytical essay and film reviews, you will be expected to complete the following assignments.

Historiographic Essays (3 @ 10% each) of 6-8 pages each using selections from both required and recommended readings for any given class period. See Attachment D for specific guidelines.

DUE: at the beginning of the class for which the material is assigned (no exceptions)
MC: *Mass Culture in Soviet Russia, 1917-1953*
Suny: *The Structure of Soviet History*

We will also be making use of documents (video clips, photos, government documents, etc.) available at the following website, which requires registration:


**Schedule of Topics & Readings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T 1/9</td>
<td>Late Imperial Russia, c. 1861-1917</td>
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</table>

**Recommended readings:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>R 1/11</th>
<th>“The Freest Country in the World”: Revolutions of 1917</th>
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**Film:** *The Revolutionary* (1917)

**Required readings:**
- Suny: xi-xvii; 3-47; 62-66
- SM: 1917: The October Revolution

**Recommended readings:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>T 1/16</th>
<th>“Kto kogo?”: The Civil War</th>
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Required readings:
Suny: 48-62; 67-86; 103-117; 289-94
MC: xi-xvi; 6-32
SM: 1921: Kronstadt Uprising
Fitzpatrick Sheila. “The Civil War as a Formative Experience.” In 
Bolshevik Culture, 57-76. 1985. (Blackboard).

Recommended readings:

Smychka: Village and City under NEP, 1921-28

Film: Bed and Sofa (1926) 73 mins.

Required readings:
Suny: 89-93; 117-120; 124-130
MC: 32-36; 54-68; 70-71; 74-84; 90-112; 118-120

Recommended readings:
**Film:** Strike (1925) 94 mins.

**Required readings:**
Suny: 130-37; 164-177  
MC: 3-6; 32-52; 54-70; 85-86  
Kollontai, Aleksandra. “New Woman” from The New Morality and the Working Class. 1920. (Available at www.marxists.org)  
__________. “Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle.” 1921. (Available at www.marxists.org)  
Trotsky, Lev. “Vodka, the Church, and the Cinema.” Originally published in Pravda. 1923. (Available at www.marxists.org)

**Recommended readings:**
Gorsuch, Anne. Youth in Revolutionary Russia: Enthusiasts, Bohemians, Delinquents. 2000  
Phillips, Laura L. The Bolsheviki and the Bottle: Drink and Worker Culture in St. Petersburg, 1900-1929.  
Film: Storm over Asia (1930) 128 mins.

Required readings:
Suny, 66-67; 93-102; 120-124

Recommended readings:
Slezkine, Yuri. Arctic Mirrors: Russia and the Small Peoples of the North. 1994. GN673 (INTERNET)
Film: *Earth* (1930)  54 mins.

Required readings:
Suny, 137-39; 209-22
MC: 142-56; 216-27

Recommended readings:

R 2/1

*Vpered!*: Industrial Revolution

Film: *Turksib* (1929) 58 mins. (VHS only)

Required readings:
Suny, 137-147; 151-154; 222-28; 294-297
MC: 156-61; 172-181; 190-201; 243-57

Recommended readings:

T 2/6  *Kulturnost’*: Cultural Revolution
Required readings:
MC, 128-38; 163-71

Recommended readings:

R 2/8 Vozhd’: History, Memory, and the Leader Cult

Films: October (1927) or Three Songs of Lenin (1934) 102 / 62 mins.

Required readings:
MC: 86-89; 112-17; 123-27; 228-29; 291-96; 320-27
SM: 1924: Lenin’s Death and the Birth of the Lenin Cult

Recommended readings:


*Radost*: Stalinism as a Way of Life
Film: *Jolly Fellows* (1934) 89 mins. (VHS only).

Required readings:
Suny, 177-188; 228-231; 274-77; 280-85
MC, 182-190; 212-27; 237-43; 257-72; 287-91; 296-98
SM: 1934: Mass Production of Soviet Champagne
1936 Year of the Stakhanovite

Recommended readings:
PG3098.4 .C4 1985

R 2/15

**Exam #1 (please bring a blue book)**

T 2/20

*Vragi naroda*: The Great Purges, 1936-39

Required readings:
Ginzburg, *Journey into the Whirlwind* (in its entirety)
Suny, 158-162; 232-50
MC, 298-303; 328-30
SM: 1939: The Great Fergana Canal

Recommended readings:
DK267 .C649 1990

Medvedev, Roy A. *Let History Judge.* 1971. Chs. 4-6, 9, 10.

**Film: Shostakovich against Stalin (2005)**

**Required readings:**
Suny, 264-285; 298-325
MC: 340-44; 378-80; 387-407
SM: 1943: Stalin Welcomes the Orthodox Metropolitans to the Kremlin

**Recommended readings:**

**T 2/27**
High Stalinism, 1945-1953
Film: *East/West* (1999) 125 min.

**Required readings:**
Suny, 162-164; 188-209; 251-263; 338-40  
MC, 416-22; 450-53; 455-70; 486-89  
SM: 1947: End of Rationing  
Churchill, Winston. “Sinews of Peace” (1946)  
http://www.nato.int/docu/speech/1946/s460305a_e.htm  
Kennan, George. “Long Telegram” (1946)  
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/bomb/filmmore/reference/primary/kennan_telegram.html  
http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/l2tartar.html  
Stalin, Josef. Reply to Churchill’s Iron Curtain Speech  
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1946stalin.html

Stalin’s death exhibit! http://www.osa.ceu.hu/galeria/05031953/

**Recommended readings:**
DK267 .M28  
DK33 .N44 1978  
R 3/1 Khrushchev’s “Transition to Communism,” 1953-64

Required readings:
Suny, 329-38; 340-50
SM: 1954: Virgin Lands Campaign
   1956: Khrushchev’s Secret Speech
   1961: The Space Race
Arzhak, Nikolai (pseud., Yuli Daniel). “This is Moscow Speaking.” 1962.
   (Blackboard)
   http://boppin.com/poets/yevtushenko.htm

Recommended readings:
__________. “In the Name of the People: The Manège Affair Revisited.” *Kritika* 6, 4 (Fall 2005): 673-716. DK1.K74 (INTERNET)

T 3/6 Era of “Developed Socialism,” 1964-1982

Film: *Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears* (1980) 150 mins. (VHS)

Required readings:
Baranskaya, *A Week Like Any Other* (in its entirety)
Suny: 359-85
SM: 1968: Invasion of Czechoslovakia
1980: Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears

Recommended readings:

R 3/8 Dissonance at Home and Abroad:
Dissidents, Nationalists, Refusniks & Feminists

Required readings:
Suny, 350-58; 385-88; 393-99
On Trial: The Soviet State versus “Abram Tertz” and “Nikolai Arzhak”. 1966. (Blackboard)
Sakharov, Andrei. Progress, Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom. 1968. (Blackboard)

Handouts

Recommended readings:
Shatz, Marshall S. Soviet Dissent in Historical Perspective. 1980. DK274 .S393

T 3/13 Perestroika and the Unraveling of the U.S.S.R.
Film: *Prisoner of the Mountains* (1997) 99 mins.

Required readings:
Suny, 403-33; 438-475
SM: 1986: The Chernobyl Nuclear Accident
1991: End of the Soviet Union

Recommended readings:
Lahusen, Thomas, with Gene Kuperman, eds.. *Late Soviet Culture: From Perestroika to Novostroika*. 1993.

R 3/15 “Transition to Democracy”?

Required readings:
Suny, 476-532

F 3/23 Final Exam, 1:10-4:00 p.m.

Attachment A:
Analytical Essay Guidelines
Scope:

Essays should address some aspect of imperial Russian history (1682-1917). Students will select a research topic in consultation with me during the first two weeks of the quarter.

Description:

Analytical essays require:

- contextualization of your study with regard to time and place
- consideration of arguments made by authors of the major secondary sources on your topic or related topics (i.e., historiography)
- independent analysis of primary sources
- complete, correct documentation*

Typically the strongest essays make use of a broad array of secondary sources (e.g., scholarly monographs and articles, encyclopedia articles, reputable websites) and extensive use of primary sources (e.g., memoirs, diaries, letters, government documents, newspaper and magazine articles, photographs, images, music, film, artifacts).

* For proper citation format consult either of the following for humanities style footnotes or endnotes (NOT in-text citations):

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*. 6th rev. ed., Chicago, 1996


Having problems, go to:
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/tools.html or
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/cmosfaq.html

Attachment B: Websites
Bucknell University’s Russian Studies
http://www.departments.bucknell.edu/russian/index.html

Forced Labor Camps
http://www.osa.ceu.hu/gulag/

History of the Soviet Union
http://www.uea.ac.uk/his/webcours/russia/links/

Internet Modern History Sourcebook: Russian Revolution
http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook39.html

Marxists.org Internet Archive
http://www.marx.org/

The Moscow Times
http://www.themoscowtimes.com/indexes/01.html

Revelations from the Russian Archives
http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/intro.html

Russian and Soviet History Resources
http://fastaff.bloomu.edu/hickey/Russian%20and%20Soviet%20History%20Resource%20Page.htm#History

Russian Film: What Was and What Is
http://www.imagesjournal.com/issue09/features/russia2/

Russian Revolution on the Web Guide
http://www.barnsdle.demon.co.uk/russ/rusrev.html

The St. Petersburg Times
http://www.sptimes.ru/

Seventeen Moments in Soviet History
http://www.soviethistory.org/

Sher’s Russian Web
http://www.websher.net/

Soviet Archives Exhibit
http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/entrance.html

Maps:
Historical Maps of Russia and the Former Soviet Union
http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/history_commonwealth.html

Bibliographies:

Bibliographic Research Guide to Soviet History
http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/biblioguide.htm

Bibliography for Women in Russia
http://www.h-net.org/~russia/bibs/bibwom.html

Russian History Index (Worldwide Web Virtual Library)
http://vlib.iue.it/hist-russia/bibliography.html

Attachment C:
Film Review Guidelines
Historians of the modern era have an abundance of media for critically examining the past, including feature films and documentaries. Here are a few things to keep in mind when assessing such documents as primary sources:

Who directed the film?

When was it made?

How does the director use artistic devices and production techniques (e.g., lighting, stage design, makeup, camera angles, choreography) to enhance entertainment value and/or understanding?

**Most importantly**…

In what ways does the film reflect the social, political, and cultural environment of the era in which it was made?

How does the film contribute to scholarly debates discussed in your readings and lectures?

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**Attachment D:**

Historiographic Essay Guidelines
Mechanics:

Length: 6-8 pages of text  
Format: Typed, 12 pt. font  
1-inch margins  
Double spacing  
Bibliography (and footnotes as needed)

Scope:

Historiographic essays typically offer a thorough review of 4 or more articles and books that address major issues and interpretations (i.e. historiography) for a specific historical period or problem. In preparing these assignments students should select from among recommended readings.

* For proper citation format consult either of the following for *humanities style* footnotes or endnotes (NOT in-text citations):

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.  


Having problems, go to:  
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/tools.html or  
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/Misc/Chicago/cmosfaq/cmosfaq.html