Russia in War and Peace

History 510:377
Rutgers University, Spring 2010
TuF 11:30 AM – 12:50 PM
Murray 211

Professor David S. Foglesong
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Course Description
This course examines the history of Russia since the war against Japan in 1904-1905. The primary focus is on how international conflict and cooperation influenced internal developments in Russia in the twentieth century. Thus, while the course devotes substantial attention to Russian foreign relations, the emphasis is on how war and peace shaped Russian politics, culture, and society. Reading assignments, films, lectures, and discussions will center on the Russo-Japanese War, the revolution of 1905, the origins and impact of the First World War, the revolutions of 1917, the waging and legacies of the Russian Civil War, the tension between desires for world revolution and peaceful coexistence in the 1920s, the pursuit of collective security in the 1930s, the experience of the Great Patriotic War, the impact of the Cold War, the disastrous war in Afghanistan, the ending of the Cold War, the collapse of Soviet communism, and the post-Soviet wars in Chechnya and against Georgia.

Course Requirements
1. Attendance is required. It will count for 10% of the course grade. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-in sheet before the beginning of class. Students who arrive after the start of class will not be allowed to sign the roster. Students will be allowed three unexcused absences. Beyond that, each unexcused absence will be penalized by a 2% deduction from the course grade.

2. Each student will be expected to complete the assigned reading by the dates specified and participate in class discussions. Informed class participation will count for 10% of the course grade.

3. Each student will write four short (1500 to 2000 word) essays on assigned topics. Each essay will count for 20% of the course grade. Late papers will be marked down one grade (e.g. from A to B+) for each class they are late. Papers may not be submitted by e-mail.
4. Each student will have the option to write one longer (10-12 page) essay instead of two of the short essays. The paper must be based on the relevant required reading and at least one additional book listed as recommended reading on the syllabus or approved by the professor. The paper will count for 40% of the course grade.