

DRAFT SYLLABUS – SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Russia in War and Peace

History 510:377
Rutgers University, Spring 2018
MW4 (1:40–3:00 PM)
BE-011 (Livingston campus)

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OH: MW 3:15-4:15 & by apptmt.

Course Description

In this course we will examine the history of Russia since the war against Japan in 1904-1905. Our primary focus will be on how international conflict and cooperation have influenced internal developments in Russia. While the course devotes substantial attention to Russian foreign relations, the major 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 two post-Soviet wars in Chechnya.

Course Requirements

1. **Attendance** is required. 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 until the end of class. Students will be allowed three unexcused absences. Beyond that, **each unexcused absence will be penalized by a 2% deduction from the course grade.**

Absences will be excused on the basis of documentation (such as a note from a doctor, dean, or coach). If the campus is open and class is not canceled, absences will not be excused because of weather.

Students may use the absence reporting website (<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra>) to indicate the date and reason for an absence. However, this will not eliminate the need to present documentation for excuse of absences.

Students will be expected to comply with the Classroom Etiquette Policy (see history.rutgers.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies). **Cell phones must be silenced and meals must be eaten before the start of class. Students who use electronic devices for non-academic purposes will be marked absent.**

2. Each student will be expected to complete the assigned reading by the dates specified and be ready to respond to questions about the reading in class. **Students who regularly answer questions will have their final course grades raised by one point (for example, from B+ to A).**

3. Each student will write three essays of approximately 1500 words (5 pages) on assigned topics. **Each essay will count for 30% 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. The papers will be due on February 7, March 5, and April 30.

4. Final examination, May ?, TBA. You will be asked to identify and discuss the significance of ten out of twelve people, events, concepts, etc., which will be drawn from a longer list distributed in class. **The exam will count for 10% of the course grade.**

Assigned Reading

The following books have been ordered through the Rutgers University Bookstore:

Borovik, Artyom. The Hidden War: A Russian Journalist's Account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan (Grove Press, 1990)

Figes, Orlando. A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution: 1891-1924 (Penguin)

Malia, Martin. The Soviet Tragedy: A History of Socialism in Russia, 1917-1991 (Free Press, 1994)

Overy, Richard. Russia's War: A History of the Soviet War Effort: 1941-1945 (Penguin)

Zubok, Vladislav. A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev (UNC Press, 2008)

Each of the assigned books has been placed on reserve at Kilmer Library.

Additional required readings have been placed on electronic reserve. To access them, go to www.libraries.rutgers.edu, click on "Find Reserves," type "Foglesong" in the search field and click on "instructor."

Lectures will be posted on the course's sakai site after they have been presented in class.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

JANUARY 17: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE.

JANUARY 22: ORIGINS OF THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR:
RUSSIAN IMPERIALISM AND THE FAR EAST

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapters 1 and 2

Dietrich Geyer, Russian Imperialism (1987), Introduction and Chapter 9 [E-Reserve]

David Goldfrank, "Crimea Redux? On the Origins of the War," in J. W.

Steinberg, et al, ed., The Russo-Japanese War in Global Perspective (2005) [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

David Schimmelpenninck Van Der Oye, Toward the Rising Sun (2001)

Dominic Lieven, Empire: The Russian Empire and Its Rivals (2000)

JANUARY 24: THE WAR IN THE EAST AND THE REVOLUTION OF 1905

Film clip: "Battleship Potemkin" (1925)

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapters 4 and 5

John Bushnell, "The Specter of Mutinous Reserves" [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

J. Bushnell, Mutiny amid Repression (1985)

Abraham Ascher, The Revolution of 1905: A Short History (2004)

JANUARY 29: RUSSIA AND THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapter 6

D. McDonald, "Tsushima's Echoes: Asian Defeat and Tsarist Foreign Policy" [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

David McDonald, United Government and Foreign Policy in Russia, 1900-1914 (1992)

D. C. B. Lieven, Russia and the Origins of the First World War (1983)

John Steinberg, All the Tsar's Men: Russia's General Staff and the Fate of the Empire, 1898-1914

Michael Reynolds, Shattering Empires: The Clash and Collapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires, 1908-1918

JANUARY 31: THE FIRST WORLD WAR AND RUSSIAN SOCIETY

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapter 7

H. F. Jahn, "For Tsar and Fatherland? Russian Popular Culture and the First World War" [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Alexander Solzhenitsyn, August 1914

Peter Holquist, Making War, Forging Revolution: Russia's Continuum of Crisis, 1914-1921 (2002)

W. Fuller, The Foe Within: Fantasies of Treason and the End of Imperial Russia (2006)

J. Sanborn, Imperial Apocalypse (2014)

FEBRUARY 5: THE FAILING WAR EFFORT AND THE FEBRUARY REVOLUTION

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapters 8, 9, and 10

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, ix-17, 51-91

Recommended Reading:

T. H. Von Laue, Why Lenin? Why Stalin? Why Gorbachev? (1992)

Tsuyoshi Hasegawa, The February Revolution (1981)

Richard Pipes, The Russian Revolution (1990)

FEBRUARY 7: "*October*" (Eisenstein film, 1927).

FIRST ESSAY DUE.

FEBRUARY 12: THE DEMAND FOR PEACE AND THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapter 11

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, 91-108

Recommended Reading:

Alexander Rabinowitch, The Bolsheviks Come to Power: The Revolution of 1917 in Petrograd (1976)

R. Suny, ed., The Russian Revolution and Bolshevik Victory (1990)

FEBRUARY 14: THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR AND ITS LEGACIES: RED TERROR, WHITE TERROR, AND RED VICTORY

Required Reading:

Figes, A People's Tragedy, Chapters 12, 13, and 14

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapter 4

Recommended Reading:

D. Koenker, W. Rosenberg, and R. Suny, ed., Party, State, and Society in the Russian Civil War (1989)

D. Raleigh, Experiencing Russia's Civil War: Politics, Society, and Revolutionary Culture in Saratov, 1917-1922 (2002)

FEBRUARY 19: SOVIET RUSSIA AND THE CAPITALIST WEST:
WORLD REVOLUTION, PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, AND NEP
RUSSIA

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapter 5

Teddy Uldricks, "Russia and Europe: Diplomacy, Revolution, and Economic Development in the 1920s," International History Review, Vol. 1 (1979): 55-83. [E-Reserve]

Alan M. Ball, Imagining America (2003), Chapter 1 [E-Reserve]

Mikhail Zoshchenko, "Foreigners" (1928) [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

M.J. Carley, Silent Conflict: A Hidden History of Early Soviet-Western Relations (2014)

FEBRUARY 21: SOVIET RUSSIA ON THE EVE OF WORLD WAR II:
THE FAILURE OF COLLECTIVE SECURITY AND THE CLIMAX OF
XENOPHOBIA

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapters 6 and 7

Alfred Rieber, "Stalin as foreign policy-maker: avoiding war, 1927-1953," in Sara Davies and James Harris, ed., Stalin: A New History (2005), 140-158. [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Arthur Koestler, Darkness at Noon (1941)

Geoffrey Roberts, The Soviet Union and the Origins of the Second World War (1995)

M.J. Carley, 1939: The Alliance that Never Was and the Coming of World War II (1999)

Hugh Ragsdale, The Soviets, the Munich Crisis, and the Coming of World War II (2004)

FEBRUARY 26: RUSSIA AT WAR: FROM BARBAROSSA TO STALINGRAD
"Russia's War" (documentary)

Required Reading:

Joseph Stalin, radio address on July 3, 1941 [E-Reserve]

Overy, Russia's War (begin)

FEBRUARY 28: RUSSIA AT WAR: FROM DEFEATS TO VICTORY

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, pages 273-291

Overy, Russia's War (finish)

Recommended Reading:

R. W. Thurston and Bernd Bonwetsch, eds., The People's War: Responses to World War II in the Soviet Union (2000)

Amir Weiner, Making Sense of War: The Second World War and the Fate of the Bolshevik Revolution (2001)

Catherine Merridale, Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945 (2006)

MARCH 5: *"The Cranes are Flying"* (Mosfilm, 1957)

Required Reading:

Denise J. Youngblood, "A War Remembered: Soviet Films of the Great Patriotic War," American Historical Review, Vol. 106, No. 3 (June 2001), 839-856. [Access periodical online through IRIS.]

Recommended Reading:

Denise J. Youngblood, Russian War Films: On the Cinema Front, 1914-2005 (2007)

SECOND ESSAY DUE.

MARCH 7: LEGACIES OF THE GREAT PATRIOTIC WAR

Required Reading:

C. Merridale, Night of Stone, Chapter 8. [E-Reserve]

Amir Weiner, "The Making of a Dominant Myth," Russian Review, Vol. 55, No. 4 (October 1996), 638-660. [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

S. Linz, ed., The Impact of World War II on the Soviet Union (1985)

J. Garrard & C. Garrard, eds., World War II and the Soviet People

Nina Tumarkin, The Living and the Dead (1995)

MARCH 12 AND 14: NO CLASS. SPRING RECESS.

MARCH 19: *"Cold War: The Iron Curtain"* (CNN Documentary)

Required Reading:

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Preface and Chapter 1

MARCH 21: THE EARLY COLD WAR AND LATE STALINISM

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, pages 291-314

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Chapters 2 and 3

Recommended Reading:

William Taubman, Stalin's American Policy (1982)

Elena Zubkova, Russia After the War: Hopes, Illusions, and Disappointments, 1945-1957 (1998)

Geoffrey Roberts, Stalin's Wars (2006)

MARCH 26: "Cold War: After Stalin 1953-1956" (Documentary)

Required Reading:

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Chapters 4 and 5

MARCH 28: THE HIGH COLD WAR AND THE POST-STALINIST SYSTEM

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapter 9

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Chapter 6

Samuel H. Baron, Bloody Saturday In The Soviet Union:

Novocherkassk, 1962 (2001), Preface and Chapter 9 [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

William Taubman, Khrushchev: The Man and His Era (2003)

V. Kozlov, Mass Uprisings in the USSR: Protest and Rebellion in the Post-Stalin Years

APRIL 2: SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN THE "ERA OF STAGNATION"

View several short animated propaganda films from the 1960s-1970s.

APRIL 4: DÉTENTE, DISSENT & REPRESSION IN THE BREZHNEV ERA

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapter 10

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Chapters 7 and 8

Borovik, The Hidden War (begin)

Recommended Reading:

E. Bacon and M. Sandle, ed., Brezhnev reconsidered (2002)

APRIL 9: THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS

View part of "Company 9" (9 Rota)

Required Reading:

Borovik, The Hidden War (finish)

Recommended Reading:

S. Alexievich, Zinky Boys: Soviet Voices from the Afghanistan War

A. Arnold, The Fateful Pebble: Afghanistan's Role in the Fall of the Soviet Empire (1993)

Sarah Mendelson, Changing Course: Ideas, Politics, and the Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan (1998)

Lester Grau and Michael Gress, ed., The Soviet-Afghan War (2002)

Steve Coll, Ghost Wars (2004)

Recommended Viewing: *"Cold War: Soldiers of God 1975-1988"*

APRIL 11: PERESTROIKA AND THE END OF THE COLD WAR

Required Reading:

Malia, The Soviet Tragedy, Chapters 11 and 12

Zubok, A Failed Empire, Chapters 9 and 10

Recommended Reading:

Moshe Lewin, The Gorbachev Phenomenon (Expanded Edition, 1991)

Raymond Garthoff, The Great Transition (1994)

Robert D. English, Russia and the Idea of the West: Gorbachev, Intellectuals, and the End of the Cold War (2000)

Stephen Kotkin, Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse 1970-2000

APRIL 16: AFTER THE FALL: DAILY LIFE AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM. *"Russia on the Run"* (1995 documentary)

APRIL 18: THE FIRST WAR IN CHECHNYA AND POST-SOVIET RUSSIA

Required Reading:

Dzhabrail Gakaev, "Chechnya in Russia and Russia in Chechnya," in R. Sakwa, ed. Chechnya: From Past to Future (2005) [E-Reserve]
Anatol Lieven, Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power (1998), Preface and Introduction [E-Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

P. Reddaway and D. Glinski, The Tragedy of Russia's Reforms (2001)
Dmitri Trenin and Aleksei V. Malashenko. Russia's Restless Frontier: The Chechnya Factor in Post-Soviet Russia (2004)

Recommended Viewing: *"Tangerines"* (2015)

APRIL 23: *"Prisoner of the Mountains"* (Film, 1996)

Required Reading:

Bruce Grant, "The Good Russian Prisoner: Naturalizing Violence in the Caucasus Mountains," Cultural Anthropology, Vol. 20, No. 1, 39-67. [Reserve]

Recommended Reading:

Leo Tolstoy, Hadji Murad (1904). Available as digital download and in paperback from amazon.com.

Birgit Beumers, "Myth-making and Myth-taking: Lost Ideals and the War in Contemporary Russian Cinema," Canadian Slavonic Papers, Vol. XLII, March-June 2000, 171-189.

APRIL 25: THE SECOND WAR IN CHECHNYA AND "POST-DEMOCRATIC
RUSSIA"

Required Reading: [E-Reserve]

Emil Pain, "The Chechen War in the Context of Contemporary Russian
Politics," in R. Sakwa, ed. Chechnya, Chapter 4

Peter Baker and Susan Glasser, Kremlin Rising: Vladimir Putin's Russia
and the End of Revolution (2005), Introduction and Ch. 5

Recommended Reading:

Gordon Hahn, Russia's Islamic Threat (2007)

Mark MacKinnon, The New Cold War (2007)

Recommended Viewing: *"The Return"*

APRIL 30: THE WAR AGAINST GEORGIA, THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE,
AND THE REDEFINITION OF RELATIONS WITH THE WEST.

Watch part of "Five Days of War" (2011) in class.

Watch "Olympus Inferno" on You Tube.

Recommended Reading:

Nicolai Petro, "The Russia-Georgia War," and other articles in Global
Dialogue, Vol. 11 (Winter/Spring 2009) [electronic resource]

Svante Cornell and S. F. Starr, The Guns of August 2008: Russia's War
in Georgia (2009)

Ronald Asmus, A Little War That Shook the World: Georgia, Russia,
and the Future of the West (2010)

Recommended Viewing: *"Putin's Way" PBS Frontline documentary*

FINAL PAPERS DUE.

FINAL EXAMINATION: DATE TBA.