

History 2409E: A History of Russia, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation

Instructor: C. Ruud

Lawson Hall 1201, Office Hours Wednesdays, 3-5

For 2014-15

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

History 2409E introduces the student to the principal political, economic, social and intellectual developments in the history of Russia, the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation. The first term will cover the period from the earliest times to 1881. The second term will cover the final decades of the tsarist regime, the revolutions, the Soviet Union, and Russian Federation to the present. Throughout the course, special emphasis will be placed on the evolution of the authoritarian tsarist and Soviet systems and how they have dealt with Western influences.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH PAPERS:

Students are required to write a ten-page research paper on a subject of their choice (in consultation with the instructor) the first term and another in the second term. Each will represent twenty percent of the final grade. Proposed first-term topics are due in the third week of classes and are to be selected from the period 800-1881. The papers are due on 26 November. Second term topics are due in the second week of classes in January, 2015 (due date to be announced).

Topics are to be submitted in printed form, to include 1) tentative title of the paper; 2) purpose of the research work; and 3) at least six proposed sources (not to include general textbooks).

MID-TERM EXAMINATION:

There will be two one-hour examinations, one in the first term on 22 October. The second will be toward the end of January, 2015 (date to be announced). Each will represent twenty percent of the final grade.

FINAL EXAMINATION:

The final examination in the spring (April 2014) will cover the work of the entire course but with an emphasis on the twentieth century. It will represent twenty percent of the final grade.

REQUIRED READING

1. Nicholas V. Riasanovsky and Mark D. Steinberg, A History of Russia, 8th ed., Oxford University Press. Paperback

2. Thomas Riha, ed., Readings in Russian Civilization. Vol 1 Russia Before Peter the Great, 900-1700; rev. 2nd ed. , University of Chicago Press, 1969. Paperback.

3. Thomas Riha, ed., Readings in Russian Civilization. Vol II, Imperial Russia, 1700-1917, rev. 2nd ed., University of Chicago Press, 1969. Paperback.

4. Several required articles available on the Internet will cover the Soviet and post-Soviet periods.

Title: Stalin: Man of the Borderlands

Author(s): Alfred J. Rieber

Source: The American Historical Review, Vol. 106, No. 5 (Dec., 2001), pp. 1651-1691

Publisher(s): American Historical Association

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2692742>

Title: Swollen State, Spent Society: Stalin's Legacy to Brezhnev's Russia

Author(s): Robert C. Tucker

Source: Foreign Affairs, Vol. 60, No. 2 (Winter, 1981), pp. 414-435

Publisher(s): Council on Foreign Relations

Stable URL <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20041088>

Title: The Fall of Nikita Khrushchev

Author(s): William J. Tompson

Source: Soviet Studies, Vol. 43, No. 6 (1991), pp. 1101-1121

Publisher(s): Taylor & Francis, Ltd.

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/152407>

Title: The Return of Russian History

Author(s): Dimitri Simes

Source: Foreign Affairs, Vol. 73, No. 1 (Jan. - Feb., 1994), pp. 67-82

Publisher(s): Council on Foreign Relations

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20045892>

Title: [The Gorbachev Era in Historical Context](#)

Author(s): [John Keep](#)

Source: [Studies in East European Thought](#), Vol. 49, No. 4 (Dec., 1997), pp. 271-286

Publisher(s): [Springer](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20099654>

Title: Yeltsin's Reforms: Gorbachev II?

Author(s): Marshall I. Goldman

Source: Foreign Policy, No. 88 (Autumn, 1992), pp. 76-90

Publisher(s): Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1149319>

Title: Russian Retrospectives on Reforms from Yeltsin to Putin

Author(s): Padma Desai

Source: The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Winter, 2005), pp. 87-106

Publisher(s): American Economic Association

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4134994>

Title: Russia

Author(s): Anders Åslund

Source: Foreign Policy, No. 125 (Jul. - Aug., 2001), pp. 20-25

Publisher(s): Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3183323>

Title: Putin's Plutocrat Problem

Author(s): Lee S. Wolosky

Source: Foreign Affairs, Vol. 79, No. 2 (Mar. - Apr., 2000), pp. 18-31

Publisher(s): Council on Foreign Relations

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20049638>