

Graduate Seminar on the History and Historiography of the Soviet Union

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Office hours: Fridays 9:30-10:45 and by appointment

This course will introduce graduate students to the history of the USSR, 1917-1991. Each week we will explore different topics in Soviet history, including the 1917 revolutions, Stalinism, the formation of the USSR, and the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. We will discuss the events themselves and how interpretations of those events have changed over time (with the beginning of the Cold War, the collapse of the USSR, the opening of archives, and so on.)

Course readings: The syllabus includes optional background readings and common readings. I will also distribute a separate bibliography of document collections. Discussion leaders should familiarize themselves with some of the document collections on their week's topic. All books are on reserve at College Library. Items marked (ACLS) are available as e-books through MadCat. Items marked (E) are available through the College Library Reserves website. Other articles are available through JSTOR. (I've marked the URL. You will need to login through MadCat.)

Assignments: Each student will lead discussion twice. Each student will write three papers during the semester: one 5-page review essay discussing a given week's readings, one 8-10-page primary source analysis (focusing on one or more document collection), and one 12-15-page historiographical essay. More information and instructions about these assignments will follow.

9/4 Week One: Introduction

9/11 Week Two: 1917

Optional Background/Context

E. H. Carr, *The Bolshevik Revolution*, vol. 1, 1950.

Steve Smith, *The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, 2002.

Common Readings

1. Robert V. Daniels, *Red October*, 1967, pp. 214-227. (E)
2. Alexander Rabinowitch, *The Bolsheviks Come to Power: The Revolution of 1917 in Petrograd*, New York, 1976, pp. 273-314. (E)
3. Ronald Grigor Suny, "Toward a Social History of the October Revolution, *American Historical Review* 88, no. 1 (1983): 31-53. (E)
4. Frederick Corney, *Telling October: Memory and the Making of the Bolshevik Revolution*, 2004.

9/18 Week Four: Civil War and the Formation of the USSR

Optional Background/Context

E. H. Carr, *The Bolshevik Revolution*, vol. 2, 1952.

E. B. Genkina, *Obrazovanie SSSR*, 1947.

Common Readings

1. Richard Pipes, *The Formation of the Soviet Union*, rev. ed., 1991, pp. 242-293. (E)
2. Peter Holquist "'Conduct Merciless, Mass Terror': Decossackization on the Don, 1919," *Cahiers du monde russe* 38 (1997): 127-162. (E)
3. Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution: 1891-1924*, 1998, pp. TBD.
4. Donald Raleigh, *Experiencing Russia's Civil War: Politics, Society and Revolutionary Culture in Saratov, 1917-1922*, 2002, pp. TBD. (ACLS)

9/25 Week Five: The Soviet 1920s

Optional Background/Context

E. H. Carr, *Socialism in One Country 1924-1926*, 3 vols., 1958-1964.

Common Readings

1. Moshe Lewin, *Lenin's Last Struggle*, 1968, pp. 65-103, 129-141. (ACLS)
2. Alan Ball, *Russia's Last Capitalists*, 1987, pp. 1-37, 127-145, 161-172. (E)
3. Sheila Fitzpatrick, "Cultural Revolution as Class War," in Fitzpatrick, ed., *Cultural Revolution in Russia, 1928-1931*, 1978, pp. 8-40. (E)
4. Lynne Viola, *Peasant Rebels Under Stalin*, 1996, pp. 3-99, 181-240. (E)
5. Adrienne Edgar, *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, 2004. (ACLS)

10/2 Week Six: Dimensions of Empire

Optional Background/Context

Walker Connor, *The National Question in Marxist-Leninist Theory and Perspective*, 1984.

Merle Fainsod, *How Russia is Ruled*, 1963.

Common Readings

1. Olaf Caroe, *Soviet Empire: The Turks of Central Asia and Stalinism*, 1954, pp. 133-188. (E)
2. Yuri Slezkine, The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State Promoted Ethnic Particularism, *Slavic Review* 53, no. 2 (1994): 414-452. (E)
3. Terry Martin, "An Affirmative Action Empire: The Soviet Union as the Highest Form of Imperialism," in *A State of Nations*, pp. 67-90. (E)
4. Francine Hirsch, *Empire of Nations: Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*, 2005.

10/9 Week Seven: Stalinism

Optional Background/Context

Leonard Schapiro, "The Concept of Totalitarianism," *Survey*, 1969, pp. 93-115. (E)

Alec Nove, "Was Stalin Necessary?" and exchange in *Problems of Communism* 25, no. 4 (1976): 49-62. (E)

Common Readings

1. Robert Tucker, "Stalinism as Revolution From Above," in *Stalinism*, 1977, 77-108. (E)
2. Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*, 1995, pp. 1-25, 149-366. (ACLS)
3. Jochen Hellbeck, "Fashioning the Stalinist Soul: The Diary of Stepan Podlubny, (1931-1939)," *Jahrbucher* 44, no. 3 (1996): 344-373. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/41052987>)
4. Karl Schlogel, *Moscow 1937*, 2012, pp. TBD.

10/16 Week Seven: Dimensions of Internationalism

Optional Background/Context

Alec Nove, *An Economic History of the Soviet Union*, 1982.

Common Readings

1. Hugh Seton-Watson, *From Lenin to Malenkov: The History of World Communism*, 1954, pp. TBD
2. Kendall E. Bailes, "The American Connection: Ideology and the Transfer of 2. American Technology to the Soviet Union, 1919-1941," *CSSH* 1981; 23 (3): 426-439. (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/178483>)
3. Paula Michaels, *Lamaze: An International History*, 2014.
4. Michael David-Fox, *Crossing Borders: Modernity, Ideology, and Culture in Russia and the Soviet Union*, 2015, chapters 6 and 7.

10/23 Week Eight: World War Two

Optional Background/Context

Alexander Werth, *Russia at War*, 1964.

Richard Overy, *Russia's War: A History of the Soviet Effort: 1941-1945*, 1998.

Common Readings

1. Alexander Dallin, *German Rule in Russia, 1941-1945*, 1957, pp. 44-103. (ACLS)
2. Amir Weiner, *Making Sense of War: The Second World War and the Fate of the Bolshevik Revolution*, 2002, pp. TBD (ACLS)
3. Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, 2010, pp. TBD

10/30 Week Nine: Postwar

Optional Background/Context

Vera Dunham, *In Stalin's Time*, 1976, pp. 3-23. (E)

Common Readings

1. Nicholas Timasheff, *The Great Retreat*, 1946, pp. 349-417. (E)
2. Milovan Djilas, "The New Class," 1957, pp. 37-69. (E)
3. Elena Zubkova, *Russia after the War: Hopes, Illusions, and Disappointments*, 1998.
4. Yoram Gorlizki and Oleg Khlevniuk, *Cold Peace: Stalin and the Soviet Ruling Circle, 1945-1953*, New York, 2004.

11/6 Week Ten: The Postwar USSR and the World

Optional Background/Context

Adam B. Ulam, *Expansion and Coexistence*, 1974.

Common Readings

1. Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov, *Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Khrushchev*, 1997, pp. TBD (ACLS)
2. Ilya V. Gaiduk, *Divided Together: The United States and the Soviet Union in the United Nations, 1945-1965*, 2012, pp. TBD.
3. Kate Brown, *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters*, 2013.

11/13 Week Eleven: The Khrushchev Era

Optional Background/Context

Nikita Khrushchev, *Khrushchev Remembers*, 1974.

Roy and Zhores Medvedev, *Khrushchev: The Years of Power*, 1978.

Common Readings

1. William Taubman, *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era*, 2003, pp. TBD.
2. Anne E. Gorsuch, *Time Travelers: Soviet Tourists to Eastern Europe*, in Gorsuch and Koenker, eds. *Turizm: The Russian and East European Tourist Under Capitalism and Socialism*, 2006, pp. 205-226. (E)
3. Miriam Dobson, *Khrushchev's Cold Summer: Gulag Returnees, Crime, and the Fate of Reform After Stalin*, 2009, pp. TBD.

11/20 and 11/27 No Class (ASEEES Conference and Thanksgiving)

Work on Final Papers

12/4 Week Fourteen: The Brezhnev Era

Optional Background/Context

Seweryn Bialer, *Stalin's Successors: Leadership, Stability, and Change in the Soviet Union*, 1982.

Common Readings

1. J. Millar, "The Little Deal," *Slavic Review* 44, no. 4 (Winter 1985): 694-706. (E)
2. Yitzhak Brudny, *Reinventing Russia: Russian Nationalism and the Soviet State, 1953-1991*, 1998, pp. TBD. (E)
3. Alexei Yurchak, *Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More: The Last Soviet Generation*, 2006, pp. TBD
4. Christopher J. Ward, *Brezhnev's Folly: The Building of BAM and Late Soviet Socialism*, 2009.

12/11 Week Fifteen: The Road to Dissolution

Optional Background/Context

David Remnick, *Lenin's Tomb*, 1993.

Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, *Memoirs*, 1996.

Common Readings

1. Z, "To the Stalin Mausoleum," *Daedalus* 119, no. 1 (1990): 295-344.

(<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20025293>)

2. Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Revenge of the Past*, 1993, pp. 127-160. (ACLS)

3. *Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000*, 2001.

4. *Archie Brown, *Seven Years that Changed the World: Perestroika in Perspective*, 2009.

Soviet historiography is the methodology of history studies by historians in the Soviet Union (USSR). In the USSR, the study of history was marked by restrictions imposed by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Soviet historiography is itself the subject of modern studies. George M. Enten identifies two approaches to the study of Soviet historiography. A totalitarian approach associated with the Western analysis of the Soviet Union as a totalitarian society, controlled by the Central How the Soviet Union sent the first man into space. The Soviets had an obsession with being the first in all industries, maxing out production, mining, construction works, etc. And space exploration was no different. Of course, the Soviet Union was a totalitarian and socialist state. Joseph Stalin is probably the main symbol of the evil that happened to the nation. He created the Gulag camp system, where millions of people were imprisoned. The USSR was second only to Poland as the country where the Holocaust found its greatest number of victims. This tally is still higher if the territories acquired by Soviet aggression before June... On the other hand, it was largely due to the exertions of the Soviet Red Army that significant numbers of European Jews were spared German mass murder. The Red Army also had the largest number of Jewish combatants in the Second World War and, consequently, the largest number of Jewish combat losses. During the war the Soviet government was the most active of all the Allied states in publicizing the Holocaust to the wider world. As a final irony, after the war internal politics led the Soviet leadership to erase the Holocaust from historical memory. Keywords.