
	Lecturer: Dr Alexander Hill	Class Time: Mon, Wed, Fri 10:00:10:50	
	Telephone: 220 6419 or Main Office 220 6401	Location: ST129	
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## HTST412: Russia and the Soviet Union Россия и Советский союз

This course is concerned with the history of the Russian Empire and Soviet Union from the reign of Alexander I from 1801 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Moving from Russia's emergence as a great power during the Napoleonic Wars we will examine her attempts to maintain this prominent position in Europe, and in particular after defeat in the Crimean War was seen by many both within and outside the country to highlight Russia's increasing economic and social backwardness. For the period from 1861 to 1914 particular attention will be paid to conflict between reformist and conservative elements in society, and the progress of social and economic reform in response to events of 1854-5. We will then move on to look at the causes of Russia's revolutions of 1917, including Russia's participation in the First World War, and the struggle for the political succession during the Russian Civil War.

During the period from October 1917 to 1991 the Bolshevik Party dominated what became, in 1924, the Soviet Union. An important theme for this element of the course will be the relationship between ideology, geopolitics and policy. We will examine the nature of the emergent 'Stalinist' system, 'legitimation' by Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War, and attempts to reform this system after Stalin's death. The course will conclude with the collapse of the Soviet Union.

**The textbook for the course is Gregory L. Freeze (ed.), *Russia: A History*.** Required reading from Freeze, as well as selected journal articles available online through the library, is provided in this outline. Students are expected to have read all the recommended chapters from Freeze and a majority of the recommended journal articles. The impact of broader reading on more specific essay responses should not be underestimated – any given period can and should be understood in a broader context. A number of textbooks/broader works concerned with Imperial Russian and Soviet history are listed at the end of this course outline. These books may serve as useful starting points for your research along with the articles provided for specific lectures – both provide useful sources in their footnotes and bibliographies.

Assessment for the course will be an essay proposal and provisional bibliography, an essay, a fill-in-the-blanks mid-term and a multiple-choice test in place of a final. You have some choice in the question you consider for your bibliography and essay. See page 5 of this outline for the possible essay questions. These are the **ONLY** questions for the essay.

## Lecture Outline and Lecture-Related Reading:

N.B. The reading not from the textbook is available in electronic form through electronic journals made available by the library. For advice on accessing such materials contact the History liaison librarian, Nadine Hoffman ([nhoffman@ucalgary.ca](mailto:nhoffman@ucalgary.ca)).

Friday 6 September: Introduction

**Monday 9 and Wednesday 11 September: Methodology Lecture – this lecture is VERY important if you have little experience of History as a discipline – and should be helpful for the course even if you do!**

Friday 13 September-Friday 20 September): Russia to Alexander I and from Alexander I to Nicholas I

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 6 – and as many of the previous chapters as interest you!; Susan P. McCaffray, “Confronting Serfdom in the Age of Revolution: Projects for Serf Reform in the Time of Alexander I”, in *The Russian Review*, 64 (January 2005), pp.1-21.

Week of Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: From reform to reaction – Alexander II and III

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 7; Steven L. Hoch, “Did Russia’s Emancipated Serfs Really Pay too Much for too Little Land? ...”, in *Slavic Review*, 63(2) (2004), pp.247-274; Serge A. Zenkovsky, “The Emancipation of the Serfs in Retrospect”, in *The Russian Review* 20(4) (1961), pp.280-293.

Week of Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September: Nicholas II, failed revolution and World War I

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 8

Week of Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October: The revolutions of 1917 and Bolshevik ascendancy

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 9; Vladimir Brovkin, “Identity, Allegiance and Participation in the Russian Civil War”, in *European History Quarterly*, Volume 22, Number 4 (1992), pp.541-567.

Week of Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October: Civil war, War Communism and NEP

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 10; Anne E. Gorsuch, “NEP Be Damned: Young Militants in the 1920s and the Culture of Civil War”, in *The Russian Review* 56 (4) (1997), pp.564-580; Robert Himmer, “The Transition from War Communism to the New Economic Policy: An Analysis of Stalin’s Views”, in *The Russian Review* 53 (4) (1994), pp.515-529.

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October: Essay proposal and bibliography due in at the beginning or end of class or at the latest by 13:00 in the red box outside the Department of History office.**

Week of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October: The Rise of Stalin, Collectivisation and Industrialisation

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 11; R.W. Davies, “Soviet Military Expenditure and the Armaments Industry, 1929-33: A Reconsideration”, in *Europe-Asia Studies* 45 (4) (1993), pp.577-608; James R. Harris, The Growth of the Gulag: Forced Labour in the Urals Region, 1929-1931”, in *The Russian Review* 56 (2) (1997), pp. 265-280; N.S. Simonov, “Strengthening the Defence of the Land of the Soviets”: The 1927 “War Alarm” and its Consequences”, in *Europe-Asia Studies* 48 (8) (1996), pp.1355-1364.

Week of Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October: Political Repression under Stalin to 1941

Reading: J. Arch Getty, “Excesses are not Permitted”: Mass Terror and Stalinist Governance in the Late 1930s”, in *The Russian Review* 61 (2) (2002), pp.113-138; Hiroaki Kuromiya, “Accounting for the Great Terror”, in *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas*, Volume 53, Number 1 (2005), pp.86-101; Kevin McDermott, “Stalinism from Below?: Social Preconditions of and Popular Responses to the Great Terror”, in *Totalitarian Movements and Political Religions*, Volume 8, Numbers 3-4 (September-December 2007), pp.609-622.

Week of Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November: The Soviet Union on the International Stage and Barbarossa – the German invasion of the Soviet Union

Reading: Carley, “Behind Stalin’s Moustache: Pragmatism in Early Soviet Foreign Policy, 1917-1941” in *Diplomacy & Statecraft* 12(3) (2001), pp.159-174; T.J. Uldricks, “The Icebreaker Controversy: Did Stalin Plan to Attack Hitler?”, in *Slavic Review*, Vol. 58, No. 3 (Autumn 1999), 626-643.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November – mid-term fill-in-the-blanks test in class (30 minutes)**

**Week of Monday 11 November – READING WEEK**

Week of Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November: From Stalingrad to Berlin

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 12; Hosking, G., “The Second World War and Soviet National Consciousness”, *Past and Present*, Volume 175, No.1 (2002), pp.162-187; Evan Mawdsley, “Stalin: Victors are not Judged”, in the *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, Volume 19, Number 4 (December 2006), pp.705-725.

Week of Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November: From late Stalinism to the ‘thaw’ and stagnation

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 13; Vladimir Mau, “The Road to Perestroika: Economics in the USSR and the Problems of Reforming the Soviet Economic Order”, in *Europe-Asia Studies* 48 (2) (1996), pp.207-224.

Week of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: from stagnation to Gorbachev and the Collapse of the Soviet Union

Reading: Freeze, Chapter 14; G. Lundestad, “ ‘Imperial Overstretch’, Mikhail Gorbachev, and the End of the Cold War”, in *Cold War History*, Volume 1, Number 1 (August 2000), pp. 1-20; David Norlander, “Khrushchev’s Image in the Light of Glasnost and Perestroika”, in *The Russian Review* 52 (2) (1993), pp.248-264; Suri, Jeremi, The Promise and Failure of ‘Developed Socialism’: The Soviet ‘Thaw’ and the Crucible of the Prague Spring, 1964-1972, in *Contemporary European History* 15(2) (2006), pp. 133-158; Jane R. Zavisca, “Explaining and Interpreting the End of Soviet Rule”, in *Kritika*, Volume 12, Number 4 (2011), pp.925-40; V. Zubok, “Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War: Perspectives on History and Personality”, in *Cold War History*, Volume 2, Number 2 (January 2002), pp.61-100.

**Friday 6 December: Final quiz**

**Friday 6 December: Essay due at the latest by 4:00 p.m. either to be submitted prior to the final test in class or in the red box outside the Department of History office, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor Social Sciences Building, by 4:00 p.m.**

**Assessment:**

Essay proposal and bibliography	Friday 18 October by 13:00 in the red box outside the History Department office (or in class)	A bibliography of at least 10 items, excluding the textbook and references provided in the course outline, in preparation for one of the essay questions, along with AT LEAST five and NO MORE than seven analytical points you have identified to date that you intend to make in your essay (maximum 50 words per point). You should reference works in your bibliography for each point.	30%
'Fill in the blanks' test	Friday 8 November in class	A short (30 minutes) 'fill in the blanks' test covering material to 1941 (20 questions).	10%
Essay	Friday 6 December by 13:00 in the red box outside the History Department office (or prior to the final test in class)	A short essay of up to 2,500 words including references but excluding bibliography in the word count, developed from your essay proposal and bibliography. You may use sources from the course outline in addition to sources you found yourself.	50%
Final quiz	Friday 6 December in class	40 multiple-choice questions.	10%

Where applicable a flat 5% penalty will be deducted per week for late submission of a bibliography without prior agreement with me or other official sanction. Any work submitted after midday on Friday 6 December will not be accepted and a mark of 0 recorded for that piece of work without prior agreement or official permission obtained through the appropriate channels.

Where applicable a flat 5% penalty will be deducted for significantly (>100 words) exceeding the word limit on the essay, with material beyond 2,500 words not being considered in the awarding of a mark.

Sample 'fill-in-the-blanks' question:

Prior to his death in 1924, Lenin dictated a 'Last Testament' that was particularly critical of \_\_\_\_\_ and was most favourable in its assessment of the leadership qualities of \_\_\_\_\_.  
(2 marks)

The correct answers are Stalin and Trotsky in that order!

Sample multiple-choice question:

Which of the following senior Bolsheviks was not killed during the Great Purges of 1936-1938?

- a) Zinoviev
- b) Bukharin
- c) Kamenev
- d) Voroshilov
- e) Rikov

The correct answer is, in this case, d!

Bibliography and Essay questions:

- 1) Why did Russia suffer defeat on home territory in the Crimean War of 1854-5?
- 2) Do the 'Great Reforms' of Alexander II deserve the label 'Great'?
- 3) Was the First World War a catalyst for or the principal cause of the February Revolution of 1917?
- 4) Why did the Bolsheviks overcome their opponents during EITHER the period a) from February to October 1917 OR b) from October 1917 to February 1921?
- 5) Did Stalin oversee a 'Great Leap Forward' for the Soviet Union between 1928 and 1941?
- 6) Why did the Great Purges take place in 1936-1938?
- 7) What explains changing Soviet attitudes towards the West in the period 1921-1941?
- 8) How much credit should we give Stalin for Soviet victory in the Great Patriotic War?
- 9) Was the Soviet Union 'Stalinist' after 1953?
- 10) What was more important in the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 – 'agency' or 'structure'?

In order to score highly on the essay proposal and bibliography, you must:

- \*Have provided at least 10 items in the bibliography.
- \*Provide items suitable as sources for the essay question selected (that is suitable for a piece of academic work and with content that would actually help answer the question chosen).
- \*Have included both books (you may actually only use a single chapter in your essay) and journal articles.
- \*Have completed the bibliography in an appropriate format for an historical essay (see below).

\*Provide the required number of suitable analytical points that are relevant to the question being answered.

\*Reference works (using an appropriate form of footnoting – see below) on which you have based the analytical points/in which you found evidence to sustain the analytical points. At this stage you do not need to provide page numbers for the references.

In order to score highly on your essay you must:

\*Have been answering the question.

\*Have an argument.

\*Support your argument with evidence/concise examples. As a rough guide, any significant assertion should be followed by some sort of example/piece of illustrative material to support it (with the source footnoted).

\*Show evidence of critical judgement (i.e. do not simply accept all sources at face value).

\*Use appropriately academic sources.

\*Reference sources in an appropriate manner (see below) and provide a suitably formatted bibliography. You need to provide page numbers for references.

### **Students will be penalised for consistently poor spelling, grammar and syntax.**

#### Sources and referencing

As a rough guide, I would expect you to have consulted and cited at least 10 books and journal articles in your essay – hopefully including those you selected for your bibliography if they are deemed appropriate when the bibliography is marked. Textbooks should generally be used to orientate yourself within the topic and literature. Please footnote rather than providing endnotes. Remember that all works in your footnotes should be in your bibliography. If in doubt, Chicago style referencing is probably the best option. References embedded in the text (e.g. APA) are NOT acceptable.

A guide to essay writing, including referencing and producing a bibliography, is provided at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook.pdf> or through the menu bar on the left hand side at <http://hist.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

#### **Grading:**

All work will be graded using the standardized departmental table for the conversion of percentages to letter grades – provided at the end of this outline. The final letter grade will be calculated from the percentage marks for each assignment and not from the letter grades accompanying them.

In line with university regulations, final test papers will not be returned to students, but will be retained by the Department of History.

#### **Additional Reading Material and Research Assistance:**

The following is a list of textbook-like reading material available to you in the library that you may use to better orientate yourself and as a starting point for research – be that by looking in their notes/bibliographies or on the shelves in the library near where you picked up

the book concerned. This list of such works far from exhaustive and other editions of these works may also be available in the library. Make sure that any works you use in your essay are scholarly (reference sources) and as up-to-date as possible. As a general rule, you should not be using secondary sources published before 1950. You might like to make use of journal article indexes such as *Historical Abstracts* in the research for your essays, in addition to 'citation mining' books and articles. For research assistance contact the History liaison librarian, Nadine Hoffman.

General (covering both Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union) (in order of chronological starting point):

Riasanovsky	A History of Russia (8 <sup>th</sup> ed.) – see also 7 <sup>th</sup> ed.	DK40.R5 2011
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Imperial Russia:

Hosking	Russia – People and Empire 1552-1917	DK49.H67 1997
Waldron	Governing Tsarist Russia	DK113.W35 2007
Pushkarev	The Emergence of Modern Russia 1801-1917	DK189.P861 1985
Thaden	Russia since 1801 – The Making of a New Society	DK189.T32 1971.C.2

The Soviet Union:

Hosking	A History of the Soviet Union 1917-1991	DK266.H66 1992
Nove	An Economic History of the USSR	HC335.N68 1989
Kenez	A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to the End	DK266.K43 1999
Service	A History of Twentieth Century Russia	DK266.S497 1997.C.1
Mawdsley	The Stalin Years: The Soviet Union 1929-1953	DK267.M38 1998
Ward	Stalin's Russia	DK267.W357 1999
Lovell	The Shadow of War: Russia and the USSR 1941-present	DK266.3.L68 2010
Overy	Russia's War	D764.O94 1997
Keep	Last of Empires – A History of the Soviet Union 1945-1991	DK267.K44 1995
Kotkin	Armageddon Averted – The Soviet Collapse 1970-2000	DK274 .K838 2008

### Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, students should:

\*Be able to Identify key events, stages, individuals, groups and processes in Russian and Soviet history, and in particular from 1801 to 1991

\*Have gained a broad understanding of cause and consequence, change and continuity and similarity and difference in the above period of Russian/Soviet history

\*Be familiar with and critical towards a range of source materials used by historians in understanding the past and in particular the above period of Russian/Soviet history

\*Be able to construct a historical argument by analyzing and interpreting a variety of relevant secondary sources

\*Be able to present their historical argument in a systematic and coherent manner in written form

### **Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- **Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.**
- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Library Block (MLB), call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- Registration changes and exemption requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

### **Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	



Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

### Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be dropped into the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* <https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work is reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*,

Section K. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Copyright:**

Instructors in all University of Calgary courses strictly adhere to the Copyright Act regulations and educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, you may be required to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

**Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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