**Russia in the 20th Century**

**Dr. Jenny Leigh Smith**

**Old CE G20**

This course provides an overview of Russian history during the 20th Century. Special emphasis will be on the Soviet period of Russian history, from 1917-1991. The focus of the course will be on the culture, daily life and social trends of Russia over the past one hundred years. Students will read a variety of primary and secondary sources, write several short essays and one longer research paper, and complete a group assignment.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students in this course will demonstrate:

-- the ability to describe the historical context in which Russia shaped global developments and events.

-- the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior in Russia.

-- an understanding of political and economic forces, both within Russia and beyond, shaped social change in Russia.

**Grading:**

**Attendance: 10%:** Attendance includes timeliness. If you are not in class within 2 minutes of the start of class, this will count as an absence. Participation includes staying awake during class, and resisting the urge to browse the web or check your text messages.

**Homework: 10%:** There will be 6 assignments over the course of the semester that will require some sort of short deliverable, usually we will discuss these in class. You may skip 1 of these without penalty, they are worth 2 points each.

**Participation: 10%** Most days there will be a question of the day posted as you come in the room. The very first order of business each day will be to give students a chance to respond to the question of the day. They will be opinion or analysis based, so more than one answer will be accepted each day.

**Book Review 10%** A 450-500 word book review on a book on a topic germane to the theme of the class is due during week 10.

**In Class Essays: 20%** four times during the semester, we will have an in-class essay on crucial moments in Soviet history. You will be given the topic of the essay one week before it is due, and you may use a 1 page cheat sheet to help you complete the essay.

**Group or Solo Project: 20%** Students will work alone or in groups of up to 4 students to create an object based (or primary source) history that represents a facet of a 20th Century war in Russia.

**Final Paper: 20%** Instead of a final exam, you will have a final paper for this class, 8-10 pages on a topic in the history of science and technology. This paper will be due at 5 PM on the day you are scheduled to take your final exam, but a rough draft of this paper will be due the Sunday night before dead week begins. We will discuss this project further later in the semester.

**Extra Credit** I am not an easy grader, but I do offer several opportunities for extra credit during the course of the semester. Details will be available later in the semester for these opportunities.

**Academic Honesty:** Students are expected to produce their own work and to understand and abide by the Georgia Tech Honor Code. Do not paraphrase from any sources. Do not cut and paste from online sources. Do not falsify your source base.

**Textbooks and Sources:**

**Seventeen Moments in Soviet History** at http://www.soviethistory.org/

**Library of Congress Website** http://www.loc.gov/

*The Russian Revolution*, Sheila Fitzpatrick

*The Thaw Generation* Ludmilla Alexeyeva

*Armageddon Averted*  Stephen Kotkin

Film *Bed and Sofa*

Film *Freedom’s Fury*

Film *Cranes are Flying*

**Unit I: 1900-1920**

**Day 1**: Welcome, class introduction, go over the syllabus, mini-lecture

**Homework : “The Empire that Was Russia”** photographs and brief essays on the work of Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorskii, photographer to the last Tsar of Russia. These are found online at **http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/empire/**

Complete the assignment available on T-Square in the Resources section.

**Day 2** Overview of Russia in the early 20th C. before the revolution: elites, the church, the peasantry, the intellectual class

**Homework :** Library of Congress “Frontiers” Series: Short films, short essays and political cartoons about the Russo-Japanese War. Found online at: **http://frontiers.loc.gov/intldl/mtfhtml/mfpercep/RJ\_mod.html**. Complete assignment available in the Resources section of T-Square.

**Day 3:** Go over homework, lecture on the Russo-Japanese War, reforms of the Early 20th Century, political groups and the rise of socialism in Russia

**Homework :** read Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* chapter 1 pp. 15-39 (Intro is optional, but useful)Watch *The Battleship Potemkin* (available online at Google video

**Day 5:** World War I, the fall of the Romanovs, the rise of the workers

**Homework:**  read Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, pp. 1-67

**Day 6:** The February Revolution and its aftermath

**Homework** read Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* pp. 68-92, reading assignment from 17 moments posted in the resources section of t-square.

**Day 7:** The October Revolution, The Civil War, hunger and hardship

**Homework :** Prepare for in class essay #1

**Day 8:** In Class Essay #1

**Homework :** reading assignment from 17 moments posted in the resources section of T-Square.

**Unit II: 1920-1940**

**Day 9:** The Soviet avant-garde in art, mass spectacle, marching, traffic direction, experimental living, youth

**Homework :** read Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution* pp. 93-119

**Assignment:** Memorize a mayakovsky poem from the Marxists.org website

**Day 10:** Poetry recitation. Lecture on NEP and Industrial Revolution, Scissors Crisis

**Homework:**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square

**Day 11:** Society and Culture in the 1920s: Women, Cultural Revolution

**Homework :**  review of ‘Bed and Sofa”: http://www.silentsaregolden.com/DeBartoloreviews/rdbBedandSofa.html

**Day 12:** No Class, Watch Film *Bed and Sofa* over the weekend

**Homework :**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square

**Day 13:** Industrialization and the First Five-Year Plan

**Homework :**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square, pick one or two photographs from the “Rodomonovo” file in the resources section and make a list of a half-dozen elements of “traditional” agrarian society and a half dozen elements of “modern” society you can find in the photos.

**Day 14:** Collectivization and Famine in the Countryside

**Homework :**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square

**Day 15:** The Purges and Show Trials 1934-1937, social effects

**Homework:**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square

**Day 16:** Science & Technology in the Soviet Union

**Homework :**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square, Anna Akhmatova poem, “Requiem”

**Day 17:** Social effects of the purges and terror

**Homework :**  read 17 moments assignment posted in the resources section of t-square

**Day 18:** Practice War with Finland: focus on Karelia

**Homework :**  prepare for in class essay #2

**Day 19:** In Class Essay #2

**Homework :**  read the sections of 17 Moments assigned in the resources section of T-Square

**Unit III: 1940-1960**

**Day 20:** Lecture on World War II

**Homework :**  read the sections of 17 Moments assigned in the resources section of T-Square

**Day 21:** Leningrad and Wartime Sacrifices

**Homework :**  read the sections of 17 Moments assigned in the resources section of T-Square

**Assignment: Become an expert on some micro aspect of World War II**

**Day 22:** Share expert histories, Lecture on The end of the War

**Homework :**  Watch the Film *Cranes are Flying*

**Day 23:** War’s aftermath and Soviet rebuilding

**Homework:**  read the sections of 17 Moments assigned in the resources section of T-Square

**Day 24:** The Iron Curtain and the Death of Stalin

**Homework :** Read selections from Orlando Figes “The Whisperers” available on T-Square

**Day 25:** The Death of Stalin and the Rise of Khrushchev, Society in the 1950s

**Homework :**  read the sections of 17 Moments in the resources section of T-Square

**Day 26:** Science and Technology, 1940-1960

**Day 27:** Destalinization and the Thaw

**Homework :**  read the sections of 17 Moments assigned in the resources section of T-Square

**Day 28:** The Soviet Union and World Affairs, 1956-1962

**Homework Assignment:** start reading “The Thaw Generation”

**Day 29:** In Class Essay #3 on 1940-1960

**Day 30 :** Film: *Freedom’s Fury* (**Book Reviews are Due Today)**

**Homework Assignment:** continue reading “The Thaw Generation”

**Unit IV: 1960-1980**

**Day 30:** Mini Quiz, Lecture on the Fall of Khrushchev

**Homework :** Continue reading “The Thaw Generation”

**Day 31:** Brezhnev and the Soviet stalemate

**Homework :** Finish reading “The Thaw Generation”, look at photoessay listed in “resources”

**Day 32:** Afghanistan Part I: the setup

**Homework:** Read “Afghanistan: A Compound War” available on T-Square

**Day 33:** Lecture on Oil Crisis **Final Paper Topics Due**

**Homework:** Read Selections from “The Hidden War” Available on T-Square

**Day 34:** Afghanistan part II: the denouement

**Day 35:** The Olympics of 1980

**Homework :** Prepare for in-class essay #4

**Day 36**: In Class Essay #4 1960-1980

**Homework :** Start Reading Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

**Unit V: 1980-2000**

**Day 37:** The gerontocracy and its resolution

**Homework :** Finish Reading Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

**Day 38:** Gorbachev, Chernobyl and the accidental revolution

**Homework :** Continue Reading Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

**Day 39:** Yeltsin, Crisis and Privatization

**Day 40:** Putin and restabilization: Russia in the 21st Century (optional: in-class essay #5 due, to replace your lowest essay grade)

**Day 41: Paper Outlines Due (minimum of 3 pages of writing or 750 words)**

**Day 42:** Group/ Solo Presentations

**Day 43:** Group/ Solo Presentations

**Day 44:** Group/ Solo Presentations \*\*\***Last Day of Classes\*\*\***