Course Description:

This course has several goals. First, it introduces students to one of the most important phenomena of the twentieth century: the formation of the Soviet state. Based on an ideology conceived of by a 19th century German, the Soviet Union and socialist system not only affected the lives of millions of Soviet citizens and determined the outcome of WWII, it also served as a model for new and post-colonial states throughout the world and formed one superpower state in the bipolar international system that defined international politics for decades. Second, the course investigates a second major twentieth century event: the collapse of the Soviet Union and creation of the Russian Federation. The effort to construct new political institutions, a functioning economy, and a healthy society in Russia represents one of the greatest political dramas of our time. This course considers processes of democratization, economic reform, nationalism, separatism, federalism and war in post-1991 Russia. The third part of the course addresses Russia’s relations with the world, focusing especially on relations with the United States and Europe. The Russian Federation, like its predecessor states the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, is concerned with how it fits into the system of nation-states. Is part of the European West or the Asian East? Does its political and economic system, and cultural practices make it unique among states in the world? We will study how Russian leaders and intellectuals make sense of Russia’s identity, as well as Russia's policies toward the US, Europe, the Near Abroad, and China. On a practical level, by studying the richness of Soviet history and current Russian politics, this course will sharpen students’ ability to assimilate facts. It will also strengthen students’ analytical and writing skills.

Readings:
All books and articles assigned in this course are placed on reserve at Butler Library and Barnard Library. All articles are available through Courseworks as well as through the e-journals tab on the website of Columbia University library. The following texts are available for purchase at Book Culture (212-865-1588, 536 W 112 Street, www.bookculture.com).

2.) David Remnick, Resurrection (Random House, 1997).
COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1.) Attendance/Participation: 10%

2.) Exam #1: In class exam 20% (closed-book)

3.) Exam #2: Take home essay exam: 20%

4.) Analytical essay: 25%. 7-8 pages on topic of your choosing. Due Wed. May 5 by 5pm. submit hard copy to professor.

5.) Final exam: 25%

Regular class attendance is expected and attendance will be taken. Students are permitted to miss one class during the semester without providing a reason. If students miss more than one class without a valid excuse, participation grade will be lowered. A valid excuse is a documented medical illness or family emergency. Students should come to class with the reading assignments completed.

Students must take all exams according to the schedule. Exceptions will be granted only in the case of a documented medical or family emergency. Only Prof. Giuliano (not the teaching assistants) will grant permission to take a make-up exam.

Grading is supervised by Prof. Giuliano who sets guidelines and reviews grading by teaching assistants. Students who believe there is an error with an exam grade should speak to their teaching assistant. If this does not resolve the student’s concern, Prof. Giuliano will review the exam. Exam grades given by TAs are rarely changed, however, and review by the professor may cause your grade to be either lowered or raised.

Failure to complete any of the four main requirements of the course (exams, paper, and final exam) will result in an F for the course. These assignments are course requirements and as such, I consider a failure to complete the requirements to be a failure to complete the class.

Students must adhere to the Barnard College academic Honor Code. All students must sign the Barnard College Honor Code statement before taking each exam. If you cheat on any assignments you will fail the course and you will be referred to the Barnard College Honor Board.
**Course Schedule and Assignments:**

**W. Jan. 20.** Introduction

**M. Jan. 25** What kind of country is Imperial Russia?

**W. Jan. 27** Imperial Russia to Soviet Russia: The Bolshevik revolution
Suny, Introduction xiii-xvi
Ch. 2: pp. 35-54. (Look at map on p. 30)

**Socialism and Civil War:**
Suny, Ch. 3: pp. 56-60; Intervention and the Civil War in the South: 72-76; Waiting for the International Revolution: 82-84
Ch. 7: Cultures and Classes: 170-172; Peasant Russia: 176-181; The Nepmen: 181-184; New Soviet Man and Woman: 184-88; Building Legitimate Authority: 190-93.

**M. Feb. 1** Stalin and the revolution from above
Suny, Ch. 6: Stalin’s Path to Power: 167-168
Ch. 9: The Stalin Revolution: 217-231
Ch. 10: Stalin’s Industrial Revolution: 233-250.

**The Terror**
Suny, Ch. 11: 252-268

**W. Feb. 3** The Great Fatherland War (WWII)
Suny, Ch. 13: 291-294
Ch. 14: 309-323 and pp. 331-335 (from “Early in 1945…”)

**The cold war begins**
Suny, Ch. 15: 337-355; Ch. 16: Cold War & Hot War/High Politics: 377-384.

**M. Feb. 8** The Cold War/ Khrushchev/ Brezhnev

**The Thaw**
Suny, Ch. 17, entire; Ch. 18: 404-407; The Arms Race: 411-420
Khrushchev’s Secret Speech

**Brezhnev**
Suny, Ch. 19: The Leadership: 421-425; Prague Spring: 427-429; Brezhnev Ascendant: 435-446
**W. Feb. 10**  Gorbachev: Glasnost and perestroika
Suny, Ch. 20: The Road to Radical Reform: 451-462
From Reform to Revolution: 465-468
Herspring, Putin’s Russia, pp. 131-134 (Gorbachev’s economic policy)
“The Gorbachev Era,” McFaul & Petrov, Between Dictatorship and Democracy, 26-33
Nina Andreeva, “I Cannot Forego My Principles”
Dear Comrade Editor, Riordan and Bridger, eds. pp. 16-39
Boris Yeltsin speech, “Elite Privileges”
Mikhail Gorbachev, “Speech at the Conference of the Aktiv of the Khabarovsk Territory Party Organization, July 31, 1986”
Oleg Bogomolov “I Can’t Absolve Myself of Guilt”

**M. Feb. 15**  The Rise of Ethnic Minority Nationalism in the Soviet Republics
Suny, Ch. 20: The Awakening of Nations: 462-465
“The Alexe Mateevici Cultural Club: An Informal Group Becomes a Mass Movement”

**The coup and the collapse: 1991**
Suny, Ch. 21: 469-484
Excerpt of interrogation of coup plotters, Current Digest of the Soviet Press
David Remnick, Resurrection, Chapter 1.
Gorbachev, “Resignation Speech, December 25, 1991”

**W. Feb. 17**  Evaluating the Soviet System
Katherine Verdery, Ch. 1 in What Was Socialism and What Comes Next? (Princeton University Press, 1996.)

**M. Feb. 22**  In-class Exam #1

**Part II: The Russian Federation**

**W. Feb. 24**  State-building in Russia: simultaneous political and economic transformations
Michael McFaul, Russia’s Unfinished Revolution, Ch. 4 “Institutional Design in the First Russian Republic” pp. 121-160
Remnick, Resurrection, Ch. 2, Ch. 3 (Parties/Parliament);

**M. March 1**  Parliamentary-Presidental Conflict and Yeltsin’s reforms
Michael McFaul, Russia’s Unfinished Revolution, Ch. 5 “The Failure of the First Russian Republic” pp. 161-204.
Remnick, Resurrection, Ch. 10, Ch. 11 (Yeltsin’s campaign)
W. March 3 Nationalist and Regionalist Separatism in a Liberalizing State/Chechnya
Wegren/Herspring, After Putin’s Russia, Ch. 3, pp. 60-64 only.

Chechnya
Remnick, Resurrection. Ch. 6 and Ch. 9

M. March 8 Politics under Putin
After Putin’s Russia, Richard Sakwa, Ch. 1, “Political Leadership
After Putin’s Russia, Tom Remington, Ch.2, “Putin, the Dominant Party Regime”

W. March 10 The Economy/ Law under Putin
After Putin’s Russia, Peter Rutland, Ch. 7, “The Oligarchs and Economic Development”
After Putin’s Russia, Kathryn Hendley, Ch. 4, “The Law in Post-Putin Russia”

M. March 15/W. March 17 Spring Break: March 12-21

M. Mar.22 Center-Region Relations under Putin/The second war in Chechnya
After Putin’s Russia, Petrov and Slider, Ch. 3, “The Regions under Putin and After”

W. Mar. 24 Analytical Perspectives

M. Mar 29 Take home Exam due in class
Film: Greetings from Grozny, PBS Wide-Angle documentary
Part III: Russia’s Relations with the West

W. Mar 31  Russia’s foreign policy: An Overview
Ronald Suny, “Living in the Hood: Russia, Empire, and Old and New Neighbors,” in *Russian Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century and the Shadow of the Past* (Columbia University Press, 2007.)

M. April 5  Putin’s Foreign Policy
*After Putin’s Russia*, Andrei Tsygankov, “Putin and Foreign Policy” Ch. 9, pp. 195-215.

W. April 7  NATO Expansion/Europe
Bruce Porter, “Russia and Europe After the Cold War: The Interaction of Domestic and Foreign Policies” Ch. 6 in Wallander, ed. *The Sources of Russian Foreign Policy*, 1996.

M. April 12  Europe and Russia
Angela Stendt, “Reluctant Europeans: Three Centuries of Russian Ambivalence Toward the West” Ch. 7, Legvold, *Russian Foreign Policy in the Twenty-First Century*. 2007

W. April 14  Missile Defense/Russia’s Military
*After Putin’s Russia*, Dale Herspring, Ch. 12, “Putin, Medvedev and the Russian Military”
Dmitri Gorenburg, “Russia’s New Model Army: The Ongoing Radical Reform of the Russian Military” PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 78
http://ceres.georgetown.edu/esp/ponarsmemos/page/78419.html
Steven Pifer, “After START: Hurdles Ahead” *Current History*, 108 no. 720 (Oct. 2009) 304-
http://ceres.georgetown.edu/esp/ponarsmemos/page/78351.html

6
M. April 19  US -Russian Relations:
James Goldgeier, Michael McFaul, “Power and Purpose: US Policy Toward Russia after the Cold War” Ch.1, (Brookings: 2003.)

W. April 21  The Russian-Georgian War/ Russia-China Relations


M. April 26  Energy Politics
http://ceres.georgetown.edu/esp/ponarsmemos/page/55931.html


W. April 28  Russian Policy Toward the Near Abroad
Ted Hopf, “Russian Identity and Foreign Policy in Estonia and Uzbekistan”, Ch. 7 in Wallander, ed. The Sources of Russian Foreign Policy, 1996.
After Putin’s Russia, Greg Gleason, Ch. 11, “Russia and Central Asia’s Multivector Foreign Policies.”
Andrey S. Makarychev, “Russian Policy After the Color Revolutions,” PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo 4 (March 2008), available at:
http://ceres.georgetown.edu/esp/ponarsmemos/page/51608.html

M. May 3  In conclusion
Dmitri Trenin, “Russia’s Spheres of Interest, not Influence” Washington Quarterly 2009 32: 4, 3-22.

Finals Exam: Monday, May 10 4:10 pm-7 pm
Russia related websites:

nytimes.com  For archived articles see: www.nytimes.com/library/world/europe/russia-index.html

www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2000/eur  US State Department human rights reports

themoscowtimes.com  English-language newspaper published in Moscow

www.gazeta.ru/english  Russian daily news

www.rferl.org  Radio Liberty/Radio Free Europe (US funded free radio station broadcast in the region)
It maintains a daily news service called newsline

jamestown.org  Jamestown Foundation’s biweekly review

cdi.org/russia  Center for Defense Information’s Russia Weekly (security issues)

www.therussiajournal.com  weekly paper

www.ijt.cz  Institute for Transition journalism (has back issues of Transition and daily reports of the Open Media Research Institute 1995-97

Photographs:
http://www.friends-partners.org/oldfriends/mes/russia/history.html

http://www.fotosearch.com/photos-images/ussr.html


Maps:
http://www.geographic.org/maps/new2/ussr_maps.html
