D314 (26219) Soviet Social and Cultural History
H509 (26220) Soviet Social and Cultural History*

Instructor: Professor Dana M. Ohren, Ph.D.
CA 313, cubicle P
dmohren@iupui.edu

Course Meeting: MW 12-1:15pm, CA 215

Office Hours: Wednesday 9-10am or by appointment

Required Course Readings: Norman Lowe, Mastering Twentieth Century Russian History
(2002 Edition)
Lydia Chukovskaia, Sofia Petrovna
Hochschild The Unquiet Ghost
Oncourse/Library Reserves

Course Design and Objectives

Learning history is not just a matter of memorizing names and dates, but moving beyond that knowledge to an understanding of how events are interrelated and how each event or person is part of a bigger picture. In this course we will survey twentieth century Russian/Soviet history from the collapse of the Tsarist empire through the collapse of its successor, the Soviet empire. We will examine the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution and Civil War, Stalinism (industrialization, collectivization, and the purges), the Great Patriotic War, “the Thaw,” the Cold War, and finally the collapse of the Soviet Union and its empire. Throughout the semester we will explore the formation of memory, official and otherwise, and how history is made and unmade by political contrivance.

The course is designed around a lecture and reading format to help strengthen your listening and reading comprehension skills. We will also watch videos and hold in-class discussions. Questions and discussion are encouraged and will be considered, along with attendance, as part of your effort grade. You will be required to write in-class and take-home essays throughout the semester to improve your organization and writing skills. All quizzes, exams, and writing assignments will be announced and are included in the course schedule below.

Course Assignments and Grading Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Effort</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quizzes and Response Paper</td>
<td>20% (5% each)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Final</td>
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You will take one midterm and one final exam in this course. They will consist of several “ID” essays and one longer essay. Periodically, I will give short “ID” quizzes to give you the opportunity to practice in-class essay writing.

“IDs” will be based on readings and lectures and require you to write a paragraph (about six or seven sentences) about a given term. The term may be a person, event, or concept. In these paragraphs, you should define the term in place and time (who, what, where, when, and why). This type of assignment will not only help you learn to communicate information on a given topic in a concise manner, but also strengthen your comprehension skills by breaking down the information into smaller units. This last issue is particularly important as students have often told me that they have trouble remembering readings because they just seem to be long lists of names, dates, and events. Writing ID paragraphs will allow you to organize better and therefore remember information better.

In each ID essay, you should explain why this particular person, event, or concept is significant or how he, she, or it is related to larger themes in history. In doing so, you will begin to answer the question “why” and make connections between individual terms and broader concepts and movements in history. Also, in thinking about why a specific term is significant, you will be working on your analytical and critical thinking skills.

ID paragraphs are the building blocks of longer essays. In this course you will write several longer essays. Such essays are evaluated according to organization (we will work on writing outlines together in class), what information you have chosen as essential to answering the question, how well that information is presented, and finally does the essay answer the given question. In doing so, we will be emphasizing the importance of always basing historical interpretations on evidence.

**Grade Explanations**

A  Outstanding work. Student’s work demonstrates that s/he has mastered course materials. In-class and take-home essays show the ability to synthesize and analyze course materials, and all analyses are based on evidence as provided in readings and lectures. Essays are well organized and consistently connect individual terms to other historical events and processes as well as course themes.

B  Above average. Student’s work demonstrates an understanding of course materials, but displays some difficulty organizing materials or placing terms in the broader context of historical events and processes or course themes.

C  Average. Student’s work demonstrates an understanding of most course materials, but does not integrate lecture and reading materials well. Student’s work also displays a difficulty organizing material and/or placing terms in the broader context of historical events and processes or course themes.

D  Below Average. Student’s work shows a lack of understanding of course materials and other serious weaknesses in both synthesizing and analyzing materials.

F  Failing Grade. Student’s work fails to meet the minimum requirements and demonstrates a clear lack of understanding of course materials.
Attendance Policy:

Attendance is mandatory and will be taken on a regular basis. If you need to miss a class, inform me ahead of time or immediately afterwards and provide documentation for why you missed. Otherwise, your absence will be considered unexcused. For every unexcused absence beginning with your fourth, your overall grade will be lowered by a third of a grade (from a B+ to a B or from a C to a C-).

Students are responsible for classes they do not attend. You should ask a classmate for his/her notes and contact me if you have any further questions.

All quizzes and assignments are announced on the course schedule. You will not be able to make-up a quiz or exam or hand in a late assignment if your absence is unexcused.

Drop/Add, Withdrawals, and Incompletes

For IUPUI’s policy regarding drop and add dates, see http://registrar.iupui.edu/drop.html; for withdrawals, see http://registrar.iupui.edu/withdraw.html; and for incompletes, see http://registrar.iupui.edu/incomp.html.

Oncourse

I will regularly post maps and other materials on oncourse. These materials are meant to supplement course lectures and readings. They do not replace attending class or reading the text. Please note that some mandatory reading assignments will be posted on oncourse and marked as such on the course schedule.

Academic Misconduct

Guidelines for what constitutes academic misconduct, including cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, and other cases and how such situations will be handled are in The Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct. The Code is online at:


*All cell phones are to be switched to a silent vibrate mode during class time. If a student receives and needs to answer a call, s/he should leave the classroom so as not to disturb classmates.

Student Disabilities

If you have special needs that require modification of instruction or in-class assignments, please notify me and contact the Office of Adaptive Education Services at IUPUI. To view requirements and services, please go to the Office’s website at http://life.iupui.edu/ases/, call (317)274-3241 [TDD/TTY: (317)278-2050], or e-mail ases@iupui.edu.

Contacting Me

I can be reached during my office hours or by arranged appointments. I check my e-mail daily with my last check in at 9pm.

*H509

Graduate students are to meet with me to discuss additional course requirements.
**Course Schedule**

All reading and written assignments are to be completed before the class period for which they appear on the schedule.

**Week One**
W (8/23): Introduction to D314/H509

**Week Two: The Social and Political Order of Late Tsarist Russia**
M (8/28): Lowe, 1-32  
W (8/30): Lowe, 32-54

**Week Three: World War One and the February Revolution**
M (9/4): No School for Labor Day  
W (9/6): Lowe, 62-85  

**Quiz 1**

**Week Four: The Bolshevik (October) Revolution**
M (9/11): Lowe, 92-114  
W (9/13): Lowe, 119-141

**Week Five: The Civil War and New Economic Policy (NEP)**
M (9/18): Lowe, 141-154, Excerpt on E-Reserves  
W (9/20): Lowe, 154-186  

**Quiz 2**

**Week Six: Stalin’s Revolution from Above (Collectivization and the First 5-Year Plan)**
M (9/25): Lowe, 193-203 and 258-259 [Documents A, B, and C]  
W (9/27): Lowe, 203-230

**Week Seven: Review and Midterm**
M (10/2): Review  
W (10/4): **Midterm**  
*Begin Reading Sofia Petrovna*

**Week Eight: The 1930s (The Purges)**
M (10/9): Lowe, 230-244 and *Sofia Petrovna*  
W (10/11): 244-258 and *Sofia Petrovna*

**Week Nine: Gulag and 1930s International Politics**
M (10/16): Excerpt from Applebaum *Gulag* on E-Reserves  
**Response Paper on Sofia Petrovna Due**  
W (10/18): Lowe, 267-282
Week Ten: World War Two (The Great Patriotic War)
M (10/23): Lowe, 282-310
W (10/25): In-class videos (Overy’s *Russia’s War* and *Come and See*)

Week Eleven: Late Stalinism and the Beginning of the Cold War
M: (10/30): Lowe, 310-316 and excerpt from Tumarkin’s *The Living and the Dead* on E-Reserves
W (11/1): Lowe, 316-334

Week Twelve: Khrushchev and the Thaw and the Cold War
M (11/6): Lowe, 342-361, 337 Document H and 373-Document A (both from Khrushchev’s Speech)
W (11/8): Lowe, 361-373
**Quiz #3**

Week Thirteen: The Brezhnev Years
M (11/13): Lowe, 377-396
W (11/15): village writers [Reading TBA on E-Reserves]

Week Fourteen: The Gorbachev Rev
M (11/20): Lowe, 401-423
W (11/23): No Class (Thanksgiving Break)
*Begin reading *The Unquiet Ghost* over break*

Week Fifteen: Collapse and Rebirth
M (11/27): Lowe, 424-446
* [The Unquiet Ghost]*
W (11/29): Lowe, 453-474
* [The Unquiet Ghost]*

Week Sixteen: History, Memory, and the Future
M (12/4): *The Unquiet Ghost*
**Paper Due**
W (12/6): Russia Today [Reading TBA on E-Reserves]

Week Seventeen: Finals Week
M (12/8) Review
**F (12/15) 10:30am-12:30pm**