History 4290

History of the Soviet Union: Social History
Instructor: Marianne Kamp, Associate Professor of History

Office: History 358
Office Hours:
Office Phone: 766-5103

Spring semester, 2011. Meets Tues/Thurs 8:10-9:35 am, Business 24
Email: mkamp@uwyo.edu

This course concerns the social history of the Soviet Union, and its heirs. Chronologically, the course begins with the 1917 Revolutions, and runs through the early 2000s. Thematically, the course will spend more time discussing the ways that people in the Soviet Union experienced revolutionary changes, transforming events, and social experiments, than discussing politics, foreign policy or other possible emphases for a course in Soviet history. Social historians often focus on analyses of race, class, and gender; but for the Soviet Union, we instead focus on ethnicity/nationality, class, and gender as lenses through which we examine the experiences of Soviet citizens. Fundamental questions: in what ways was the Soviet Union revolutionary? To what extent were its agendas radical in their aspirations for change, and to what extent did the Soviets actually implement radical change? To what extent was the Soviet Union shaped by Communism as an ideology? How did Communist ideology and the efforts that the Soviets made to rapidly modernize the economy change gender roles or gender ideas? How and why did the Communist Party's approach to society and economy change over time? Why did the Soviet Union collapse, and what is its legacy to its successor states?

Modes of learning for this course: this course will feature lecture and discussion in approximately equal measure. As the instructor, I am responsible for lecturing; as students, you are responsible for reading and discussing. Aside from a few map quizzes, you will be expected to write about what you read, in order to process, analyze, fix facts in your mind, and compare accounts, as your primary mode demonstrating what you have learned. There will be no exams. There will be very frequent short writing exercises, as described below.
Texts: There are five books for this course. Three of those are available in electronic copy through the library. You do not NEED to purchase the books if you prefer to read them electronically, but you will need to read them in one form or another. In addition to the books, there will be some articles which you will find either as .pdf links through this syllabus, or on e-reserve through Coe Library.

Additional required readings will be found on this website: *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*, www.soviethistory.org You will need to link to the website and register, creating your own login name and password. Registration is free.

Books (presented in Chicago style bibliography form. Please note and emulate):


**Assessment of student work:**

Discussion/participation is more than just showing up. Come to class having done the reading, having thought about it, and having written a few notes that will help you to participate in discussion. Speak up. Benchwarming (that is, just sitting in class without talking) earns a D for discussion/participation. Discussion/participation is 30% of your grade.
Written work: You will turn in 4 short essays (4-5 pages). Each of these is worth 10% of your grade. You will turn in 1 longer (6-7 page) final essay this semester, worth 20% of your grade. The final essay will be either an analysis of a particular issue or theme that was prominent during this semester in your readings, or a book review. All written work will be submitted as a .doc attachment to the appropriate unit dropbox in ecompanion. If you do not use a version of MS Word, save your document in whatever program that you have, using the "save as" menu, and selecting either .doc or .rtf. Hard copy will not be accepted. All work is due by the deadline stated on ecompanion. Late work will not be accepted.

Grading scale: A=91-100; B=81-90; C=71-80; D=61-70; F=0-60

I adhere to standards described in Teachers and Students Working Together. I expect you to abide by Academic Honesty standards (for a description of Academic Honesty, dishonesty, plagiarism, etc., see the Academic Honesty link on the UW A-Z directory).

Please inform me about disabilities, so that I can make necessary accommodations.

Taking this course for Graduate Credit

Graduate students will meet separately with me on a schedule that we determine to discuss readings. Graduate students will write a research paper and give an in-class presentation of their research.

Essay due dates:

Turn in your first essay by one of these deadlines: Jan 16, Jan 23, Jan 30. Instructions are under the tab marked Jan 13.

Turn in your second essay by one of these deadlines: Feb 6, Feb 13, or Feb 20

Turn in your third essay by one of these deadlines: Feb 27, March 6, or March 20

Turn in your fourth essay by one of these deadlines: March 27, April 3, April 10

Turn in your final essay or book review by May 3.

Schedule:

Jan 11 & 13 Revolution, Suny Chs 1, 2; Clement, Bolshevik Women (read only pp. 7-13); Goldman Women, State and Revolution, 1-13; Engel, Barbara Alpern, "Not by Bread Alone: Subsistance Riots in Russia during World War I," Journal of Modern History vol. 69 no. 4 (1997): 696-721 (find this on either JSTOR or through Historical Abstracts). Go to Seventeen Moments in Soviet History www.soviethistory.org and create your own login. Look at
short articles and primary sources on revolution in Army, on Brest-Litovsk, on economy, and on women. Go to week one tab for discussion questions and writing instructions.

Jan 18 & 20 Revolution & Civil War, Suny Chs 3, 4; Gender, State pp. 1-29; In the Shadow of Revolution, pp 66-72 and 118-122 (pdf); Seventeen Moments year 1921 documents.

Jan 25 & 27 1920s Suny 5, 6; Goldman, Women, State, 214-253. The chapter from Goldman reflects arguments among Communist Party members and members of the Party's Women's Division (Zhenotdel) about the 1926 marriage code, which, like the 1918 code, made divorce easy, and which recognized de facto marriage (living together) as the same thing as marriage, and which gave children born outside of marriage the same recognition (as their father's offspring and entitled to support) as children born within marriage. The first part of the chapter may seem like slow reading, but the arguments get more interesting after a few pages. Kamp New Woman, 151-162. This part of a chapter from my book is an oral history with an Uzbek women who is discussing the Hujum and changes that the Soviet system brought to her life in the 1920s. Komsomol means Communist Youth league. On Seventeen Moments in Soviet History, go to 1921, and to the section on New Economic Policy. Read the text on private property and on denationalizing industry. Go to 1924 and read the sections on Religion, and on Nepmen.

Feb 1 & 3 Socialism and NEP Suny 7, 8. On Seventeen Moments, read the following sections: 1924, Socialist Cinema, and Young Communists (including the text Diary of a Communist Schoolboy); 1929 New Way of Life (and read the two memoirs under the Text connection), Making Central Asia Soviet, and the Chinese Railway incident. See tab on Feb 3 for your second essay assignment.

Feb 8 & 10 Collectivization and Industrialization Suny 9, 10; on Seventeen Moments read sections on Churches Closed, Magnetic Mountain (especially the text called Construction Accidents), Liquidation of the Kulaks. Stories of Collectivization: first two are Russian women's stories: Arina's Children, Life in a Peasant Village; second two are Uzbek oral histories, by a man, Abdurasul E, and a woman, Olmajon. Essay instructions found under Feb 3 link.

Feb 15 & 17 Stalinism and Purges Suny 11, 12; Gender, State 30-54. Read primary source documents found on 17 Moments: 1936, Birobidzhan, Kirov Affair, Pavlik Morozov; 1936, Creation of Ethnic Republics, Abolition of Legal Abortion, Great Terror, Stalin Constitution.
Feb 22 & 24 WWII Suny 13, 14, Grossman (first half or so); 17 Moments, read 1939 section on Molotov Ribbentrop pact, and 1943, chose from selections about the war. Third essay due any time between now and March 8. See instructions on tab

March 1 & 3 WWII and early cold war, Suny 15 and Grossman; linked article, Krylova on Women Fighters; linked article, Soviet Intervention in the War with Japan (Foreign Affairs, vol. 40, no. 4 1962:653-662). Thursday, film "Why We Fight" (Frank Capra on "Russia")

March 8 & 10 End of Stalinism Suny 16, 17, 18, Raleigh; 17 moments, 1947: Cold War, Ukraine after the War, Xenophobia; 1954 Succession to Stalin, Prisoners Return, What's a Woman to think?

SPRING BREAK

March 22 & 24 Brezhnev, Suny 19 and Kotkin 1-30; Gender, State 55-89

March 29 & 31 Gorbachev and demise, Suny 20, 21, and Kotkin to 112

Apr 5 & 7 New States, Suny 22 and Kotkin to end; Gender, State 90-104

Apr 12 & 14 Russia, Chechnya, and authoritarianism. See tab for this week for readings choices.

Apr 19 & 21 Color revolutions; gender upheavals. See tab for this week for reading choices.

Apr 26 & 28 final papers and presentations