

History 2660 W  
History of the Soviet Union  
(20th Century Russia)

Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. Oleh Gerus  
Office: 302 St. Paul's College  
Office hours: Wednesdays 9-12:00 and by appointment  
Phone: 474-9880  
Fax: 474-7620  
E-mail: [oleh.gerus@umanitoba.ca](mailto:oleh.gerus@umanitoba.ca)

Course Description: The ideologically driven transformation of the Russian Empire into the Soviet Union represents one of the most revolutionary and brutal socio-economic engineering experiments of the modern age. The course will examine the process of this transformation, the creation of the Soviet Union, its communist political system and society, its international role, its unexpected disintegration and the emergence of the new Russia.

The format of the course will consist of lectures, class discussions and relevant documentaries.

*Recommended text:*

**M.K. Dziewanowski, *Russia in the Twentieth Century*. 6<sup>th</sup> edition, Pearson, 2003.**

**Course Outline:**

1. Introduction (ch 1-2)
2. Background: Imperial Russia in the 19<sup>th</sup> century: political, social, intellectual and international developments (ch 3)
3. The first revolution (1905) and the aftermath (4-5)
4. The Russian Revolution: World War I (1914-17) and the overthrow of tsarism, Lenin and the Bolshevik victory (6-8)
5. Building a new world: the Bolshevik experiments of the 1920s. (9, 11)
6. Stalinism (1929-1953): Forceful implementation of Soviet socialism: industrialization, collectivization (*Holodomor* the Ukrainian famine/genocide), mass state terror and Soviet culture (12-15)
7. The Soviet foreign policy: search for security (10, 16, 17)
8. World War II, 1939-41: The Soviet Union and the West and the defeat of Nazi Germany.(18)

9. The Cold War: ideology and global geopolitics, 1945-89 (19)
10. Nikita Khrushchev (1953-64) and de-Stalinization; confrontation with the USA (20-23)
11. The period of international power and domestic stability and stagnation, 1964-1985 (25)
12. The Gorbachev “revolution”, 1985-91, and the collapse of communism and the Soviet Union (24)
13. Post-Soviet Russia, 1991 to the present (25-26); Putin and crisis in Ukraine.

**Term Work: 70%**

First essay	20%	Oct. 9
Test	30%	Nov. 6
Second essay	20%	Nov. 20

**Final exam 30%** during December exam period

Each essay must be 1500-2500 words in length. Late assignments will be penalized by a full grade.

Evaluative feedback of term work done to date will be provided before the VW date of November 12, 2014

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.

**Grade distribution for term work:**

A+	90-100%
A	80-89
B+	75-79
B	67-74
C+	60-66
C	51-59
D	50
F	49 and less

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

- Note: The University's regulations re plagiarism, cheating and impersonation found in the 'Academic Integrity' section of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student\\_responsibilities.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html)) which reads:

*The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.*

*The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.*

*The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.*