

**Hist 431 Russia Since 1861 (01W)** Spring Semester 2007, Samford University

Class meets MWF 9:15-1:20, DBH 113

Prof. J. Brown, office DBH 102-B, ph. 726-2553, e-mail <jsbrown@samford.edu>

Office hours 7-9 a.m. MW, 7-8 a.m. TTR, most afternoons by appointment

**Goals & Objectives:**

The main goal of this upper-level course is to give a student some lasting appreciation for the dramatic cultural and political history of modern Russia – both of world-class importance. More assessable objectives are mastery of the main currents of cultural and political history sufficient to write analytical essays thereon, proving general assertions with specific examples.

**Focus of course:**

Since a major aspect of Russian history since 1861 is the interaction between the ideology of Marxism and the currents of Russian history, early lectures in the course will be split between the two. One of the classic ways to study Marxism is to watch it develop in the life of Karl Marx himself, so the instructor has chosen Isaiah Berlin's biography (*Karl Marx: His Life and Environment*) for initial readings and discussions. At the same time, the instructor will introduce Russian history before 1861 to show the depth of Russian history and give the class a running start at modern times. The course proper begins with the 1861 announcement of the emancipation of the serfs, keystone of Alexander II's Great Reforms, and will detail the faltering progress of the Old Regime up until the early twentieth century. The intersection between Marxism and the history of Russia is to be prefaced with some study of *narodnichestvo*, that native Russian variety of socialism.

The second half of the course will begin with 1917, War Communism, Civil War and NEP mainly as a lead-in to Stalin's quarter-century of totalitarian rule. Khrushchev's and Gorbachev's reforms will be considered later, and the class will end with some appraisal of this last, turbulent, post-Soviet fifteen-plus years. Student research will be presented the last three days of class.

**Required paperbacks:**

Isaiah Berlin, *Karl Marx*

Mikhail Sholokhov, *And Quiet Flows the Don*

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *The First Circle*

one other TBA

**Determination of grade:**

There will be Midterm and Final exams, each roughly half essay and half objective. Each of these has an open-ended bonus question: "what did you read (view, discuss, etc.) outside class – author, title, approx. number of pages read – and what did you learn from it that wasn't in regular class or assigned readings?" Daily reading quizzes (objective questions, scattered fairly evenly throughout each reading) will be totaled at course end, dropping the two lowest grades. A research paper and oral presentation of same is required.

Each of the four main parts of the course listed above will count equally:

Midterm: 25%  
 Final: 25%  
 Daily Readings: 25%  
 Research Paper and class report: 25%

Unexcused absences for more than six (6) classes will result in FA. Cheating on exams or plagiarism in papers, of course – clearly described in the student handbook – will result in grade of F.

***Schedule:***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading assignment</b>	<b>Tentative class and lecture topics</b>
Mon. Jan. 29 – (none)		Language
Wed. Jan. 31 – Berlin chpts. 1-2		Folklore
Fri. Feb. 2 – Berlin chpts. 3-4		Early history
Mon. Feb. 5 – Berlin chpt. 5		More early history
Wed. Feb. 7 – Berlin chpt. 6		Alexander I & Nicholas I
Fri. Feb. 9 – Berlin chpts. 7-8		Alexander II & emancipation
Mon. Feb. 12 – Berlin chpts/ 9-11		G. T. Robinson
Wed. Feb. 14 – Sholokhov I ch.1-4		G. T. Robinson
Fri. Feb. 16 – Sholokhov I ch.4-8		Narodnichestvo; research topics due)
Mon. Feb. 19 – Sholokhov I ch. 9-12		Narodnichestvo
Wed. Feb. 21 – Sholokhov I ch. 13, II ch. 1-4		Alexander III
Fri. Feb. 23 – Sholokhov II ch. 5-9		Nicholas II
Mon. Feb. 26 – Sholokhov II. ch. 10-13, III ch. 1		Nicholas II
Wed. Feb. 28 – Sholokhov III ch. 2-6		WW I
Fri. Mar. 2 – Sholokhov III ch. 7-9, IV ch. 1-2		WW I
Mon. Mar. 5 – Sholokhov IV ch. 3-7		Revolution
Wed. Mar. 7 – Sholokhov IV ch. 8-10		Revolution
[Fri. Mar. 9 – no class; prof out of town]		
Mon. Mar. 12 – MIDTERM EXAMINATION		
Wed. Mar. 14 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 1-2		War Communism
Fri. Mar. 16 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 13-21		NEP; (research bibliography due)
[SPRING BREAK, week of Mar. 19-23]		
Mon. Mar. 26 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 22-29		Power struggle & Collectivization
Wed. Mar. 28 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 30-40		Hitler & geopolitics; Purge trials
Fri. Mar. 30 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 41-49		WW II

Mon. Apr. 2 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 50-57	WW II
Wed. Apr. 4 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 58-67	Beginnings of Cold War
Fri. Apr. 6 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 68-76	Stalin's last years
[Mon. Apr. 9 – EASTER MONDAY HOLIDAY]	
Wed. Apr. 11 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 77-83	Khrushchev
Fri. Apr. 13 – Solzhenitsyn ch. 84-87	Khrushchev; (first drafts due)
Mon. Apr. 16 – TBA	Khrushchev
Wed. Apr. 18 – TBA	Brezhnev
Fri. Apr. 20 – TBA	Brezhnev
Mon. Apr. 23 – TBA	Gorbachev
Wed. Apr. 25 – TBA	Gorbachev
Fri. Apr. 27 – TBA	Yeltsin
Mon. Apr. 30 – TBA	Putin
Wed. May 2 – TBA	Putin
Fri. May 4 – TBA	Recent events
Mon. May 7 – (none)	(research papers due); first 1/3 of oral presentations
Wed. May 9 – (none)	second 1/3 of oral presentations
[Fri. May 11 – no class; prof out of town]	
Mon. May 14 – (none)	third 1/3 of oral presentations; review for exam

Thurs. May 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m. – FINAL EXAMINATION

Other important semester dates:

Feb. 2 - last day to Drop/Add without financial penalty

Mar. 16 - last day to withdraw without academic penalty

Apr. 26 - last day to completely withdraw from semester without academic penalty

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