History 2220-002:
War & Society: Russia in the Twentieth Century
Fall 2015, 4:00-4:50 pm, Hellems 237
Dr. Nancy Vavra

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Course Description:
History 2220 explores the character, origins, and social, political, and intellectual impact of war; this semester we will study twentieth-century Russia. Events include Revolution, Civil War, World Wars, Stalinism, and Cold War.

During the twentieth century, the people of Russia experienced dramatic changes including political revolution, cultural revolution, famines, invasion, terror from their own leaders, and multiple wars on multiple fronts. All wars impact soldier and civilian, but in Russia, a line between battlefront and home front barely existed. Civilian and military society experienced and suffered alike. Questions we will ask include: What conditions precipitated the major events? How did the leaders contribute to and influence the outcomes? How did the people respond and why? What were the consequences of war on society? How did the events influence Russia today? Our answers will come from studying the history and reading sources written by those who were there.

This course is approved for arts and sciences core curriculum, historical context.

Note that only one 2000 Level HIST course can be applied to History Major requirements. If you are considering a History major, take only one 2000 course
**Required Books**
Isaac Babel, *1920 Diary*
Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*
V. Grossman, *A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with the Red Army, 1941–‘45*
W. Bruce Lincoln, *In War’s Dark Shadow: The Russians before the Great War*

**Additional readings**, online and on D2L, are listed on the syllabus schedule.

**Book Reserve:**
You may purchase new, used, or rental books at the bookstore or online. There are also copies on reserve at the Norlin library circulation desk. During library hours, you may borrow a book for 2 hours with your CU Buff card.

I will also place a Russian History textbook on reserve at Norlin with the required texts. There is no required textbook assigned for the course and you may want to review the events we discuss in class.

**Optional Books (helpful background on Russian military history):**
Richard Overy, *Russia’s War: A History of the Soviet War Effort: 1941-1945*
Roger R. Reese, *The Soviet Military Experience*
Aatyom Borovik, *The Hidden War: A Russian Journalist’s Account of the Soviet War in Afghanistan*

**Course structure, requirements and attendance policy**
Students are expected to complete the assignments on time and attend each class. Most classes include lecture and each lecture is presented with an outline and images. I email a one-page outline to the “class list” (to the email you provide to CU) before class begins. Having a copy of the outline, prior to the start of class, is helpful when taking notes.

Knowledge of the lectures and class content is essential for doing well on exams. Attendance is required. An attendance sheet circulates when class begins. After three unexcused absences, two points per absence are deducted from your final grade. Students who arrive after ten minutes will lose the opportunity to sign the attendance sheet. Important announcements are made at the start of class. I also check signatures at random. Be on time and sign your name only. Talk to me if you have a legitimate reason for repeatedly arriving late.
Electronic devices and this course
Phones, tablets and laptops are allowed for now, but not encouraged in this class. Turn off phones. **Laptops and tablets will only be permitted for taking notes**; all other screens are very distracting to those around you and rude to those speaking. Electronic devices will be banned if problems persist.

All assignments, reviews, and grades will be posted on D2L.

**Grades are assessed on a 300 point scale:**
150- two quizzes and one paper (50 pts. each).
70 pts.- one midterm: essay and short answer or identifications.
70 pts.- final exam: similar to midterm.
10 pts.- attendance and participation.

A 300-279  B 249-260  C 219-230  D 189-200
A- 270-278  B- 240-248  C- 210-218  D- 180-188
B+ 261-269  C+ 231-239  D+ 201-209  F 179

The breakdown equivalent:
A 93-100  B 83-86.5  C 73-76.5  D 63-66.5
A- 90-92.5  B- 80-82.5  C- 70-72.5  D- 60-62.5
B+ 87-89.5  C+ 77-79.5  D+ 67-69.5  F 59-0

No make-ups without prior arrangements or documented excuse.

Late papers are accepted up to one week past the due date, but incur a 2 pt deduction per day late, including weekends.

Please notice that the final exam is Thursday Dec 17, 10:30 am-1:00 pm.

Early finals are not given without a documented excuse. **Early finals are not given to accommodate travel.**

Please be sure to make your end of semester travel plans with this in mind.
Disability Statement: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your professor a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at dsinfo@colorado.edu. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries guidelines under the Quick Links at the Disability Services website and discuss your needs with your professor.

Religious observance: Campus policy requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all scheduling conflicts due to a religious observance, Please see me two weeks prior to the absence to make arrangements http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Classroom Behavior: Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student’s legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on classroom behavior and the student code.

Discrimination and Harassment: The University of Colorado Boulder (CU-Boulder) is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working, and living environment. CU-Boulder will not tolerate acts of discrimination or harassment based upon Protected Classes or related retaliation against or by any employee or student. For purposes of this CU-Boulder policy, "Protected Classes" refers to race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Individuals who believe they have been discriminated against should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution (OSC) at 303-492-5550. Information about the OIEC, the above referenced policies, and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be found at the OIEC website. The full policy on discrimination and harassment contains additional information.

Honor Code: All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Additional information regarding the Honor Code policy can be found online and at the Honor Code Office.
Proposed lecture, discussion and assignment schedule
Topics and dates may change slightly due to class discussions.

Week 1- Aug 24-28
Topics:
Intro to course and to Russia’s imperial past: the development of Russian autocracy, serfdom, orthodoxy and the military.

Assignment:
Begin reading In War’s Dark Shadow, Chapters I-II (Chapters III-VI are optional).

Week 2- Aug 31- Sept 4
Topics:
The Imperial past cont.- a century of Russian victory and defeat: Alexander I and Napoleon, the Crimean war, Nicholas II and the Russo-Japanese war.

Assignment:
Read In War’s Dark Shadow, Chapters VII and VIII (Chapters IX and X are optional).

Week 3- Sept 9-11 (no class Monday)
Topics:
1905-1914: Russo-Japanese war, pre-WWI politics: Pan Slavism, tensions, Nicholas I & Wilhelm II. The Great War begins.

Assignment:
Read In War’s Dark Shadow, Chapters XI-XII.

Week 4- Sept 14-18
Topics:
World War I continued: war and the February revolution.
How did war contribute to revolution? Was revolution inevitable?

Assignment:
Read the “AFTERWORD” from In War’s Dark Shadow.
Friday, Sept 18- first response quiz on the background and outbreak of WWI. 50 pts
Week 5- Sept 21-25
Topics:
1917 cont. Feb- October, Bolshevik Revolution, Russia leaves the Great War. The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk and begin the Russian Civil War, 1918-1921.

Assignment:
Begin reading Isaac Babel, 1920 Diary.

Week 6- Sept 28- Oct 2
Topics:
Russian Civil War and war with Poland. Small group discussions on Babel readings.

Assignment:
Finish Babel, 1920 Diary and from Red Cavalry: “My First Goose” on D2L.

Week 7- Oct 5-9
Topics:
Lenin’s post war policies, Lenin’s death, the rise of Stalin. Begin Stalin's war against the peasantry. If time- Watch Documentary, “Red Empire” – Vol. 3, Collectivization.

Assignments:
Finish Babel for the quiz and read Chapter from Red Bread by Hindus on D2L. Monday, Oct 5 second quiz, on Revolution and Civil War, 50 pts.

Week 8- Oct 12-16
Topics:
Finish Stalin’s war against the peasantry. Prelude to The Great Patriotic War: Russia, Poland and Germany in 1939. Hitler, Stalin, and the Nazi Soviet pact. Operation Barbarossa: war comes to Russia.

Assignment:
Begin Grossman, A Writer at War, read PART ONE, pp. 3-64. You may choose to begin PART TWO as next week’s reading assignment is a long one.

Week 9- Oct 19-23
Topics:
Barbarossa continued. The siege of Leningrad and holding Moscow. The “Great Patriotic War” and Soviet Society.
**Assignment:**

**Week 10- Oct 26- 30**

**Topics:**
The Great War cont. The Battles of Stalingrad and Kursk.
Women and War.
If time- “Red Empire” – Vol. 5: “Patriots.”

**Assignments:**
From Grossman’s *A Writer at War*, read Parts Three and Four, pp 203-306.

**Week 11- Nov 2-6**

**Topics:**
The Partisan war.
The Big Three and the Conferences. Begin the legacy of war, Stalin and sacrifice, triumph and tragedy.

**Assignments:**
**Friday, Nov 6- MIDTERM on the Great War, 70 pts.**

**Week 12- Nov 9-13**

**Topics:**
The Red Army in Germany: victory and vengeance. The iron curtain descends.
Cold War begins. NATO and the Warsaw Pact. Documentary: “Red Empire”– Vols. 6-7: “Survivors” & “Prisoners of the Past.”

**Assignment:**
Read excerpt from William Taubman’s: *Khrushchev: the Man and his Era*, on D2L.

**Week 13- Nov 16-20**

**Topics:**
Cold War heats up. Khrushchev and Kennedy.
The Arms Race, the Space Race and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

**Assignment:**
Read excerpt from William Taubman’s: *Khrushchev: the Man and his Era*, on D2L.
**Nov 18- third and last quiz- take home paper, 50 pts.**
Watch documentary: “Khrushchev Blows Top”
Week 14- Nov 23-27
No classes, Fall Break & Thanksgiving
The final exam review sheet will be posted on D2L

Week 15- Nov 30 - Dec 4
Topics:
The Afghan war and Chechnya.
Recommended film “Prisoner of the Mountain”

Assignment:
Begin Drakulic, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed.
Note that the final exam review sheet was posted on D2L last week.

Week 16- Dec 7-11
Topics:
Gorbachev: perestroika and glasnost. Collapse of communism and the Cold War.
A new era? Yeltsin and “shock therapy.”
Discuss the new Russia, Putin and Ukraine.

Assignment:
Finish Drakulic, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed.
Study for final exam.

Final exam in classroom (70 pts)
Thursday, Dec 17, 1030 am -1 pm in class.

Please remember that early finals are not given to accommodate travel plans.