History 2220-002: War & Society: War in Modern Russia
Spring 2016, 2:00-2:50 pm, Humanities 125
Dr. N Vavra

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office hours: M & F, 11:00 am-12:30 pm and by appt.

Course Description:
History 2220 explores the character, origins, and social, political, and intellectual impact of war. This semester we will study war and society in modern Russia. Events include Revolution, Civil War, World Wars, 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’s wars, the 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?

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

Note that only one 2000 Level history course can be applied to History Major Requirements. If you are considering a History major, take only one 2000 course.
Required Books
Nic Cornish, The Russian Revolution: World War to Civil War 1917-1921
Orlando Figes, Revolutionary Russia 1891-1991, A History
V Grossman, A Writer at War: A Soviet Journalist with the Red Army, 1941-‘45
Victor Pelevin, The Yellow Arrow

Additional readings assignments are posted on D2L

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

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

Assignments and grades will be posted on D2L. Outlines are sent to the “class list” email. Slides and presentations are NOT posted on D2L.

Course structure and requirements
History courses require much reading. Students are expected to complete the reading assignments on time and attend class. Classes include lectures and discussions. Each lecture is presented with an outline and images. I usually email the one-page outline to the “class list” the day before class.

Attendance policy
Knowledge of the lectures and class content is essential for exams. Attendance is required and an attendance sheet circulates when class begins. After three unexcused absences, two points per absence are deducted from your final grade. An email to me, saying you are ill, does not qualify as an excused absence. Multiple absences can result in grade deduction.

Students who arrive after ten minutes will lose the opportunity to sign the attendance sheet. Important announcements are also made at the start of class. Talk to me, and show me your schedule, if you have a legitimate reason for repeatedly arriving late - such as the location of your class prior to ours.
Electronic devices
Tablets and laptops will only be permitted for taking notes; all other screens are distracting to those around you and rude to those speaking. Electronic devices will be banned from this class if problems persist.

Grades are assessed on a 300-point scale based on the following:

80 pts. - two quizzes (40 pts. each): short answers or short papers.
140 pts. - two midterms: (70 pts. each) essay and identifications.
70 pts. - final exam: essays and identifications.
10 pts. – attendance. Please note that you can lose more than 10 pts. for poor attendance. See the details above.

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.

The Final Exam
Please note that our final is scheduled on the last day and hour of finals week: Thursday, May 5, 7:30 pm. I cannot change the schedule and early finals are not given to accommodate travel or personal plans. Please be sure to make your end of semester plans with this in mind.

Campus Policies:

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.
Weekly schedule and assignments
Readings should be completed by the end of the week listed.
Topics and dates may change slightly due to class discussions.

Week 1: Jan 11 - 15
Topics:
Intro to course and intro to Russia’s imperial past: the development and significance of Russian autocracy, serfdom, and orthodoxy. Begin the background to the Russian military: 1700: Peter the Great.

Assignment:
Read the short story “How a Muzhik Fed Two Officials” by Mikhail Saltykov. This is found at www.russianhsortstories.com. This will introduce you to elements of pre-revolutionary & pre-20th century Russian history.

Week 2: Jan 20 & 22 (no class Jan 18)
Topics:
Cont. background to the Russian military; a century of Russian victory and defeat: 1812: Alexander I and Napoleon, 1855: Nicholas I and the Crimean war.

Assignment:
Read Chapter 7 “A Small Victorious War” from WB Lincoln, In War’s Dark Shadow, found on D2L.

Week 3: Jan 25-29
Topics:
The last days of the 19th century and autocratic Russia: Nicholas II, the last tsar. War with Japan, autocracy, popular opposition and an intro to Marxism and Russian political parties.

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, 1891-1991, Chapters 1 and 2.

FRIDAY- JAN 29, 1st QUIZ- 40 points.

Week 4: Feb 1-5
Topics:
International tensions and the Great War: World War One.
Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapters 3 and 4.
Week 5: Feb 8-12
Topics:
War to revolution; 1917 and the Russian Revolutions.

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, read Chapters 5 -7.
I will post a review for the Feb 19 midterm on D2L this week.

Week 6: Feb 15-19
Topics:
The results of 1917 and the beginning of the Russian Civil War.
If time, Documentary: Red Empire, Vol I: Revolutionaries

Assignment:
Read on D2L, from Isaac Babel’s Red Cavalry “My First Goose.”

FEBRUARY 19, first MIDTERM- 70 points.

Week 7: Feb 22-26
Topics:
Legacy of the Civil War and the first acts of the new Soviet government.
If time, Documentary: Red Empire, Vol II: Winners and Losers

Assignments:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapters 8 - 10.

Week 8: Feb 29- March 4
Topics:
Introduction to Stalin and his first Five Year plan: collectivization, industrialization and war against the peasantry.
If time, Documentary: Red Empire: Vol III: Class Warriors

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapter 11- 14.

MARCH 4, 2nd QUIZ, 40 points.
Week 9: March 7-11

Topics:
Into to Fascism and the road to war.
Operation Barbarossa, Germany invades the Soviet Union

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapter 15.

Week 10: March 14-18

Topics:
The Great Patriotic War: Moscow, Leningrad, and the battle for Stalingrad.
If time- “Red Empire” – Vol. 5: “Patriots.”

Assignments:
I will post a review for the April 4 midterm on D2L this week.

Week 11: March 21-25, Spring Break

Week 12: March 28-April 1

Topics:
The Great Patriotic War cont.: Kursk, women warriors, and partisan war.

Assignments:
From Grossman’s A Writer at War, read Part Four, pp 225-306.

Week 13: April 4-8

Topics:
Begin post-war legacy: the big Three and the diplomatic conferences.
The Red Army in Germany: victory and vengeance. The iron curtain descends.

Assignment:
From Grossman’s A Writer at War, read Part Five, pp 309-350.

APRIL 4, 2nd MIDTERM, 70 points.
Week 14: April 11-15
Topics:
High Stalinism: the “Sovietization” of Eastern Europe
Cold War heats up. Introduction to Khrushchev and the “thaw.”

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapters 16 and 17.

Week 15: April 18-22
Topics:
Khrushchev to Brezhnev. Détente, stagnation, aggression, and human rights MAD.

Recommended film - “Prisoner of the Mountain”

Assignment:
Read Figes, Revolutionary Russia, Chapters 18-20.
On D2L, read excerpts from Slavenka Drakulic, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed found on D2L.

Week 16: April 25-29
Topics:
Gorbachev: perestroika and glasnost. Collapse of communism and the Cold War.
A new era? Yeltsin and “shock therapy.”
Discuss the new Russia and Vladimir Putin if time.

Assignment:
Read Pelevin, The Yellow Arrow.
Study for final exam.

Final exam
(70 pts.)
Thursday, May 5, 7:30-10:00 pm in class
Early final exams are NOT given to accommodate travel plans.