Syllabus

The history of the Soviet Union - 39378

Last update 27-10-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: history

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Yitzhak Brudny

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Coordinator Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 17:15-18:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Yitzhak Brudny
Course/Module description:
In this course, we will introduce the main political, social, and economic processes that took place in the USSR throughout its 73-year history.

The course will focus on three main questions:
1) What were the causes and consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.
2) What was the nature of the Soviet regime, and to what extent it evolved during its history.
3) To what extent the collapse of the USSR was inevitable consequence of the political, social, and economic processes that took place since Stalin's death (1953).

Course/Module aims:
Enriching students' knowledge of Soviet history.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
At the end of the course the students will be familiar with the main debates regarding USSR history.

Attendance requirements(%):
100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Frontal lecture

Course/Module Content:
1. Russian empire on the eve of revolution.

2. From February to October 1917 revolution.

3. Civil War and War Communism 1918-1921

4. NEP, 1921-1928.


7. From WW2 to the Cold War, 1939-1953.
8. The nature of Stalinism


12. The causes of the collapse of the USSR.

Required Reading:
1. Russian empire on the eve of revolution.
   Ronald Grigor Suny, The Soviet Experiment, ch. 1
   Alec Nove, An Economic History of the USSR, Chapter 1.

2. From February to October 1917 revolution.
   S. A. Smith, The Russian Revolution, ch. 1.
   Nove, An Economic History of the USSR, ch. 2.

3. Civil War and War Communism 1918-1921
   S. A. Smith, The Russian Revolution, ch. 2-3.
   Nove, An Economic History of the USSR, ch. 3.

4. NEP, 1921-1928.
   S. A. Smith, The Russian Revolution, ch. 4-5.
   Nove, An Economic History of the USSR, ch. 4-5.

   Sheila Fitzpatrick, The Russian Revolution, ch. 5.
   Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin, ch. 1.
   Nove, An Economic History of the USSR, ch. 6.

Oleg Khlevnyuk, Master of the House: Stalin and His Inner Circle, ch. 4-5.

7. From WW2 to the Cold War, 1939-1953.

Hiroaki Kuromiya, Stalin, ch. 6-7.
Ronald Grigor Suny, The Soviet Experiment, ch. 16.

8. The nature of Stalinism

Stephen F. Cohen, "Bolshevism and Stalinism," in Rethinking the Soviet Experience, ch. 2.


Archie Brown, The Rise and Fall of Communism, ch. 20.
Philip Hanson, The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Economy, ch. 5.


Archie Brown, The Rise and Fall of Communism, ch. 24-25, 27.
Hanson, The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Economy, ch. 8-9.
12. The causes of the collapse of the USSR.


Additional Reading Material:
None

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 100 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
See the course site in the Moodle.