

History 200: Russia and America

Prof. F. Hirsch

Fall 2016

Fridays 11-12:55

Office Hours: Fridays 1:30-2:30 and by appointment

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This introductory seminar will look at Russian and American engagement from the late 19th century through the present. It will focus on diplomatic relations, cultural relations, economic relations, and other forms of Russian and American engagement. Themes will include: American views of the Bolshevik Revolution; Henry Ford in Russia; America's response to Stalinism; the Cold War; McCarthyism; Khrushchev's visit to America; Detente; the 1980 Olympics; and Soviet responses to American popular culture. Students will look at some of the historical reasons for anti-American sentiment in Russia and examine claims that we are now in the midst of a new "Cold War." Students will read memoirs, speeches, political position papers, and other (English-language and translated) primary sources. They will also look at rich primary sources available on the UW-Madison campus—including fascinating archival documents about American-Russian economic and cultural relations in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive.

Goals: This course will focus on developing the following skills:

-Asking questions, including questions that may generate new directions for historical research. Posing questions to prompt productive group discussion.

-Finding and citing sources. Learning the logic of footnotes, bibliographies, search engines, libraries, and archives, and consulting them to identify and locate source materials.

-Evaluating sources. Determining the perspective, credibility, and utility of source materials. Distinguishing between primary and secondary material for a particular topic. Identifying the perspective or authorial stance of a source. Summarizing an argument presented in a text.

-Developing and presenting an argument. Using sources appropriately to create, modify, and support tentative conclusions and new questions. Citing evidence to support an argument.

-Communicating ideas and research findings effectively through written and oral presentations.

Films: There are three films scheduled for Tuesday evenings at 7 pm (see below). Viewing the films is a required part of the course. If you are absolutely unable to attend the scheduled viewing (because of work or another conflict) see me and I will arrange for you to see the film on your own.

Grades: Course grades will be determined as follows: weekly writing assignments 30%; participation in weekly discussions in class and informal presentations 40%; final essay 30%.

Final Essay: I will give out essay questions during Week 10 of class. Your papers will require some research outside of class—and the use of primary and secondary sources. Final Essays are due by 12/19 at 3 pm, in my campus mailbox.

Readings: Our course packet will be available for purchase in early September at StudentPrint on East Campus Mall. It will also be on reserve at College Library. All of the readings below are in the course packet unless otherwise indicated.

Assignment for the First Day of Class: Read *The New York Times* and find an article about Russia and America. Bring a copy of the article to class on 9/9.

Week 1, 9/9: Introduction: Russia and America, History and Politics

This week we'll talk about the historian's craft and about how historians, journalists, and politicians put together narratives about current and past events.

Week 2, 9/16: The Russian Empire and the United States

Themes: Mutual Perceptions

Skill: What are primary sources and secondary sources?

Readings:

1. Read online: "The Tsar's Regime," BBC Bitesize History
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/higher/history/russia/tsar/revision/1/>
2. Jane E. Good, "America and the Russian Revolutionary Movement, 1888-1905," *Russian Review* 41, no. 3 (1982): 273-287.
3. "The Exile System in Siberia," *Christian Union*, April 21, 1887, p. 16.

3. "George Kennan's Siberian Travels," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, December 16, 1887, p. 9.
4. George Kennan, "Russian State Prisoners: Further Details of the Prison Life of the Revolutionists," *Century Illustrated Magazine*, vol. 35 (March 1888): 5-16.
5. "When Mark Twain Wept," *Kansas City Star*, April 7, 1888, p. 2.
6. "Gorky and Twain Plead for Revolution," *The New York Times*, April 12, 1906.
7. Maxim Gorky, "The City of the Yellow Devil," 1906.
8. Stephen Bonsul, "Tolstoy Prophesies the Fall of America," 1907.

Assignment due 9/16:

Write a one-page double-spaced paper (12-point font) reflecting on the following: What can the primary sources you read this week tell us about Russian and American mutual perceptions? What are some questions that these sources cannot answer?

Week 3, 9/23: 1917: Russia's Revolutions and American Responses

Themes: Revolution and Ideology; Entanglement

Skill: How do we work with archival sources and memoirs?

Readings:

1. S. A. Smith, *The Russian Revolution: A Very Short Introduction* (2002), pp. 5-39.
2. "Special Diplomatic Mission of the United States of America to Russia," from the Cyrus McCormick Papers in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive.
3. Louise Bryant, *Six Red Months in Russia: An Observer's Account of Russia Before and During the Proletariat Dictatorship* (1918), pp. 1-51, 99-109, 153-161.

Assignment due 9/23:

Write a one-page paper reflecting on what the Bryant memoir and the archival documents tell us about Russia and its revolutions. Are the authors "reliable" narrators? Explain.

Week 4, 9/30: 1918-1922—Fear and Opportunities

Themes: Civil War and American Intervention; The "First" Red Scare

Skill: How can we use cartoons, photographs, posters and other visual primary sources? How can we combine them with other types of sources?

Readings:

1. David MacKenzie and Michael W. Curran, *Russia and the USSR in the Twentieth Century* (1997), pp. 144-158.
2. Donald E. Carey, *Fighting the Bolsheviks* (1997), pp. 1-4, 41-64.
3. A. Mitchell Palmer, "The Case Against the 'Reds,'" *Forum*, vol. 63 (1920): 173-185.
4. "Report of Trip to Russia, October 1921," from S. G. McAllister to H. F. Perkins, International Harvester, from the Cyrus McCormick Papers in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive.
5. Claude McKay, *A Long Way From Home* (1969), pp. 153-166, 172-184.
6. Browse the following websites:
http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/library/alumni/online_exhibits/digital/redscare/
http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/explore/dgexplore.cfm?topic=history&collection_list=PostersoftheRussianC&col_id=195

Assignments due 9/30:

1. Based on the primary sources, what did Americans expect or want out of their interactions with Russia? Do you think these sources give an accurate portrayal of what Americans thought about Russia? Explain.
2. Choose a political cartoon or poster or photograph from one of the above websites that you think sheds light on American-Russian relations during this period. Print out a copy of this source and bring it to class.

Week 5, 10/7: Building Utopia, Exploring the Roadways

Themes: Americans in "Bololand," Soviets in America

Skill: How do we fill in the blanks when reading primary source accounts?

Readings:

1. Norman Saul, *Friends or Foes? The United States and Soviet Russia, 1921-1941* (2006), pp. 98-135, 209-253.
2. Richard Cartwright Austin, *Building Utopia: Erecting Russia's First Modern City, 1930* (2004), pp. 1-43.
3. George S. Counts, *A Ford Crosses Soviet Russia* (1930), pp. i-x, 61-84.
4. Ilya Ilf and Evgeny Petrov, *Little Golden America* (1936), pp. 53-59, 71-76, 96-103.

Assignment due 10/7:

What is the relationship between economics and politics? Is it surprising to you that American-Soviet business relations grew in this period of official non-recognition?

Week 6, 10/14: Capitalism's Collapse and Socialism's Moment

Themes: Politics, Economics, and Everyday Life

Skill: How do we read different kinds of primary sources "against" each other?

Readings:

1. Eric Rauchway, *The Great Depression and the New Deal: A Very Short Introduction*, (2008), pp. 38-55.
2. John Scott, *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel* (1942), pp. 3-6, 9-51, 55-92, 137-159.
3. John Scott's correspondence with the U.S. Department of State, from the John Scott Papers in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive.

Assignment due 10/14:

Write a one-page paper discussing similarities and differences between the two primary sources (*Behind the Urals* and John Scott's correspondence).

Tuesday Evening 10/18, 7 pm—Film: *The Extraordinary Adventures of Mr. West in the Land of the Bolsheviks*

Week 7, 10/21: Hopes, Dreams, and Stalinist Terror

Themes: Stalinism, American Apologists, Biography and History

Skill: How do we work with historical newspapers?

Resource: At noon we will head over to the Chazen Museum for a tour of the Davies collection.

Readings:

1. Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union From the Beginning to the End* (1999), pp. 103-131.
2. Joseph E. Davies, *Mission to Moscow* (1941), pp. 1-12, 21-31, 36-38, 65-71.
3. Walter Duranty, "Power of Stalin Now at Its Height," *The New York Times*, January 23, 1933.
4. Walter Duranty, "Stalin Tells Red Youths to Ferret Out Foes," *The New York Times*, February 3, 1933.
5. Walter Duranty, "Death of 17 Asked at Moscow Trial," *The New York Times*, January 29, 1937.
6. Correspondence among Alexander Gumberg, Walter Duranty, and Raymond Robins, from the Alexander Gumberg Collection in the Wisconsin State Historical Society Archive.

Assignment due 10/21:

1. Use the ProQuest Historical Newspapers database for *The New York Times* (<http://search.proquest.com.ezproxy.library.wisc.edu/hnpnewyorktimes/advanced?accountid=465>) via the UW Library website to find one of the newspaper

articles mentioned in the Alexander Gumberg correspondence. Bring a copy of the article to class.

2. Write a one-page paper addressing the following: Do you think that Duranty and Davies were acting as apologists for Stalin? What do you think motivated them?

Week 8, 10/28: World War II and the Postwar Moment

Themes: The Wartime Alliance; 1946

Skill: How do we work with online sources?

Readings:

1. Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment* (2001), pp. 336-362.
2. Walter LaFeber, *America, Russia, and the Cold War, 1945-2000* (2002), pp. 1-52.
3. George F. Kennan's "Long Telegram," February 22, 1946.
4. "The Novikov Telegram," September 27, 1946.

Assignment due 10/28:

Find an online resource (website, database, etc.) with reliable primary sources about the Cold War. Be prepared to tell your classmates about it and why it is useful.

Week 9, 11/4: Postwar Reconfigurations

Themes: The Soviet Bloc, McCarthyism

Skill: How do we format bibliographies and footnotes?

Readings:

1. Look at the following websites for background information on McCarthyism and the "Second" Red Scare:
<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/red-scare>
<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/joseph-mccarthy>
<http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/fifties/essays/anti-communism-1950s>
<http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/rise-and-fall-joseph-mccarthy>
2. George F. Kennan, "McCarthyism," in *Memoirs: 1950-1963* (1972), pp. 190-228.
3. Committee on Un-American Activities, "100 Things You Should Know About Communism in the USA," 1949.
4. "Senator Joseph McCarthy's Speech on Communists in the State Department," 1950.

5. "The Conspiracy Against Sen. Joe McCarthy," *The Wisconsin State Journal*, September 9, 1952.

Assignment due 11/04:

Put together a bibliography of three primary sources and three secondary sources on a theme related to the "Second Red Scare" or Soviet Postwar Expansionism. Then put the sources into footnote format.

Week 10, 11/11: Khrushchev Comes to America

Themes: DeStalinization, Cold War Diplomacy

Skill: How can we use video and film to answer historical questions?

Note: I will give out the questions for your final essays in class this week.

Readings:

1. Read online: "The Khrushchev Era," Country Studies, Library of Congress <http://countrystudies.us/russia/13.htm>
2. Nikita S. Khrushchev's "The Secret Speech," abridged version (1956)
3. Nikita Khrushchev, *Khrushchev in America* (1960), pp. 104-113, 152-163.
4. Nina Khrushcheva, "The Case of Khrushchev's Shoe," *New Statesmen*, October 2, 2000.
5. William Taubman, "Did he bang it? Nikita Khrushchev and the Shoe," *The New York Times*, July 26, 2003.

Assignment due 11/11:

Watch YouTube footage of Nikita Khrushchev. Write a one-page paper discussing its usefulness as a primary source.

Tuesday Evening 11/15, 7 pm—Film: Cold War Road Show

Week 11, 11/18: Wisconsin State Historical Society Visit

Week 12, 11/25: Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 13, 12/2: Superpower Showdowns

Themes: Cold War Crises, The Politics of Detente

Skill: How do we cite and paraphrase sources?

Readings:

1. John Lewis Gaddis, *Russia, The Soviet Union, and the United States* (1990), pp. 253-294.
2. Anatoly Dobrynin, *In Confidence: Moscow's Ambassador to Six Cold War Presidents* (2001), pp. 51-95, 191-208, 239-286.
3. Spend some time looking at the Cold War International History Project Archive <http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org>

Assignment due 12/2:

Choose a document from the Cold War International History Project Archive website. Select an interesting quote from the source. Write it down verbatim and explain in one paragraph why it is compelling. Then paraphrase the quote—taking it out of the quotation marks and restating it (capturing its essence) in your own words.

Tuesday Evening 12/6, 7 pm—Film: *One, Two, Three*

Week 14, 12/9: From "Stagnation" to "New Thinking"

Themes: The 1980 Olympics, Rock and Roll and Radio Free Europe

Skill: Writing an effective opening statement.

Readings:

1. Martin McCauley, *Russia, America, and the Cold War, 1949-1991* (2008), pp. 75-105.
2. "Olympics: To Go Or Not to Go? The U.S. Weighs Hitting Moscow Where It Would Really Hurt," *Time*, January 28, 1980.
3. Stephen Smith and Bruce Nelan, "Bearish Beginning in Moscow: The Clouded Games Get Under Way In A Grand Setting," *Time*, July 21, 1980.
4. Vladimir Voinovich, "All at Sea: A Fairy Tale," *Radio Liberty Research*, January 22, 1988.
5. Victor Ripp, "Discovering America," in *Pizza in Pushkin Square: What They Think of Us in the USSR* (1990), pp. 105-121.

Assignment due 12/9:

Imagine that you are a Soviet citizen who fell asleep in 1978 and woke up in 1988. Write a one-page paper discussing some changes that you might notice in your environment. Focus on writing a compelling opening statement.