UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF RUSSIA
CPO 4643
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2014
Dr. Bruce Farcau

I. Textbooks (Required)

Sakwa, Richard, *Soviet Politics in Perspective*, 2nd Ed., New York: Routledge, 1998.

Suny, Ronald Gregor, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Recommended:

Arbatov, Georgi, *The Systemn: An Insider's Life in Soviet Politics.* London: Times Books, 1992.

Bialer, Seweryn, *The Soviet Paradox: External Expansion, Internal Decline*, New York: Vintage Books, 1986.

Crozier, Brian, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire.* Rosemont, CA: Forum, 2000.

Custine, Marquis de, *The Empire of the Czar.*

Djilas, Milovan, *The New Class.*

Edwards, Lee, ed., *The Collapse of Communism.* Stanford, CA: The Hoover Institution, 2000.

Fainsod, Merle, *How Russia Is Ruled.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1959.

Fitzpatrick, Sheila, *Everyday Stalinism.*

Heller, Mikhail and Nekrich, Aleksandr, *Utopia in Power: The History of the Soviet Union from 1917 to the Present.* New York: Summit Books, 1985.

Hollander, Paul, *Soviet and American Society: A Comparison.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.

Malia, Martin, *The Soviet Tragedy: The History of Socialism in Russia, 1917-1991*, New York: The Free Press, 1994.

Medvedev, Roy, *Let History Judge: The Origins and Consequences of Stalinism.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1994.

Pipes, Richard, *Russia under the Bolshevik Regime.*

Sakwa, Richard. *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, 191701991*, London: Routledge, 1999.

Solzhenitsyn, Alexandr, *The Gulag Archipelago*, New York: Harper Perennial, 2007.

Ulam, Adam B., *The Russian Political System.* New York: Random House, 1974.

Volkogonov, Dmitri, *Autopsy of an Empire: The Seven Leaders Who Built the Soviet Regime.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 1998.

Students are expected to do assigned readings *ahead* of the class discussion. While the

recommended readings are not required, students may find the additional detail contained therein to be helpful both from a substantive point of view and as a means of balancing contending interpretations of history.

II. Office hours will generally be MWF from 0800-0900 in the adjunct office on the third floor of Phillips Hall. Students with individual questions can also plan to come to class prior to the posted time or make separate arrangements for a meeting. The instructor can also be reached at bfarcau@msn.com. although ALL papers for the course are to be printed out and delivered in class, not via e-mail.

III. Course Description

CPO 4643

CPO 4643 GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF RUSSIA

: PR: ENC 1102 or POS 2041 or C.I. Study of the origins, institutions, and functioning of the Russian system, including the lingering influence of the old order on domestic and foreign policy.

IV. Test and Grading Policy

A. There will be three (3) exams, none of which will be comprehensive. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. If a student misses either of the first two exams, a take-home make-up can be arranged, but it should be understood that the make-up will be graded at a much higher standard and will not offer "bonus" points available during the scheduled test. If taking the take-home version of the test, it is the student's responsibility to pick up a copy of the test at the next class session or obtain it from another student (not to ask for it via email.) The take-home version of the test must be turned in no later than one week after the in-class test (i.e., if the original test was on a Monday, the test would be due by close of business the following Monday.) Later papers will NOT be accepted. There will be NO make-ups given for the final test, although a take-home version will be made available on the last day of classes for those unable to attend the in-class final (and, no, you can't take them both and see which one you do better on.) Take-home versions of the final must be turned in by the time of the in-class final. Exams will consist of a number of essay questions and short answers and the student will have an opportunity to choose which questions to answer. Bonus (extra credit) questions may be offered based on current events. Tests will be based on the texts and explanations of that material provided in lecture.

B. A term paper of at least 8 pages of text (typed, double-spaced, with standard margins and font) besides bibliography, illustrations, and footnotes. The paper should focus on either a personality, policy, or event of significance during the period covered by the course. **The topic should be approved by the instructor no later than September 30th.** The paper should draw on *at least* five sources, not including the course texts or general encyclopedias. As a rule of thumb, internet sources that do not provide an author's name are not acceptable, and sources should not consist solely of journal articles. Direct quotes should be kept to a minimum. The paper will be worth 25% of your grade. The term paper will be due on or before November 14th.

Late papers will be accepted by November 21st, but will suffer a 10-point penalty. Papers will still be accepted up to November 26th but will suffer a 25-point penalty. **Papers will NOT be accepted after that date**. Due dates refer to the end of class on that date, not midnight.

C. Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 10 extra credit points (i.e., added to a test score) by submitting a 4-page, typed report on any of the books on the list provided. Students are welcome to offer additional titles of other books related to the course subject for approval as well. This will be due by November 26th. No late papers will be accepted.

D. Each test (modified for extra credit) and the term paper are all worth the same weight toward the final grade. The percentage grade on each test will be averaged to result in the final grade. The grade scale will be:

59 below = F
60-69 = D
70-79 = C
80-89 = B
90 above = A

V. Competencies

Students will learn to analyze information about international relations and relate it to current events under discussion. They will be able to argue and explain their conclusions about such events. Students will learn to recognize tactics of persuasion used by diplomats and to evaluate their points of view. Students will learn to express their views both in writing and orally and defend their positions when questioned. Students will be able to apply what they have learned in daily life, both when reading about international events and when exercising their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

SCHEDULE
(Subject to Change – Note that no specific dates for tests are given)

WEEK OF	TOPIC	TEXT - CHAPTER
1	The Tsarist Legacy	Sakwa, Ch 1 Suny, Ch 1
2	The Coming of the Revolution	Sakwa, Ch 2 Suny, Ch 2
3	The House Lenin Built	Sakwa, Ch 2 Suny, Ch 3
4	Evolution of the Revolution	Sakwa, Ch 3 and 6 Suny, Ch 5-6

5	Nationalism	Sakwa, Ch 15 Suny, Ch 4
6	Economy	Sakwa, Ch 3, 14 Suny, Ch 7
7	Culture	Sakwa, Ch 11, 12 Suny Ch 8, 12

FIRST TEST

8	Stalin's Rise	Sakwa, Ch 7, 10 Suny, Ch 9-10
9	Purges	Sakwa, Ch 8 Suny, Ch 11
10	War and Cold War	Sakwa, Ch 16 Suny Ch 13-15
11	The End of Stalin	Sakwa, Ch 9 Suny, Ch 16
12	Khrushchev's Reforms	Sakwa, Ch 4 Suny, Ch 17

SECOND TEST

13	Brezhnev and Stagnation	Sakwa, Ch 5 Suny, Ch 18
14	Dissent/Pluralism	Sakwa, Ch 13 Suny, Ch 19
15	Collapse of the Old System	Sakwa, Ch 17 Suny, Ch 20
16	Back to the Future	TBA

THIRD TEST (finals week, check UCF website for dates and times)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Students are expected to attend every class, barring illness or true emergency. It is unlikely that a good grade can be earned without regular attendance in class, but attendance will not count as part of the grade. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain lecture notes from another student in case of need.

B. Punctuality: Classes will start promptly as scheduled. If arriving late, please enter as discreetly as possible. Do not leave until class is dismissed.

C. Courtesy: Beepers and cell phones should be turned off during class. There should be no eating or drinking during class. Any questions should be directed to the instructor, and the only other talking should be in response to questions from the instructor or at his direction.

D. Cheating: All written work should be your own. Plagiarizing on term papers or otherwise cheating on tests will result in an automatic F grade for the entire course.

E. Student contract: The student must sign and submit the following form to the instructor as evidence of having received and understood the terms of the course. These contracts will be used to compile the instructor's grade roster. Grades will not be posted for any student for whom no contract has been received.

----------TEAR LINE----------

I, _____ have read and understood the syllabus for this
Name and PID
course. I understand my responsibilities as a student and the penalties involved in failing to comply with course requirements.

CPO 4643
Russian Politics

_____ _____
Signature **Date**