UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF RUSSIA
CPO 4643
COURSE SYLLABUS
Fall 2021
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:

Alexievich, Svetlana, *Second Hand Time.* New York: Random House, 2016.

Amis, Martin, *Koba the Dread.*

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.

Brown, Archie. *The Rise and Fall of Communism.*

Conquest, Robert, *The Great Terror Revisited.*

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.

Figes, Orlando, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution 1891-1924,* and *The Whisperers.*

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.

Hingley, Ronald, *The Russian Mind,* The Bodley Head, 1977.

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

Hosking, Geoffrey, *Russia: People and Empire* and *The First Socialist Society.*

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.

Nove, Alec, *An Economic History of the USSR,* Final Edition.

Pipes, Richard, *Russia under the Bolshevik Regime; The Romanovs.*

Rybakov, Anatoli. *Children of the Arbat; Fear; Dust and Ashes.*

Sakwa, Richard. *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991,* London: Routledge, 1999; and *Russian Politics and Society*, 4th Ed., 2008.

Satter, David, *Never Speak to Strangers.*

Service, Robert, *A History of Modern Russia* and *Lenin* and *Stalin.*

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

Szamuely, Tibor, *The Russian Tradition,* Fontana Press, 1977.

Taubman, William, *Khrushchev: The Man and His Era.*

Tucker, Robert, *Stalin in Power.*

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

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

Zimmerman, William, *Ruling Russia: Authoritiarianism from Lenin to Putin.*

Zinoviev, Alexander, *The Yawning Heights,* and *The Radiant Future.*

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 ground 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.

III. Course Description

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. Each exam will consist of an essay test of two questions with answers of around 500 words each that will be posted via webcourses. The student will have some option as to which essay questions to answer (for example: Select two questions out of four provided.) Student responses are not meant to be research papers, so citation is not required. Answers should be in students' own words demonstrating an understanding of the concepts. Students will have several days to submit their responses via webcourses or as email attachments if necessary. Tests will be based on the text 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 Times New Roman 12-point font) besides any illustrations, bibliography, and footnotes. The paper will be on any subject related to Russian government and politics, but the topic should be cleared with the instructor no later than September 30th. The paper should draw on *at least* five sources, including at least one from the internet (but some books as well), but not including the course text or general encyclopedias. As a rule of thumb, sources that do not include an author's name are not acceptable. The idea is to demonstrate that the student has learned something about the topic beyond what is contained in the class text. 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 12th and may be submitted via webcourses, email or hard copy. Papers will still be accepted on or before November 19th for a 10-point penalty. Late papers will still be accepted by November 23rd, but will suffer a 25-point penalty, but **no papers will be accepted after that date**.

C. Extra credit: Students will have the opportunity to earn up to 10 point to be added to any test grade by writing a 4-page, typed report on any of the books on the list provided (3 pages summarizing the book, and one page of the student's opinion of it.) Students are welcome to offer additional titles of politically related books for approval as well. This will be due by November 23rd. These may be submitted via hard copy or as email attachments. Points will be added randomly to a student's test score for final grade computation. No papers will be accepted after that date.

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	TOPIC	TEXT - CHAPTER
1-2	The Tsarist Legacy	Sakwa, Ch 1 Suny, Ch 1
3	The Coming of the Revolution	Sakwa, Ch 2 Suny, Ch 2
4	The House Lenin Built	Sakwa, Ch 2 Suny, Ch 3
5	Evolution of the Revolution	Sakwa, Ch 3 and 6 Suny, Ch 5-6
6	Nationalism	Sakwa, Ch 15 Suny, Ch 4
	Culture	Sakwa, Ch 11, 12 Suny Ch 8, 12
7	Economy	Sakwa, Ch 3, 14 Suny, Ch 6

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. All graded material will be returned to the student. Students should retain their copies until after receiving the final grade for the course.

1. **Academic Integrity (faculty members may elect to include only those items that are relevant to the types of assignments in their courses)**

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <http://osc.sdes.ucf.edu/process/roc>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

a. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.

b. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.

c. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the

express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.

d. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.

e. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.

f. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.

g. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity <https://academicintegrity.org/>.

For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices" <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9>.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/docs/goldenrule.pdf>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see <http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade>.

2. **Course Accessibility Statement (this language was provided by Student Accessibility Services)**

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

3. **Campus Safety Statement**

Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.

- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <http://www.ehs.ucf.edu/workplacesafety.html> (click on link from menu on left).
- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

4. **Make-Up Assignments for Authorized University Events or Co-curricular Activities**

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy at: <http://policies.ucf.edu/documents/4-401.1MakeupAssignmentsForAuthorizedUniversityEventsOrCocurricularActivities.pdf)

5. **Religious Observances**

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at: <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALOct17.pdf>.

6. **Deployed Active Duty Military Students**

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.