

RUSS20242

100 YEARS OF REVOLUTION: RUSSIA FROM LENIN TO PUTIN

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Lenin reading *Pravda* ('Truth'), 1918



'For the people's happiness!' (V. Ivanov, 1950)

What is the course unit about?

This course unit is concerned with the upheavals Russia has experienced over the past century. It explores the creation, development, and subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union; and the emergence of a new Russia from the wreckage of the world's first socialist state. Emphasis is placed on key political, social, and cultural developments, seen within the context of modern Russian and, more broadly, modern European history.

How is it taught?

2x1-hour weekly lectures and 1x1-hour weekly seminar.

How is it assessed?

A primary source analysis (40% of the final mark) and a 2000-word essay (60% of the final mark).

Indicative List of Weekly Topics:

Week 1: The Russian Empire on the Eve of Revolution

Week 2: The Bolshevik Revolution and the Civil War

Week 3: The New Economic Policy and the Rise of Stalin

Week 4: Stalin's 'Second Revolution'

Week 5: The 'Great Patriotic War' and its Aftermath

Week 6: The Khrushchev 'Thaw' and the Dilemmas of De-Stalinisation

Week 7: 'Re-Stalinisation' and the Reassertion of Control

Week 8: The 'Era of Stagnation' and its Legacy

Week 9: Gorbachev and *Perestroika*

Week 10: The Collapse of the Soviet Union and the Emergence of post-Soviet Russia

Week 11: The Putin Era Begins

Recommended reading (core texts):

Peter Kenez, *A History of the Soviet Union from the Beginning to its Legacy*, 3rd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016)

Richard Sakwa, *Russian Politics and Society*, 4th edition (London: Routledge, 2008)

Robert Service, *The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty First Century* (London: Penguin, 2015)

Ronald Grigor Suny, ed. *The Cambridge History of Russia*, Volume 3: The Twentieth Century (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008)