

MA (IRAS) Programme
School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Course Number:	IA516
Course Title:	Soviet and Contemporary Russia
Course Instructors:	Prof. Archana Upadhyay & Dr Raj Yadav
Course Credits:	4
Course Duration:	One Semester (Fourth Semester)
Instruction Method:	Lectures, in-class discussions, Seminars
Evaluation Method:	Written Assignments, Class participation, presentations and Semester examinations.
Contact Hours:	4 per week

Course Description

The Course will present an overview of the historical developments in Russia covering both the Soviet and post-Soviet period. The first part of the Course will examine the Soviet period by focusing on the central themes and episodes of that period. The second part of the Course will highlight the key social, political, economic and foreign policy developments of the post-Soviet period. While comprehending the non-linear processes of the two periods, the discussions would be within the framework of the dominant ideological debates and competing perspectives.

The Course will also examine the various dimensions of the post-Soviet transitions and the elements of continuity and change at different levels - political, social, cultural, economic and external relations.

Learning Outcomes

Towards the end of the Course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate from a scholarly perspective an understanding of the issues that are critical to the political, social and economic processes of Soviet and post-Soviet Russia;
2. Reflect upon the contemporary societal, political and economic trends in present day Russia and in the post-Soviet region;
3. Critically assess different perspectives on the historical, political, economic and social processes presented in the course literature.

Section I: The Soviet Period

- a. The Russian revolutions of February and October 1917: Dual power, Provisional Government, the establishment of Soviet power, Nationalities question, Lenin's leadership
- b. Civil War and War Communism 1918-1921, Formation of the USSR
- c. The New Economic Policy, economic and political debates: The great debate of Soviet industrialization, Collectivization of Soviet Agriculture, Five Year Plans
- d. Stalin's 'Socialism in One Country' versus Trotsky's 'World Revolution'
- e. Soviet Foreign Policy during the two World Wars

- f.** De-Stalinization and Policy changes after Stalin
- g.** Cultural changes and Women in the USSR
- h.** Soviet Foreign policy during the Cold War, Peaceful Coexistence, Detente, Relations with socialist and newly liberated countries
- i.** Perestroika, Glasnost, De-ideologization of Soviet Foreign Policy
- j.** Disintegration of the USSR.

Section II: Post-Soviet Period

- a.** Russian Political System: Constitution, Political processes and institutions, Multi-party system and electoral politics, Nature of Democracy
- b.** Economy and society: Transition to market economy, Structure and dynamics, Evaluation of Market reforms
- c.** Foreign Policy: Russia and the World, Russia and its 'Near Abroad', Military and Security doctrines
- d.** Russia's economic relations with major powers
- e.** Eurasian Integration.
- f.** Ethnicity and Religion in Russia
- g.** Gender issues in Post-Soviet Russia
- h.** Contemporary issues and developments in the post-Soviet space

Essential Readings

- Askerov, Ali, Stefan Brooks and Lasha Tchantouridze (2020) *Post-Soviet Conflicts, The Thirty Years Crisis*, Lanham, MD & London: Lexington Books
- Carr , E.H. (1985). *A History of Soviet Russia*, 4 volumes, New York: Norton & Company: 1985
- Carr,E.H(1948). *International Relations Between the Two World Wars, 1919-1993*, New York : Macmillan
- Chenoy, Anuradha and Archana Upadhyay(2021).*Hundred Years of the Russian Revolution: Its Legacies in Perspective*, Palgrave Macmillan
- Dawisha, Karen & Bruce Parrott (1994) *Russia and the New States of Eurasia: The Politics of Upheaval*, New York: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-55
- Donaldson, Robert H. and Vidya Nadkarni (2019) *The Foreign Policy of Russia, Changing Systems, Enduring Interests* (Sixth Edition), New York, London: Routledge
- Dobb, Maurice (1966). *Soviet Economic Development since 1917*New York: International Publishers
- Fainsod, Merele (1953).*How Russia is ruled* Cambridge: Harvard University Press
- Fitzpatrick, Sheila (2008): *The Russian Revolution*, New York:Oxford University Press
- Gvozdev, Nikolas and Christopher March (2014) *Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Vectors and Sectors*, Los Angeles: CQ Press
- Henderson, Jane (2011). *The Constitution of the Russian Federation, A Contextual Analysis*, Oxford, Portland,Oregon:Hart Publication
- Kelly, Donald, R.(2017).*Russian Politics and Presidential Power, Transformational Leadership from Gorbachev to Putin*, London, UK: Sage
- Kennan, George, F. (1960). *Russia and the West under Lenin and Stalin*, Boston: Little Brown and Co
- Lapidus, Gail,W (1978). *Women in Soviet Society: Equality, Development and Social change*, Berkeley : University of California Press
- Laenen, Ria (2012) "Russia's 'Vital and Exclusive 'National Interests in the Near Abroad". In Maria Freire Raquel and Roger E. Kanet (eds.) *Russia and its Near Neighbours*, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 17-38
- Nove, Alec (1992). *An Economic History of the USSR 1917 - 1991*, London:Penguin Books.
- Racioppi, Linda and Katherine O'Sullivan See (eds.) (2009) *Gender Politics in Post-Communist Eurasia*, Michigan State University Press : 2009

- Sakwa, Richard (2021) *Russian Politics and Society* (Fifth Edition), London and New York: Routledge
- Schleifer, Andrei and Daniel Triesman (2000). *Without a Map, Political tactics and Economic reforms in Russia*, Cambridge: MIT Press 2000
- Tsygankov, Andrei (2020). *Routledge Handbook of Russian Foreign Policy*, New York, London: Routledge
- Upadhyay, Archana (ed.) (2021). *Transitions in Post-Soviet Eurasia, Identity, Polity and Strategic Choices*, London and New York: Routledge
- Wengle, Susanne, A. (2015). *Post Soviet Power : State led Development and Russia's Marketization*, Cambridge : Cambridge University Press : 2015
- White, Stephen (1993). “Gorbachev and the Politics of Perestroika ”, *After Gorbachev*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Chapter -7, pp. 221-258

Note: As per the requirements, the reading materials will be updated.