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| <b>Course Title</b>             | : HISTORY OF RUSSIA AND CENTRAL ASIA         |
| <b>Course Code</b>              | : HST1365                                    |
| <b>No. of Credits/Term</b>      | : 3  |
| <b>Mode of Tuition</b>          | : Sectional                                  |
| <b>Class Contact Hours</b>      | : 3 hours per week                           |
| <b>Category in Major Prog.</b>  | : Elective                                   |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>            | : only two-, three- (and four-)year students |
| <b>Co-requisites</b>            | : None                                       |
| <b>Exclusion</b>                | : None                                       |
| <b>Exemption Requirement(s)</b> | : None                                       |

### **Brief Course Description**

This course examines the history of Russia, the Soviet Union and Inner Asia (Russian/Soviet Central Asia, Xinjiang and Outer Mongolia) from the middle eighteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. The political, social, economic and cultural dynamics of interaction between the Tsarist and Soviet states with their Muslim and Buddhist populations will be explored. Qing and Republican rule over Xinjiang will be also taken into the picture. The focus will be on the cultural and religious diversity inside the empire and the Soviet Union, and on the different policies and strategies adopted by the state in dealing with such diversity. A special attention will be devoted on Central Asian Muslim populations.

### **Aims**

This course will prompt students to expand their historical knowledge about Russia, the Soviet Union, Mongolia and China's North-Western region. The course will give students the conceptual tools necessary to place the history of the Tsarist empire and the Soviet Union in the context of the different multinational and colonial empires of the modern age. The course will also provide students with a conceptual framework in order to analyze the history of twentieth-century communist political and economic systems.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students completing this course:

1. Will be able to recall, describe, discuss and explain the basic chronology, issues and specific terminology associated with modern Russian, Soviet and Inner Asian history;
2. Will be able to synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate, historical arguments;
3. Will be able to present and articulate arguments orally;
4. Will be able to analyze primary sources within their historical context;

5. Will be able to write effective analytical papers.

### **Indicative Content**

- I. Historical Background: Post-Timurid Central Asia and the rise of Muscovy (15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- II. The Tsarist Empire becomes a European Power: from Peter the Great to the Napoleonic wars (18<sup>th</sup> century-1815)
- III. Expansion Southwards and the Rise of Nationalisms (1774-1890s)
- IV. Inner Asia during the Nineteenth Century: Societies, Economies and Politics
- V. The Last Years of the Tsarist Empire: Growth and Weakness (1894-1914)
- VI. From the First World War to Bolshevik Power (1914-1921)
- VII. The Creation of the USSR and the New Economic Policy (1921-1928).
- VIII. The Emergence of Stalinist Economy and Society in Russia and Central Asia (1928-1937)
- IX. From Stalinist Terror to World War II (1937-1945)
- X. Xinjiang and Mongolia Between Tsarist/Soviet Power and China (1911-1949)
- XI. Late Stalinism and early Post-Stalin USSR (1945-1955)
- XII. The Khrushchev years (1955-1964)
- XIII. The Brezhnev 'Social Contract' and Economic Stagnation (1964-1985)
- XIV. Gorbachev, the Collapse of the USSR and beyond (1985-2000)

### **Teaching Method**

There will be lectures and group discussion in each class meeting. The lectures will provide the broad historical background, and the group discussion, led by the instructor, will focus on primary materials, both textual and visual, from the history of Russia and Central Asia.

### **Measurement of Learning Outcomes**

- a) Quizzes will assess the degree of understanding of basic facts, timeline and terminology in Russian, Soviet and Inner Asian history (point 1. above)
- b) Performance in participatory and structured discussions will assess the ability in synthesizing information, in evaluating historical arguments (point 2. above) and in presenting them orally (point 3. above).
- c) Performance on written assignments will assess students' ability in analyzing primary and secondary sources, and using them in their own analytical arguments (points 4. and 5. above).

### **Assessment**

This course is 100% continuous assessment, subdivided as follows:

Quizzes: 25%

Class Participation, Structured Discussions: 35%

Final Essay: 40%

### **Essential Readings**

Hosking, Geoffrey. *Russia: People and Empire, 1552-1917*, Cambridge, Mass., 1997.

Soucek, Svatopluk, *A History of Inner Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Suny, Ronald, *The Soviet Experiment. Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2010.

### **Supplementary Readings**

Beissinger, Mark R. *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Crews, Robert. *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006.

Di Cosmo, N., Frank, A. and Golden, P., eds, *The Cambridge History of Inner Asia: The Chinggisid Age*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Edgar, Adrienne, *Tribal Nation. The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Kamp, M., *The New Women in Uzbekistan: Islam, Modernity, and Unveiling Under Communism*, Seattle, Wash.: University of Washington Press, 2006.

Kappeler, Andreas. *The Russian Empire: a Multiethnic History*, Harlow & New York, 2001.

Khalid, Adeeb, *Islam after Communism. Religion and Politics in Central Asia*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007 (first part).

Khalid, Adeeb, *The politics of Muslim Cultural Reform: Jadidism in Central Asia*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.

Kotkin, Stephen. *Armageddon averted: the Soviet collapse, 1970-2000*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Lieven, Dominic, ed., *The Cambridge History of Russia*, vol. 2, *Imperial Russia: 1689-1917*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006.

Lohr, Eric, *Nationalizing the Russian Empire: The Campaign Against Enemy Aliens During World War I*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2003.

Martin, Terry and Suny, Ronald G., eds, *A State of Nations: Empire and Nation-Building in the Age of Lenin and Stalin*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

Martin, Terry, *The Affirmative Action Empire: Nations and Nationalism in the Soviet Union 1923-1939*, Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2001.

Millward, James, *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*. New York: Columbia

University Press; London: C. Hurst, Co., 2006.

Purdue, Peter C., *China Marches West. The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*, Harvard: Harvard University Press, 2005.

Sneath, David, *The Headless State. Aristocratic Orders, Kinship Society, and Misrepresentations of Nomadic Inner Asia*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2007.

Suny, Ronald, ed., *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.