

Russia's Unfinished Revolution!

Twenty Years of Glasnost, Perestroika & Democratizatsia

Russia Today, 2005
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-5.15 p.m.
LBC 318

Lead Instructor

Dr. Michael A. Denner

Phone: 386.822.7265

Office: Upstairs @ the Russian Studies Program (Amelia & Michigan)

Office Hours: T 9:30-10:30 a.m. & by appointment (send an email)

E-mail: mdenner@stetson.edu

Co-Instructor

Mr. David Houston

Office Hours: TBA

Email: dhouston@stetson.edu

Goals of this course

Most courses at Stetson approach their subjects from a single disciplinary perspective. This course is different. It employs the tools of the historian, geographer, economist, political scientist, and student of literature and culture to craft an interdisciplinary portrait of Russia. Although one instructor will lead the course, there will be opportunities for other members of the Russian Studies program, and guests of the University, to present their ideas and expertise.

What to expect

Class will be a mix of lectures by the lead instructor, large-group discussion, "jigsaw groups" (you'll come to love this term), quizzes (both flavors – announced and pop), short in-class writing exercises, guest lectures, videos, music, and awkward silences.

University policy states that every course credit hour should generate between two and three hours of homework. Thus, a full load of 15-17 credit hours should represent something like 45-55 hours per week of time in class and time spent preparing for class. If this class ever exceeds the **six to nine hours per week** of preparatory tasks it should generate, please alert the instructor. On the other hand, if you find yourself spending only a couple of hours per week on assigned tasks, don't complain to me about your bad grade.

Rules of the game

1. Participation in this class is crucial. Therefore, **ATTENDANCE IS MANDATORY**. Stetson University's official policy is that 1) students are to attend class "regularly;" and 2) **there is no such thing as an officially excused absence**. I have interpreted "regularly" to mean that you may miss, without any penalty, **two classes (one week of class)**. After that, I will lower your final grade by 1% for each class you miss. Let me make this as clear as possible: Aside from Stetson-approved

absences for athletic events, **I will accept no excuses for absences.** If you are not in class, you will be marked absent. You are responsible for obtaining information about any missed work, announcements, or changes in schedule or assignments that you miss when you are absent. You are also responsible for picking up any returned assignments from me during my scheduled office hours.

2. Basic rules of good behavior will be observed.

In case your mommy failed to teach you these, they are here enumerated: 1) Be seated, with books and pencils at the ready, 4 p.m.

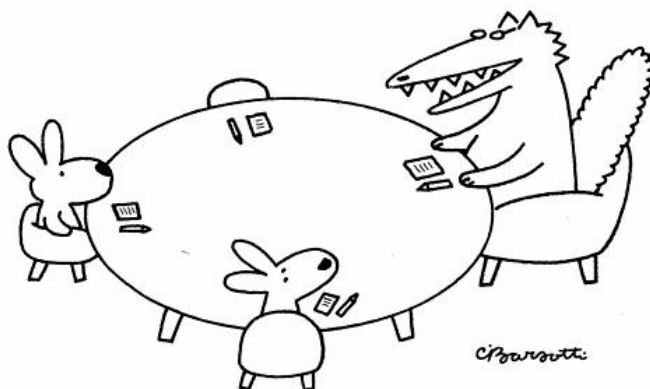
Attendance is taken at the beginning of class – **anyone late will be marked as absent.** 2) Never, but never, speak with your neighbor while someone else is speaking. 3) Always bring your text to class. 4) Be discrete with drinks and food.

It is preferable not to eat at all during class. 5) Do not slouch, recline, lie prostrate, or practice martial arts during class. 6) Never, but never, get ready to leave until you have been dismissed.

3. **No papers will be accepted late.** There is no flexibility in this. Any paper not turned in on time and according to directions will receive a 0. (Not even one minute. Don't bother asking.)

4. **I do not allow any rewrites.**

5. **You must keep your papers until the end of the semester.**



"Any other objections?"

Evaluation

Quizzes and written group presentations (approximately 10 total, pass/fail):	10%
Two short (2-4 pages) papers (each worth 5%).....	10%
Three in-class tests (TENTATIVELY: 2/10, 3/24, 4/21) (each worth 20%)	60%
Final Paper (5-7 pages, due per Final Exam schedule).....	20%

Texts

It is VITALLY important that you purchase the editions I have indicated below.

Omon Ra (Victor Pelevin)

Publisher: New Directions Publishing Corporation; (February 1, 1998)

ISBN: 0811213641

Resurrection (David Remnick)

Publisher: Vintage; Vintage edition (May 26, 1998)

ISBN: 0375750231

Armageddon Averted: The Soviet Collapse, 1970-2000 (Stephen Kotkin)

Publisher: Oxford University Press; (October 1, 2001)

ISBN: 0-19-516894-1

Academic dishonesty

I quote from the student handbook: "On the first occurrence in any course, the minimum penalty will be a zero on the paper, test, or examination. The maximum penalty will be failure in the course. The instructor will confer with the accused student and inform him/her as to what specific penalty, within these limits, he/she intends to impose. **[My note: You will fail this course if you are ever caught plagiarizing.]** Once a charge of academic dishonesty has been resolved, notice of the occurrence will be sent to the Student Judicial Officer and to the appropriate academic Dean **to become a part of the student's record.**"

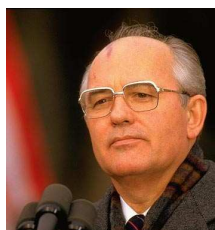
If you have any questions concerning what constitutes plagiarism, I suggest you read Part III of the *Brief Holt Handbook* (available at the bookstore) or consult the relevant sections in the Bulletin.

1984: The Cold War Gets Hot

Weeks 1-3



"Must civilization perish in a hail of fiery atoms? Must freedom wither in a quiet, deadening accommodation with totalitarian evil?"



Gorbachev was twice named TIME's Man of the Year: 1987 and 1989

1/11: Course introduction

- **For the next class:**

- Read Ronald Reagan's "Evil Empire" speeches (Available on [Bb](#)):
 - 1) [Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Association of Evangelicals in Orlando Florida \(1983\)](#) [H](#)
 - 2) [Address to Members of the British Parliament \(1982\)](#) [H](#)
- Read Ronald Reagan's 1983 "[Address to the Nation on Defense and National Security](#)" [Bb](#) [H](#)
- Read and listen to the BBC's "[Moscow pulls out of US Olympics](#)" (link online) [H](#) [Bb](#)
- Start reading Read Chapters 1-3 in Kotkin (a total of about 75 pages, or 2-3 hours reading)

1/13: The Cold War

- 1984: Cold War, Big Brother, Star Wars
- **For the next class read:**
 - Read selections from *Russia and the Post-Soviet Scene* and my edited version of the *Encyclopedia Britannica's* "Geography of Russia" entry (both available on [Bb](#))
 - Continue reading Kotkin 1-3

1/18: Guest Lecture

- Prof. Bruce Bradford, "Geography of Russia"
- **For the next class read:**
 - Continue reading Kotkin, finishing chapter 1-3
 - Read and listen to the BBC's "[Gorbachev becomes Soviet leader](#)" (watch esp. "Jeremy Paxman presents a profile of Mr Gorbachev") [H](#) [Bb](#)
 - Read and listen to the BBC's "[Superpower summit 'off to good start'](#)" [H](#) [Bb](#)
 - Read and listen to the BBC's "[Superpowers aim for 'safer world'](#)" [H](#) [Bb](#)
 - Read Chapter 8 of Neidhart's *Russian Carnival*, "To Buy is to Be" (20 pages) [Bb](#)

1/20: Discussion Day

- **Quiz** on Kotkin reading (chapters 1-3)
- Analysis and Recap of Bradford lecture (20 minutes)
- Discussion of Kotkin, Neidhart (jigsaw groups) (40 minutes)
- **For the next class:**
 - Read Archie Brown's "The Gorbachev Factor" [Bb](#)
 - Each jigsaw group must jointly author a one-page response to discussion question. Bring enough copies on 1/25 for everyone in the class.
 - By 1/27: Watch: *A Cruel Romance*

1/25: Who was Mikhail Gorbachev?

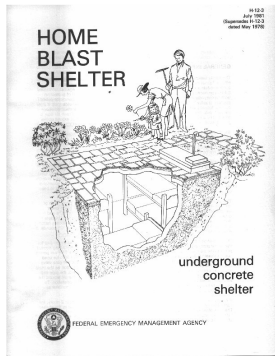
- Jigsaw presentations (15 minutes)
 - Lecture: Glasnost, Perestroika, Demokratizatsia (40 minutes)
 - Introduction of film
 - **For the next class:**
 - Watch: *A Cruel Romance* (app. 2 hours)
- Scheduled Viewing: Tuesday, Jan 25 6-8p in IMC
✱ The film will be available for viewing at the RSC from 1/26 until noon 1/27

1/27: Discussion Day

- **Quiz** on Brown, *Cruel*
- Lecture, discussion of Brown, *A Cruel Romance*, Kotkin chapters 1-3
- **For the next class:**
 - Read... To be posted (on Chernobyl and/or Afghanistan)
 - Read Chapter 6 of Niedhart's *Russian Carnival*, "Space: The Sixth Sense" (40 pages) [Bb](#)
 - Read and listen to the BBC's "[Soviets admit nuclear accident](#)" [H](#) [Bb](#)
 - Read and listen to the BBC's "[Afghan leader defends Soviet invasion](#)" [H](#) [Bb](#)
 - Begin work on two-page Kotkin synopsis: See [Bb](#) for more information. Due at beginning of class on 2/3. Again, **no papers accepted late.**

1986: Glasnost, or Armageddon Averted

Weeks 4-5



“The family blast shelter can be placed in the yard and will provide protection against thermal effects, fallout radiation, and blast effects from a nuclear weapon. It is designed to accommodate six adults.”

2/1: Chernobyl and Afghanistan

- Lecture: The Empire Wobbles: Quagmire in Afghanistan and Chernobyl
- **For the next class:**
 - **FOR 2/8:** Watch *Anna* (1993) (app. 100 minutes)
- 👁️ Scheduled Viewing: Thursday, Feb. 1 6-8p in IMC
- ✕ The film will be available for viewing at the RSC from 2/1 until noon 2/8

2/3: In-Class Viewing of CNN *Cold War*

- Turn in papers
- Watch CNN's *The Cold War*, episode 22 “Star Wars” & episode 23 “The Wall Comes Down”
- Receive review sheet for TEST I
- **For the next class:**
 - view *Anna* (see entry for 2/1 for more information)

2/8: Lecture, Discussion, Review

- Catch-up
- Lecture, discussion of *Anna*, CNN *Cold War*, Niedhart's “Space”
- Review for test

2/10: TEST I

- **For the next class:**
 - Read & listen to Reagan's speech “[Tear Down this Wall](#)” (June 12, 1987) Bb
 - Read the Glasnost-era short stories and poetry posted on Bb