(Soviet) Russia: 1917 to Now
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This course examines the political, economic, social, and cultural history of the Russian revolutionary era, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the early 21st century Russian Federation that succeeded it. The course is a graduate seminar that relies principally on reading, writing, and guided seminar discussions of primary and secondary sources to survey this history, its key interpretive issues, and historians’ conflicting views of them. Student participants are expected to complete all assigned readings, contribute actively to seminar discussion, write two short essays to organize a given week’s reading, and complete a 15-20 research paper on a topic of interest.

Readings will include:

Materials from the open-access website Seventeen Moments in Soviet History http://soviethistory.msu.edu
Catherine Merridale, Ivan’s War. Life and Death in the Red Army (Picador, 2007)

1/17 Introduction and the Eurasian Empire of the Tsars

1/24 War and Revolution, 1914-1917. Downfall of Monarchy and Provisional Government

1/31 The Bolshevik Revolution, Civil War, and the Shaping of Soviet Power
2/7  Defining Soviet Socialism in the Roaring Twenties
2/14  The Revolution from Above, 1928-1932
2/21  Stalinist Civilization
2/28  The Great War for the Fatherland: World War II
3/7   Spring Break
3/14  Post-War Stalinism and Cold War
3/21  Khrushchev, The Thaw, and Soviet Boomers
3/28  Stayin’ Alive. “Late Socialism” in the ‘60s and ‘70s
4/11  The End of History and the New Millennium: the 1990s
4/18  Putinism
4/25  discussion of research papers
5/2   discussion of research papers