

POS 354

Russian Politics

Prof. Erik Hoffmann

This is a course on the domestic politics and foreign policy of Russia and the Soviet Union in the late nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first centuries. We will begin with an overview of the late tsarist period, examine closely the Lenin and Stalin periods, and analyze in greatest detail the post-Stalin and post-Soviet periods. We will focus on domestic-international linkages, state-society relations, and continuity and change in the core elements of the Soviet political system. Attention will be paid to the interaction of political-administrative, socioeconomic, ideological-cultural, geographic-demographic, scientific-technological, and military-security variables in changing international environments. In a word, this course is interdisciplinary and historically founded.

Course requirements include a mid-term paper and final paper based on the extensive readings, lectures, and documentary films presented and discussed in class.

POS 564

Seminar on Russian Politics

Prof. Erik Hoffmann

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Seminar requirements include a 25-page analytical essay based primarily on the assigned readings, seminar discussions, documentary films, instructor's occasional lectures, and students' weekly seminar presentations.