**New Undergraduate Course Request**

**Montana State University**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies</th>
<th>LETTERS AND SCIENCE</th>
<th>HSTR</th>
<th>Spring 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>407</td>
<td>First Semester to be Offered</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

"The Soviet Union: Rise, Fall, and Aftermath."

**Course Title (for Catalog)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Soviet Union: Rise &amp; Fall</strong></th>
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Have you checked with the Registrar's office (X4155) to make sure the new course number has not been used in the past ten years? **Yes**

Frequency Offered: ☐ Annual ☑ Alternate Years

Semesters(s) Offered: ☑ Summer ☑ Fall ☑ Spring

Credits by Mode of Instruction:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lecture:</th>
<th>Independent Study:</th>
<th>Recitation/Discussion:</th>
<th>Seminar:</th>
<th>Lab/Studio:</th>
<th>Total:</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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Primary Mode of Delivery (Check One):

| ☑ Face-To-Face | ☐ Audio and/or Video Tape | ☐ Internet/Web-Based | ☐ Interactive Video |

Time and Location (Contact Registrar's Office for room availability):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Bldg</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Prerequisite course(s) (Upper-division courses are normally expected to have prerequisites. When listing multiple prerequisites, please be clear about whether the courses are all required (separated by "and" or if only one is required (separated by "or"): "Western Civilization II" OR "Russia to 1917"

HSTR 1021H

HSTR 369

Co-requisite Courses:

Course Description (40 word limit): Please attach a typed copy of the catalog course description immediately following this cover page.

Person Initiating This Request: **James Meyer**

Instructor's Banner ID or SSN: -01878132

Phone: 994-6798

E-mail: james.meyer@montana.edu

**APPROVAL**

You only need to obtain the 2 that are indicated with an asterisk (*)

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Revised 10.20.05
This course examines the history of the USSR and its successor states in Europe and Asia. Beginning with the late imperial era, it examines the major political, cultural, and social developments taking place in the region to the present day.
The Soviet Union: Rise, Fall, and Aftermath

1. This course examines the history of the Soviet Union and its successor states in Europe and Asia. Beginning with the dissolution of the Russia Empire in 1917, this course focuses upon the major political, cultural, social, and economic developments taking place in the region up to the present day. Of particular importance to this course is the question of what the study of the USSR can teach us about the modern era more generally. Established upon the ruins of a three hundred year-old dynasty, the creation of the USSR constituted a political and social experiment that was unprecedented in the region. While the Soviet Union no longer exists, its legacy can still be seen today in a wide variety of states situated within Central Asia, the Caucasus, and the European Union, in addition to eastern Europe.

Thematic units of this course include: a) the diplomatic and political crises facing the Russian Empire at the beginning of the twentieth century; b) Economic and political developments taking place in the region, and especially the variety of approach undertaken within the Soviet system; c) Nationalities policies within the Soviet Union, and the rise of an "affirmative action" society in the USSR; d) the emergence of the Cold War and the definition of the Cold War as a historical era; e) the emergence of dissident and democratization movements in the 1970s and 1980s; f) the rise to power of Mikhail Gorbachev, the end of the Cold War, and the impact of the Cold War’s end upon world history g) and h) the Soviet legacy throughout post-Soviet space and the importance of shared history in contemporary affairs.

The objective of this course is to provide students with a detailed understanding of not only the history of Soviet Union, but also of the series of issues pertaining to politics, culture, and international relations in the modern era.

2. Grades will be determined based on class attendance and participation, two writing assignments (5 pages apiece), a midterm, and a final.

3. Content Outline:

a. Introduction to the region and its peoples
   While the principal focus of this class is on Russia and the Russians, the diversity of the USSR and Russia today are also emphasized, with special focus placed upon regions of contemporary interest such as Central Asia and the Caucasus. Contemporary political and international issues facing the region are introduced early in the semester, with attention drawn to them again at various points throughout the course.
b. Establishing the USSR
- Includes discussion of the political and military developments that were critical to the establishment of the Soviet Union and the reconstitution of most of the lands of the former Russian Empire within the Soviet state.

c. From Leninism to Stalinism
- Examines the most important changes taking place within the Soviet system from the 1920s to the emergence of high Stalinism in the 1930s. Political, cultural, and economic issues are discussed in a context which places special emphasis upon the emergence of a multi-national system of rule and administration in the USSR.

d. The Cold War
- Discusses the emergence of a bipolar global political system and the Cold War. Questions explored in this context include whether or not the Cold War was necessary, and identifying the major characteristics of the Cold War era in comparison to the contemporary era.

e. The breakup of the Soviet Union
- Includes a discussion of the different ways, over time, in which successive Turkish governments have re-invented Atatürk’s principles in the context of a changing political culture.

f. Culture and politics
- Special emphasis is placed upon cultural changes taking place in Soviet and post-Soviet space, including the important connection between culture and politics. The emergence of a top-down multi-national cultural and political system in the 1920s and the importance of cultural figures to dissident movements receive close analysis.

g. The post-Soviet era and the legacy of a shared past
- Discusses the legacy of the Soviet system upon its fifteen successor states in Europe and Asia, as well as contemporary issues facing these societies.

h. Course materials include required reading in the form of a textbook, monographs, and journal articles. Other required materials include films, video clips, and other media presented in class.

4. Required reading: See attached syllabus

5. Success of course: Success of the course will be determined by Knapp Evaluations.

6. No
7. "The Soviet Union: Rise, Fall, and Aftermath" involves discussion, high-level reading assignments, and complex historical contexts suitable to 300-level and 400-level classes in our department.

8. Yes, this course follows both thematically and chronologically HSTR 359, "Russia to 1917."

9. No

10. Yes

11. No

12. 40 students, in accordance with departmental norms.

13. None

14. Two DVDs will be required, one for each film to be shown. Other materials, such as videos and links, will be provided through D2L.

15. NA

16. NA

Learning Outcomes:

1) To acquire a better understanding of the major events and developments taking place in the region and how they fit into the global context of the era under review.

2) To develop a sense for viewing current political conditions in the region in a more historical context.

3) To become more familiar with historical and other theoretical concepts as they apply to the region.

4) To improve skills like writing, discussion, reading comprehension, and listening.

5) To begin reading history texts more critically and distinguishing between different narratives of the same historical events.