HISTORY OF THE SOVIET UNION

Spring 2018 – Quarter 4

Mr. Stuart

Office Hours(subject to change): Monday, 8-8:40am, 1-3:45pm;Tuesday, 11:30am-12:3pm; Wednesday, 8-8:40am, 1-3pm, Thursday, 10am-12:30pm, 1-3:30pm; Friday, 8-8:40am, 1-3pm; my office is open beyond the posted hours for appointments and walk-ins.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The history of the Soviet Union is brief yet significant within the 20th century. Its struggle to be created, to be sustained, and then to be ‘tossed on the ash heap of history’ is a remarkable adventure which captured, and still captures, the imagination of millions of humans. Our search for the heart and soul of the Soviet Union will be our primary task for this quarter course, to meet its personalities, to make sense of its governing principles, to explore its actions which impacted the globe during the 20th century, and reasons for its demise by 1992.

COURSE PREREQUISTE: None

GENRAL COURSE OBJECTIVES:

\*to afford students a structured opportunity to become literate about varied elements – social, political, philosophical, economic, etc. – of the Union of the Soviet Social Republics;

\*to develop a sophisticated sense of the chronological unfolding and collapse of the USSR;

\*to develop skills of analysis and evaluation required for interpretations of complex written and non-written evidence;

\*to develop an ability to identify recurrent themes, concepts and ideas developed in the USSR, and to be able to analyze and articulate relationships between and amongst them through historical research and documentation;

\*to develop and reinforce those skills of inquiry and reflection which enable one to actively pursue independent research in the history of the USSR;

\*to become familiar with the structures, functions and history of USSR institutions.

COURSE CONTENT: see reading schedule

REQUIRED TEXTS: None. Utilization of numerous historical texts will be emphasized.

COURSE METHODOLOGY:

/reading of texts and sources on which regular, structured, in-class interpretational discussion will be based;

/student class presentations;

/experiencing and evaluating processes of inquiry and analysis through the use of role-plays, simulations, debates, play-acting, modeling, etc.;

/use of visual media working toward analysis, evaluation and interpreting significant, available and relevant evidence.

METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:

\essay writings in class – 2 to 3 @ 10pts each

\quizzes – 2-3 @ 5pts per quiz

\book analysis, document analysis, media analysis, artistic analysis – 2-3 @ 15 pts each

\creative projects – 1-2 @ 15pts each

\formal essay papers – 1 @ 20 pts

GRADING SCALE:

A: 100-95

A-: 94-90

B+: 89-87

B: 86-83

B-: 82-80

C+: 79-77

C: 76-73

C-: 72-70

D\*: 69 and below

CLASS POLICIES: Students will be expected to attend all class meetings. All class work will be completed if an absence occurs with penalties for unexcused absences. Students need to notify the instructor in advance of a pre-arranged absence(preferably 3 or more days prior to absence) so assignments may be submitted in an appropriate manner mutually agreed to be student and instructor. Students are responsible for all assignments due during an absence, including group and individual projects assigned prior to the absence and due during the absence. A student who does not participate in a group project due during an absence must meet with the instructor. Late papers and missing class work will earn lower grades if the student has not pre-arranged with the instructor another day and time for submission of assigned work.

Penalties for late work as assessed as follows: 1-5 hours late 10% deduction from assigned value; 5-24 hours late 20% deduction; after 24 hours wok earns a zero but it will be assessed by instructor to provide feedback.

The policy of academic dishonesty as stated in the Student Handbook will be in force during this course. Honesty, trust and personal intellectual responsibility are fundamental attributes of the Academy community. Academic dishonesty by a student threatens the intellectual foundation of this institution dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge and critical thinking. To maintain credibility and reputation, and to equitably assign evaluations for scholastic and creative performance, The Indiana Academy is committed to maintaining a climate which upholds and salutes the highest standards of academic integrity. Assigned papers will be subject to inspection through various electronic means employed by the instructor.

Equity Statement: Ball State University and The Indiana Academy aspire to be a university and gifted high school that attracts and retains a diverse faculty, staff, and student body. We are committed to ensuring that all members of the community are welcome through valuing the various experiences and worldviews represented at Ball State and The Indiana Academy and among those we serve. We promote a culture of respect and civil discourse as expressed in our Beneficence Pledge and through university resources found at <http://cms.bsu.edu/campuslife/multiculturalcenter>.

METHODS OF COURSE EVALUATION: This course will be evaluated by students through a process of standardized questions and by prepared written questions created by the instructor. Said evaluations will be administered at the conclusion of the course. Periodically, the instructor will ask students for feedback during the course.

READING SCHEDULE

Various texts will be utilized during this course from a variety of historians, scholarly journals, films, and news journals which will be posted on Blackboard or distributed in class

March 13 – Marx to Lenin

March 15 – Russian Revolutions

March 20 – Transition to Stalin

March 22 – 5 Year Plans and Cult of Stalin

March 27 – Collectivization and Purge trials

March 29 – Fascism v Communism

April 3 – Stalin to Khrushchev

April 5 – “We Will Bury You” – Khrushchev in the 1950s

April 10 – Space Race, Berlin and U-2

April 12– ‘Eyeball to Eyeball’ – early 1960s

April 17 – Brezhnev enters the photo

April 19 – Soviet adventures and disarmament talks

April 24 – Communism ascending 1970s

April 26 – Ruptures in system

May 1 – Muddled leadership to Gorbachev: Glasnot and Perestroika

May 3 – Dissolution of USSR