Title: HISTORY OF RUSSIA AND INNER ASIA
Course Code: HST3365
No. of Credits/Term: 3
Mode of Tuition: Sectional
Class Contact Hours: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.: Elective
Prerequisites: only two-, three- (and four-)year students
Co-requisites: None
Exclusion: None
Exemption Requirement(s): None

Brief Course Description
This course examines the history of Russia, the Soviet Union and Inner Asia (Russian/Soviet Central Asia, Xinjiang and Outer Mongolia) from the middle eighteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. The political, social, economic and cultural dynamics of interaction between the Tsarist and Soviet states with their Muslim and Buddhist populations will be explored. Qing and Republican rule over Xinjiang will be also taken into the picture. The focus will be on the cultural and religious diversity inside the empire and the Soviet Union, and on the different policies and strategies adopted by the state in dealing with such diversity. A special attention will be devoted on Central Asian Muslim populations.

Aims
This course will prompt students to expand their historical knowledge about Russia, the Soviet Union, Mongolia and China’s North-Western region. The course will give students the conceptual tools necessary to place the history of the Tsarist empire and the Soviet Union in the context of the different multinational and colonial empires of the modern age. The course will also provide students with a conceptual framework in order to analyze the history of twentieth-century communist political and economic systems.

Indicative Content
I. Historical Background: Post-Timurid Central Asia and the rise of Muscovy (15th-17th centuries)
II. The Tsarist Empire becomes a European Power: from Peter the Great to the Napoleonic wars (18th century-1815)
III. Expansion Southwards and the Rise of Nationalisms (1774-1890s)
IV. Inner Asia during the Nineteenth Century: Societies, Economies and Politics
V. The Last Years of the Tsarist Empire: Growth and Weakness (1894-1914)
VI. From the First World War to Bolshevik Power (1914-1921)
VII. The Creation of the USSR and the New Economic Policy (1921-1928).
VIII. The Emergence of Stalinist Economy and Society in Russia and Central Asia (1928-1937)
IX. From Stalinist Terror to World War II (1937-1945)
X. Xinjiang and Mongolia Between Tsarist/Soviet Power and China (1911-1949)

XI. Late Stalinism and early Post-Stalin USSR (1945-1955)

XII. The Khrushchev years (1955-1964)


XIV. Gorbachev, the Collapse of the USSR and beyond (1985-2000)

Learning Outcomes
Students completing this course:
1. Will be able to recall, describe, discuss and explain the basic chronology, issues and specific terminology associated with modern Russian, Soviet and Inner Asian history;
2. Will be able to synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate, historical arguments;
3. Will be able to present and articulate arguments orally;
4. Will be able to analyze primary sources within their historical context;
5. Will be able to write effective analytical papers.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes
a) Quizzes will assess the degree of understanding of basic facts, timeline and terminology in Russian, Soviet and Inner Asian history (point 1. above)
b) Performance in participatory and structured discussions will assess the ability in synthesizing information, in evaluating historical arguments (point 2. above) and in presenting them orally (point 3. above).
c) Performance on written assignments will assess students’ ability in analyzing primary and secondary sources, and using them in their own analytical arguments (points 4. and 5. above).

Assessment
This course is 100% continuous assessment, subdivided as follows:
Quizzes 25%
Class Participation, Structured Discussions 35%
Final Essay 40%

Essential Readings

Supplementary Readings
Crews, Robert. *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia.*