

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: HIST 392		Number of Credits: 4 Course credit policy (105)													
Course Full Title: The Soviet Union in the Cold War Era, 1945-1991															
Course Short Title: Soviet Union in Cold War Era															
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities		Department/School: History													
Calendar Description: Students examine the factors sustaining the Soviet Union's territorial and ideological unity, economic and military strength, and international influence in 1945-1991, and the reasons behind gradual liberalization of the Soviet society and the eventual disintegration of the USSR.															
Prerequisites (or NONE):		9 credits of lower-level history or 45 university-level credits.													
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):		None.													
Antirequisite Courses (<i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i>) Former course code/number: HIST 397G Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): HIST 397G <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		Course Details Special Topics course: No <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: No <i>(See policy 207 for more information.)</i> Grading System: Letter grades Delivery Mode: May be offered in multiple delivery modes Expected frequency: Every other year Maximum enrolment (for information only): 30													
Typical Structure of Instructional Hours <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total hours</td> <td>60</td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	60									Total hours	60	Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	60														
Total hours	60														
Scheduled Laboratory Hours Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: No		Transfer Credit (See bctransferguide.ca .) Transfer credit already exists: Yes Submit outline for (re)articulation: No <i>(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)</i>													
Department approval		Date of meeting: February 24, 2025													
Faculty Council approval		Date of meeting: May 9, 2025													
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval		Date of meeting: September 26, 2025													

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Identify key components in Soviet history during the Cold War era, 1945-1991.
2. Analyze the correlation between domestic and foreign policies, socio-economic and cultural developments, and ideology.
3. Articulate historical debates on the subject.
4. Engage in class discussions in a collaborative, inclusive and respectful manner.
5. Articulate the importance of context, evidence, perspective, and research in the study of history.
6. Work with multiple sources, both primary and secondary.
7. Create historical content for diverse audiences.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	20%	Assignments:	20%	%
Quizzes/tests/midterm:	30%	Project:	30%	%

Details:

Final exam: 20%

Quizzes: 10% (10 in-class quizzes x 1% each)

Midterm: 20%

Assignments:

Oral paper-based presentation: 5%

Participation: 15% (seminar co-facilitation: 5%; participation: 10%)

Project (research paper): 30%

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Teaching methods will include lectures, seminar discussions/debates and examinations, guest lectures and field trips. Relevant audio/visual materials will also be used.

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Textbook	Suny, R.G.	The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States	2003
2. Online resource	Online readings (articles and essays)		
3.			
4.			

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

Course Content and Topics

- Introduction: The Soviet Union before and after the Cold War; historiography and sources
- Soviet Russia's search for identity and security in the inter-war period
- The imposition of the Stalinist orthodoxy at home and abroad in the wake of the Second World War
- USSR, the United States, and the "First" Cold War 1945-1953
- De-Stalinization: Khrushchev's "Thaw" and adventurism in foreign policy
- "The unbreakable union of Soviet republics": Stability, bureaucracy and status quo, 1964-1982
- Towards a global role? The Soviet foreign policy under Brezhnev and beyond
- The beginning of democratic reforms under Mikhail Gorbachev
- The "Second" Cold War and the end of the bi-polar world, 1985-1991
- The fall of Eastern European communism and the disintegration of the USSR
- Yeltsin's Russia and the post-Soviet states of Eurasia: confusion and co-existence
- Russian national idea and her geo-political priorities at the turn of the 21st century