COURSE DETAIL

THE SOVIET UNION: DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL, AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Country
United Kingdom - England

Host Institution
London School of Economics

Program(s)
London School of Economics

UCEAP Course Level
Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)
Political Science History

UCEAP Course Number
159

UCEAP Course Suffix
Y

UCEAP Official Title
THE SOVIET UNION: DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL, AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

UCEAP Transcript Title
SOVIET UNION

UCEAP Quarter Units
12.00

UCEAP Semester Units
8.00

Course Description
This course covers the entire lifespan of the Soviet Union from its inception in 1917- 22 in the cauldron of the Russian revolution and Bolshevik dictatorship to the unexpected demise in 1989-91. Many courses about the Soviet Union teach either domestic history or foreign policy, either political or social history. This course seeks to connect separate threads of scholarship into one historical and analytical narrative. It also devotes special attention to history of ideas and intelligentsia. The Soviet Union was dictatorship, but also ideocracy: one of the most daring ideological experiments in human history that offered a sweeping and ultimately failed alternative to capitalism and liberal democracy. Given immensity of this material, the course is structured around major issues, such as state construction and nationalism; Stalinism as a regime and a system; the impact of the Second World War and the Cold War on elites and society; de-Stalinization, intelligentsia and dissent; the causes that blocked dynamism of the Soviet project; the patterns of Soviet reformism and the reasons of Soviet collapse. Among the persistent questions that the course addresses are: How did ideas, state policies, and social dynamics interact in Soviet non-democratic polity? How did the outside world affect Soviet politics and economics? Was the Soviet Union an empire and of what kind? Why the giant country that won the Second World War collapsed so suddenly and peacefully? Is there a historical “path dependency” for today's Russia?

Language(s) of Instruction
English

Host Institution Course Number
HY242

Host Institution Course Title
THE SOVIET UNION: DOMESTIC, INTERNATIONAL AND INTELLECTUAL HISTORY

Host Institution Course Details

Host Institution Campus London School of Economics
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department History
Course Last Reviewed

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