

## 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 Campus**

London School of Economics

**Host Institution Faculty**

**Host Institution Degree**

**Host Institution Department**

History

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