

<b>MODULE TITLE</b>	Rise and Decline of Soviet Communism		
<b>Module Code</b>	14-6064-00S		
<b>Level</b>	6		
<b>Credit Points</b>	20		
<b>Indicative Assessment Tasks &amp; Percentage Weightings</b>	Model A. Two tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,000 word essay (50%)</li> <li>• 2 hour exam (50%)</li> </ul>		
<b>Pre-Requisite Modules (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable		
<b>Delivered according to Standard Academic Calendar</b>  <b>YES</b>	<b>Long: 2 semesters</b>	<b>Short: 1 semester</b>  <b>YES</b>	<b>Other delivery pattern:</b> <i>Please specify</i>  <i>Elective module - can be delivered in either Semester 1 or Semester 2 for module choice purposes</i>

## 1 MODULE AIMS

- To encourage students to adopt an independent approach to the study of communism by critically evaluating dominant western constructs such as 'totalitarianism', 'evil empire' and 'revolution from above'.
- To introduce students to the idea of state-society interaction under Soviet-style socialism.
- To place the momentous demise of communism in the USSR in its historical context.
- To develop students' understanding of post-communist Russia by discussing the historical roots of the crises of the 1990s.

## 2 MODULE LEARNING OUTCOMES BY THE END OF THE MODULE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO

- Assess critically the legacy of the Bolshevik Revolution and the 'socialist experiment' in the USSR.
- Demonstrate detailed empirical knowledge of the historical development of the Soviet Union, 1917-91.
- Display a critical approach to the interpretations and dominant theories of leading scholars in the field.
- Demonstrate an awareness of the complex political and social processes that underlay state-society relations in communist Russia.
- Display an ability to manage and internalise large amounts of written material.

### **3 INDICATIVE LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT ACTIVITIES**

The module will be taught by means of weekly one-hour lectures and 1.5 hour seminars. Lectures will introduce students to the main theoretical and historiographical debates and issues and will provide a detailed empirical context. In the seminars students will engage critically with these themes either through tutor-led discussions or unassessed group work. Students will also be expected to undertake extensive independent study and reading.

The module will be assessed by:

- **2000 word essay (50%)**  
Students choose from a range of essay titles covering the first half of the module. The essay will assess depth of understanding of a particular issue or theme and students will be expected to engage critically with historiographical debates.
- **2 hour unseen examination (50%)**  
The examination will cover the entire lecture and seminar programme and is designed to assess students' breadth of knowledge on several aspects of the module. Students will be expected to engage with the empirical and interpretative material discussed in the module.

Students will be provided with written feedback on coursework and examinations by means of a proforma. Verbal feedback will also be offered.

### **4 INDICATIVE MODULE CONTENTS / TOPICS**

#### **Introduction:**

- Student views on the Soviet Union and communism - what were they and should they be evaluated positively or negatively?

#### **The Bolshevik Revolution in its Wider Context:**

- A critical assessment of the 'orthodox', 'revisionist' and 'post-revisionist' perspectives on this momentous event.
- The development of the Party, State and society in the 'transition to socialism', 1918-28.
- Women and the Bolshevik State, 1918-36.
- The Comintern and world revolution.

#### **Stalinism and Beyond:**

- What was Stalinism?
- How did Soviet citizens cope with the immense strains of the 'revolution from above', the Great Terror and social and economic dislocation?
- De-Stalinisation and the Khrushchevite 'Thaw'.
- Brezhnevite stagnation and the origins of Gorbachev's perestroika and glasnost.

**The Demise of Soviet Communism:**

- The impact of Gorbachev's reformist campaigns in the Soviet Union.
- Why did the communist state and the entity known as the USSR collapse so rapidly?

**FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MODULE**

**FURTHER / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT THIS MODULE, INCLUDING ASSESSMENT CRITERIA DETAILING HOW YOUR PERFORMANCE IN THE MODULE WILL BE MEASURED, HOW YOU WILL RECEIVE FEEDBACK, DETAILS OF LEARNING RESOURCES AND KEY READINGS**

**THIS INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND IN**

Module Handbook

Level 6 Course Handbook for the BA (Hons) History, Criminology and History, English and History, and Film and History degrees

Module and Course Blackboard sites

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE FROM YEAR TO YEAR**

**REVISIONS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason</b>
May 2017	Modification DB3HU34-1617
July 2017	Operational change approved by Humanities Departmental Board 21/06/17