

## HISTORY 90 GORBACHEV'S RUSSIA IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Professor Donald J. Raleigh, Spring Semester 1993

Thursday, 2-4:30 P.M., Hamilton 517

**Description:** In accordance with History Department guidelines, this section of History 90 is designed to facilitate the pursuit of independent research on a topic of interest to the student. Students will present the results of their efforts in both oral and written form. The focus of our collective efforts will be Gorbachev's Russia; this course will examine the background to and course of the extraordinary changes that took place in the former Soviet Union between 1986 and 1991.

During the semester, students will read and discuss several works in common, review a major journal or newspaper, select a research topic in consultation with the instructor, present two oral reports on their research efforts, and submit a draft and final paper of approximately 20-25 pages.

Early in the semester students will identify a topic, and compile a bibliography (while carrying out bibliographical research students will make 5-minute presentations on important journals). Students will then make two 10-minute reports on their research findings. Based largely on secondary literature, the first oral presentation will provide an historical perspective on the current scene by tracing the specific problem under consideration throughout the course of Soviet history. The second presentation, based on extensive reading in the Soviet and Western press as well as on current scholarly analyses, will focus sharply on what has changed in regard to the topic since Gorbachev came to power.

Class attendance is mandatory and **papers must be turned in on time**. Students are also expected to take active part in class discussion.

### **Required Reading:**

White, Stephen. *Gorbachev and After* (1992 edition).  
Tarasulo, I. J., ed. *Gorbachev and Glasnost: Viewpoints from the Soviet Press*.  
Tarasulo, I. J., ed. *Perils of Perestroika: Viewpoints from the Soviet Press, 1989-1991*.  
Handout to be distributed by instructor ("Beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg")

**Office Hours:** I will hold office hours on Tuesday (2-3:30 P.M.), on Thursday (10-11:00 A.M.), and by appointment. My office is located in Hamilton Hall 410 (telephone: 962-8077).

### **Grading:**

5-minute report	5%
10-minute report	10%
10-minute report	10%
Discussion	15%
Draft Paper	30%
Final Paper	30%

### Schedule of Seminar Meetings and Assignments

Jan	14	Introduction. Discussion of course objectives. Recent reflections. Library Tour.
Jan	21	Discussion: "From Brezhnev to Gorbachev," White, 1-27; Tarasulo, I, 321-28. The Bibliography Card. Preliminary selection of research topics.
Jan	28	Discussion: "Democratizing the Political System," White, 28-76; Tarasulo, I, 267-302; II, 69-76, 77-81, 89-110. The Note Card.
Feb	4	Discussion: "Glasnost and Public Life," White 76-103; Tarasulo, I, 1-38, 127-33, 143-61. Half the class will present concise 5-minute oral reviews of a journal or newspaper.
Feb	11	Discussion: "Glasnost and Public Life," Tarasulo, II, 1-17, 22-33, 48-64. Half the class will present concise 5-minute oral reviews of a journal or newspaper.
Feb	18	Class will view film, "Pokaianie."
Feb	25	Discussion: "Reforming the Planned Economy," White, 104-44; Tarasulo, I, 67-101; II, 139-62, 203-10. Students in Group I will present 10-minute oral reports on the historical background to their topics and turn in bibliography cards.
Mar	4	Discussion: "The Soviet Multinational State," White, 145-87; Tarasulo, I, 177-87, 208-15; II, 34-47. Students in Group II will present 10-minute oral reports on the historical background to their topics and turn in bibliography cards.
Mar	11	Spring Break
Mar	18	Discussion: "The Soviet Union and the Wider World," White, 188-222; Tarasulo, I, 217-37; II, 213-32, 262-70. Students in Group III will present 10-minute oral reports on the historical background to their topics and turn in bibliography cards.
Mar	25	Discussion: "Gorbachev and the Politics of Perestroika," White, 223-62. Writing the Paper. Students in Group I will present 10-minute reports on what has changed under the new leadership; reports should present students' working hypotheses and preliminary conclusions.
Apr	1	Discussion: "Key Personalities," Tarasulo, II, 285-345. Students in Group II will present 10-minute reports on what has changed under the new leadership; reports should present students' working hypotheses and preliminary conclusions.
Apr	8	Students in Group III will present 10-minute reports on what has changed under the new leadership; reports should present students' working hypotheses and preliminary conclusions. Group I will turn in draft papers today, an outline, a one-page synopsis, and note cards.
Apr	15	Discussion: "The August Coup of 1991," Raleigh, "Beyond Moscow and St. Petersburg." Group I receives back draft papers. Groups II and III turn in draft papers, an outline, a one-page synopsis, and note cards.
Apr	22	Group I turns in final papers (two copies); Groups II and III receive back draft papers.

Apr 29 Reading Day. I will hold office hours between 2-4 P.M. Students in Groups II and III will submit final papers (two copies) at this time; Students in Group I can pick up final papers.

**Suggestions for Research Projects:** Here I wish to call your attention to a *few* broad topics, each of which contains a large number of manageable projects.

The Soviet political system (changes in the CPSU and in local government, new parties, informal groups, specific individuals such as Yeltsin, Gorbachev, Shevardnadze, Ligachev, Medvedev, the Constitutional Court, etc.).

Rewriting Soviet history (reevaluations of 1917, Stalin, the 1930s, collectivization, World War II, Khrushchev, Lenin, etc.).

The Soviet economy (problems in the transition to a market economy, workers [the mine workers' strike], the cooperative movement, private enterprise, the state-farm system, foreign trade, the armed forces, privatization, etc.).

Social trends and moral issues (the status of women, the family, the educational system, medicine, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, youth culture, leisure time, environmental issues).

The Nationalities (students could focus on a specific nationality, national minority, or republic, or on a specific problem such as Russian nationalism).

Cultural and intellectual life (Soviet literature, film, art, music, dance, the media).

Religion (the opening of churches, the spiritual vacuum, Russian Orthodoxy today, non-Orthodox Christians, Muslims, Jews, relations with the Vatican, etc.).

Soviet Marxism (Social Democracy today, fresh interpretations of a stale dogma).

The USSR and the US (perception of the US, arms control, cultural exchanges, trade).

The USSR and China

The USSR and Eastern Europe

The USSR and Eurocommunism