Instructor: Volodymyr Kravchenko
Office: Tory 2-36
Telephone: 780-492-TBD
E-mail: vkravche@ualberta.ca

Course Pre-requisite: Consent of department

Course Description:

The purpose of the seminar is to explore the phenomenon of daily life of the ordinary Soviet citizens. Living in a “grey zone” between utopia and social reality, they developed a strategy of “getting on and getting by” that enabled them to stay fed, informed, and entertained” (T. Johnston) This seminar will help you to understand complex, even paradoxical nature of Soviet civilization and will give you a sense of why post-Soviet nostalgia is so pervasive even today.

The emphasis will be on specific topics:
- Soviet mass culture, housing, shopping, food, tourism etc.;
- Soviet mythology, rituals, identity, and historical legacies;
- Norms, habits, and values of Soviet citizens;
- Soviet-Western mutual stereotypes.

Feature Soviet/Russian films, jokes and anecdotes are used extensively as a teaching tool. They permit detailed insight into Soviet daily life.

The seminar is structured chronologically in order to reflect contradictory policy of Soviet leaders from Lenin to Gorbachev as well as transition to the current state of affairs in post-Soviet Russia.

Interdisciplinary aspects: the seminar will be helpful to those who are focusing on:

- Slavic, Eurasian, Russian, Soviet, and East European modern studies;
- Cultural studies and anthropology;
- Social history;
- Film studies.

Texts:
This seminar will not use a textbook. Basic readings will be available at University of Alberta internet. All texts recommended for further reading are at your discretion. Some of the
books recommended for further reading will be accessible through the library’s course reserves system.

**Goals, objectives, and learning outcomes:**

**Goals:**
- To introduce students to Soviet daily life in general and its specific aspects (see above);
- To explore main interpretations, concepts and paradigms in Western Soviet studies;
- To familiarize students with non-academic perception of the past;
- To develop critical thinking, presentation, and communicative skills.

**Objectives:**
- Understanding the main stages of Soviet policy with its respective features, intentions and outcomes;
- Discussing problems of interrelationship between public and private spheres of life; historical legacy and continuity; system of values and norms;
- Familiarizing students with the best Soviet/Russian films and anecdotes;
- Training in analyzing and decoding of cultural texts.

**Learning outcomes:**
Students will:
- Acquire basic knowledge on the Soviet way of life and its interpretations;
- Recognize specificity and universalism of the Soviet socio-cultural phenomenon;
- Be able to use specific language and categories of historical discipline in understanding and describing of the Soviet past;
- Demonstrate the ability to locate and gather information;
- Be able of analyzing of cultural texts as primary and secondary historical sources;
- Develop their skills in critical thinking, oral presentations, discussions, and interpersonal communication.

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation in discussions on the films screening in class.</th>
<th>15%</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Due: see Syllabus, pp. 6, 7, 8.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral in-group collective presentation of Soviet anecdotes (see Addendum 1 for further explanation).</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due: 07 August.</td>
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<tr>
<td>One short film review (usually 3-4 pages; see Addendum 2 for further explanation.)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due: 16 August, 9:00 pm.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final test (in an essay format; usually 3-4 pages; see Addendum 3 for further explanation.)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Due: 18 August.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Will be addressed in first class handouts (see Addendum1-3)

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc?

☐ Yes

Community Service-Learning component

☐ N/A

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

☐ Exam registry – Students’ Union
   http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/
☐ See explanations above.

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

☐ No

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the “Evaluation Procedures and Grading System section of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and working environment

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:
• Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
• If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

Academic Honesty:
All students should consult the information provided by the Office of Judicial Affairs regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook and Information for Students). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” Students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

Recording of Lectures:
Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the instructor.

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:
Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult the Calendar regarding Attendance and Examinations sections of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course.

Participation in discussions on the films screening in class will be graded (see above rubric “Grade distribution”)

Policy for Late Assignments:
A 10% per day penalty (weekends count as 2 days) will be applied to late assignments and final papers.

Student Accessibility Services:
If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Student Accessibility Services, contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Date of deferred Final Examination (if applicable):
N/a
Grading:
Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“History and Classics Department Undergraduate (or Graduate) Grading Scale”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Pts</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>95-100%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-94%</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>86-89%</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>82-85%</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>75-81%</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>70-74%</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>66-69%</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>61-65%</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>58-60%</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Satisfactory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>55-57%</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>50-54%</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-49%</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.</td>
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