ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY  
Comparative Cultural Studies: Germany and Russia in the 20th Century (GER/RUSS 3338)  
Fall 2017 MWF 12:00 -12:50 P.M.  
Room: Academic 125

Instructor (German): Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch  
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Office Hours: MWF 1:00 -1:50 P.M. and MW 5:00-6:00 P.M. and by appointment

Instructor (Russian): Ewa Davis  
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Phone: (325) 486-6161  
Office Hours: MWF 8:30 - 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. and by appointment

Required Text:  
This book is available online at the following site:  
http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b610149;view=1up;seq=16

Recommended Reading:  
Rifkin, Benjamin, Olga Kagan and Anna Yatsenko. Дела давно минувших дней. Yale University Press, 2007 (главы 12 – 36)  
http://eds.b.ebscohost.com.easydb.angelo.edu/eds/detail/detail?vid=2&sid=a02de921-48c8-4935-b1f2-783cbadb6276%40sessionmgr120&hid=126&bdata=JnNdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%3d#AN=1051908&db=nlebk

Please do not download this eBook.

Idea Form Objectives

Essential (E)  
1. Gaining factual knowledge (terminology, classifications, methods, trends)  
Important (I)  
7. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of intellectual /cultural activity
Course Description

In this course we will focus on the political and cultural history of Germany and Russia/Soviet Union during the 20th century and the complex relationship that existed between the two countries. During that century both countries demonstrated mutual cooperation, formed important alliances, became strategic partners, but also showed overt hostility. For Walter Laqueur Russian-German relations were one of the key issues in world affairs. To come to a better understanding of these relations we cannot only study German-Russian/Soviet diplomacy, but we also have to look at “what Germans and Russians thought about each other, their civilizations, ways of life, and political systems.” (Laqueur, 23) In this class we will look at the interplay of historical, political and cultural elements within each country and between the two.

Goals

Upon completion of this course, students will have a better understanding of the political and cultural history of Germany and Russia/Soviet Union in the 20th century and the complex relationship that existed between the two countries. Students will learn to critically evaluate primary and secondary sources (text, film, artifacts) orally and in writing. Students will also practice their writing skills in the target language.

Grading

Exams (2) 50%

Quizzes 20%

Discussions 20%

10% - Written responses to guiding questions

10% - Participation in discussion

Attendance/Participation 10%

Grading Scale

A= 90-100%  B=80-89%  C=70-79%  D=60-69%  F=59 or less

Exams

There are two exams, clearly marked on the syllabus, a mid-term and a final. Each exam will contain multiple choice questions and essay questions (some need to be answered in the target language, which would be Russian for Russian minors and German for German minors).
Make-up work

If you miss the mid-term exam FOR ANY LEGITIMATE REASON (see p.150 Angelo State University Undergraduate Bulletin 2005-2007), you must contact us within two working days from the exam date or you will not be allowed to take the make-up test. No make-ups will be given for the final.

Quizzes

Quizzes follow each discussion session and cover a completed unit. Quizzes consist of ten short questions, which students will have to answer in the target language (either Russian or German).

Discussions

Discussions are composed of two parts:

- Homework assignment containing responses to questions pertaining to material covered during the preceding four class sessions. Students will have to complete these assignments in the target language (either Russian or German).
- Classroom discussion on the above mentioned sessions.

Participation

The participation grade will be based on a student’s attendance, his/her preparation for class and his/her active and constructive participation in classroom activities.

Academic Honor Code and Plagiarism

Plagiarism and any other form of cheating will not be tolerated. Assignments that are plagiarized will receive automatically the grade -0-.

Attendance

Regular and on-time class attendance is of the utmost importance in this class. Each student will be allowed two (2) absences. These absences can be either excused or unexcused. Each subsequent absence will result in a 5% deduction on the attendance/participation grade. An absence is no excuse for not knowing the material or not handing in the assignments. If you cannot hand in an assignment, ask another person to bring your assignment to us or to put it into our mailbox in A110. It is your responsibility to verify your standing (attendance/grades/etc.) should you have any questions.

Absence from Class for Religious Reasons

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.
Office Hours

Office hours held are also for remedial purposes. Please contact us early on if material is unclear to you or if you have any other questions regarding the class.

ADA

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Cellular Phone Policy

Turn off all pagers, cell phones, or other electronic communication devices before entering the classroom.

August 28 Introduction – German Geography 1871-2016 (industrialization and changing borders)

30 Russian Geography from late XIX century – 2016

September 1 Discussion – Quiz 1

4 Labor Day

6 Founding of the German State (1871)– Berlin Congress (1878) – League of three Emperors (1881,1884) Bismarck’s Reinsurance Treaty with Russia, Russia enters into a military convention with France (1892).

8 WWI- Germany is drawn into a war on two fronts. Erich Ludendorff allows Vladimir Lenin (leader of the Communists) to travel from Switzerland through Germany to St. Petersburg.

11 Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 3, 1918).

Germany renounces the treaty of Brest-Litovsk and discontinues all diplomatic relations with Soviet Russia (November 5, 1918). Germany agrees to an armistice on November 11, 1918. End of World War I.

13 Russia under Nicholas II until his abdication – 1894 -1917

The February Revolution, the Provisional Government
15 The Bolshevik *coup d'état*, the Russian civil war and the intervention of the Allies – 1917 - 1920

18 **Discussion – Quiz 2**

20 Germany 1919 –Bavarian Soviet Republic, Treaty of Versailles, Genoa Conference (1922), Rapallo Treaty (1922)

22 German investments in the Soviet Union

25 Building Communism in the USSR

27 The Soviet Union reversing course

29 **Discussion -- Quiz 3**

October 2 German life in the 1920s: women, work, sexuality

4 German foreign policy in the 1920s

6 Life in Soviet Russia in the 1920s

9 Soviet foreign policy in the 1920s

11 **Discussion -- Quiz 4**

13 Stalin’s revolution (1924-1932)

16 Weimar Republic –Party Politics and Economic Crisis

18 Review

20 **Mid-Term**

23 Nazi Germany—Hitler’s rise to power- Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance, Anti-Comintern-Pact

25 Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact-Germany invasion of the USSR --WWII
27  The Soviet Union during the 1930s. The Great Terror

30  The Great Fatherland War

November 1  Discussion – Quiz 5
3  The Cold War (Warsaw Pact)  
   Last Day to Drop

6  Germany – Potsdam Conference, the immediate post war years (1945-1949)
8  The divided Germany 1949-1961 (Federal Republic of Germany and Democratic Republic of Germany)
10  The late Stalin years, Khrushchev and De-Stalinization (The Great Reform)

13  Discussion -- Quiz 6
15  Germany after the building of the Anti-Fascist-Protection Rampart (German Democratic Republic, 1961-1989)
17  Germany after the building of the Wall (Federal Republic of Germany, 1961-1989)

20  Soviet Union – Reform-Era internal affairs and foreign policy
22  Thanksgiving
24  Thanksgiving

27  Soviet Union - The Era of Stagnation 1971-1985
29  Discussion -- Quiz 7

December 1  Germany after the fall of the Wall – Reunification
4  German-Russian relations after Reunification – Nord-Stream-Pipeline
Soviet Union foreign policy (Post-Brezhnev era), The Reluctant Revolution: Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika

Review

December 11, 2017 1:00-3:00 P.M. Final Exam