

**ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**Comparative Cultural Studies: Germany and Russia in the 20th Century (GER/RUSS 3338)**  
**Fall 2021 MWF 12:00 -12:50 P.M.**  
**Room: Blackboard**

**Instructor (German):** Elisabeth-Christine Muelsch **E-mail:** emuelsch@angelo.edu  
**Office:** A110E **Phone:** (325) 486-6163 **Office Hours:** MWF 1-2 PM. and M 5-6 PM and by appointment.  
 Consultation via phone and blackboard collaborate  
<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/283b4b5f12a1429c8ea844d489de85d3>

is preferred.

**Instructor (Russian):** Ewa Davis **E-mail:** edavis@angelo.edu  
**Office:** A 110H **Phone:** (325) 486-6161 **Office Hours:** MWF 8:30 A.M. -9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M. and by appointment.  
 Consultation via phone and Blackboard Collaborate  
<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/d89c11718f824f98832a0c4b5b38f5cb> is preferred.

**Required Text:**

Romanov, Pilniak et al. *Azure Cities. Stories of a new Russia*. New York: International Publishers, 1929.  
 This book is available online at the following site:  
[http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.\\$b610149;view=1up;seq=16](http://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.$b610149;view=1up;seq=16)

**Recommended Reading:**

Kamp, Andrea, Peter Jahn and Philip Springer. *Unsere Russen, unsere Deutschen: Bilder vom Anderen 1800 bis 2000*. Berlin: Links Verlag, 2007. (Katalog zur Ausstellung im Schloss Charlottenburg Berlin)

Keller, Mechthild (Ed.). *Russen and Russland aus deutscher Sicht*. 4 vols. München: Fink, 1987 (in particular volume 4 which focuses on the late 19th and the 20th century)

Rifkin, Benjamin, Olga Kagan and Anna Yatsenko. *Дела давно минувших дней*. Yale University Press, 2007 (главы 12 – 36)

Fitzpatrick, Sheila. *On Stalin's Team. The Years of Living Dangerously in Soviet Union*. Princeton : Princeton University Press. 2015. eBook available via ASU U-Search

<http://eds.b.ebscohost.com/easydb.angelo.edu/eds/detail/detail?vid=2&sid=a02de921-48c8-4935-b1f2-783cbadb6276%40sessionmgr120&hid=126&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWRzLWxpdmU%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%
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10% - Written responses to guiding questions</li> <li>10% - Participation in discussion</li> </ul>
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 Angelo State University Operating Policy 10.04, [Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance](#)), 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.

### **Homework**

Students will receive guiding questions over material covered in class. These questions will be posted in the announcement section of Blackboard. Students will have to answer these questions in writing and mail their answers as word document attached to an email to their instructor. The questions have to be answered in the target language (either Russian or German).

### **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. These discussions will be conducted in the target language, with either the Russian or the German instructor, and they will be conducted in the Office Hour BB Collaborate Room. Each discussion session takes 30 minutes. Quizzes will be opened up online thereafter.

### **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 virtual 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. It is your responsibility to verify your standing (attendance/grades/etc.) should you have any questions. Responsibility for class attendance rests with the student. Regular and punctual attendance at all scheduled classes is expected, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time, with individual cases of non-attendance. In case of an illness requiring an absence from class for more than one week, the student should notify his/her academic dean and/or the Executive Director of Student Affairs or designee. Angelo State University Operating Policy 10.04, Academic Regulations Concerning Student Performance provides complete information regarding class attendance and reporting student illness and emergencies.

## 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.

## COVID-19 Policy

For current information on ASU's protocols and policies regarding COVID-19, please check the following link regularly as protocols may change. <https://www.angelo.edu/covid-19/>

August	23	Introduction –German Geography 1871-2016 (industrialization and changing borders)
	25	Russian Geography from late XIX century – 2016
	27	<b>Discussion – Quiz 1</b>

- 30 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).
- September 1 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.
- 3 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.
- 6 Labor Day**
- 8 Russia under Nicholas II until his abdication – 1894 -1917  
The February Revolution, the Provisional Government
- 10 The Bolshevik *coup d’état*, the Russian civil war and the intervention of the Allies – 1917 – 1920
- 13 Discussion – Quiz 2**
- 15 Germany 1919 –Bavarian Soviet Republic, Treaty of Versailles, Genoa Conference (1922), Rapallo Treaty (1922)
- 17 German investments in the Soviet Union
- 20 Building Communism in the USSR
- 22 The Soviet Union reversing course
- 24 Discussion -- Quiz 3**
- 27 German life in the 1920s: women, work, sexuality
- 29 German foreign policy in the 1920s
- October 1 Life in Soviet Russia in the 1920s

	4	Soviet foreign policy in the 1920s
	6	<b>Discussion -- Quiz 4</b>
	8	Weimar Republic –Party Politics and Economic Crisis
	11	Stalin’s revolution (1924-1932)
	13	Review
	15	<b>Mid-Term</b>
	18	Nazi Germany—Hitler’s rise to power- Franco-Soviet Treaty of Mutual Assistance, Anti-Comintern-Pact
	20	Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact-Germany invasion of the USSR –WWII
	22	The Soviet Union during the 1930s. The Great Terror
	25	The Great Fatherland War
	27	<b>Discussion – Quiz 5</b>
	29	Germany –Potsdam Conference, the immediate post war years (1945-1949)
November	1	The divided Germany 1949-1961 (Federal Republic of Germany and Democratic Republic of Germany)
	3	The Cold War (Warsaw Pact)
	5	The late Stalin years, Khrushchev and De-Stalinization (The Great Reform)
	8	<b>Discussion -- Quiz 6</b>
	10	Germany after the building of the Anti-Fascist-Protection Rampart (German Democratic Republic, 1961-1989)

	12	Germany after the building of the Wall (Federal Republic of Germany, 1961-1989)
	15	Soviet Union – Reform-Era internal affairs and foreign policy
	17	Soviet Union - The Era of Stagnation 1971-1985
	19	<b>Discussion -- Quiz 7</b>
	22	Germany after the fall of the Wall –Reunification
		<b>Last Day to Drop is November 22.</b>
	24	<b>Thanksgiving (pending board approval)</b>
	26	<b>Thanksgiving (pending board approval)</b>
	29	German-Russian relations after Reunification-- Nord-Stream-Pipeline
December	1	Soviet Union foreign policy (Post-Brezhnev era), The Reluctant Revolution: Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika
	3	Review
<b>December 6, 2021</b>	<b>1:00-3:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Final Exam</b>