

Minnesota State University Moorhead

POL 356: Soviet Russia and the Global Cold War

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: 0

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective

This course examines the events of the creation of the Soviet Union and its participation in global cold war ranging from the first World War through its collapse in 1989. It will discuss the relationship between the USSR and its satellite states in Eastern Europe and its client states throughout the world, focusing on case studies of conflicts both within the alliance as well as with outside forces including those of NATO. Discussion of the causes of the eventual collapse of the Warsaw Pact and the emergence of a post-Soviet state under Vladimir Putin will also follow. MnTC Goal 8.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 03/04/2013 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Formation of the USSR post-October Revolution of 1917
2. USSR in the post WWI era
3. Stalin, purges, and preparations for WW II---the Pact of Steel
4. USSR in World War II---relations with the west
5. Post WW II--formation of the Warsaw Pact
6. Soviet relations in Eastern Europe
7. Soviet client states abroad---proxy wars
8. Tensions in the perestroika era---Gorbachev
9. Collapse of the USSR
10. Era of the CIS---Vladimir Putin and a new Russian state

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Students will describe different approaches to the study of comparative politics.
2. Students will explain how Russian culture, history and society shaped its politics and international relations, including its domination of the Warsaw Pact countries in the post World War 2 era.
3. Students will be able to describe major features of the Soviet political system and Soviet policy goals during the Cold War era.
4. Students shall evaluate the impact of perestroika on relations with the United States, Eastern Europe, and on the question of nationalities.
5. Students shall describe, compare, and assess changes in the Russian political system over the cold war years.
6. Students shall analyze Russia's interests in the post-Soviet period, its relations with the CIS states, the United States and both Eastern and Western Europe.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted