

EASTERN EUROPE SINCE 1856

This course analyses the history of Eastern Europe from the end of the Crimean War to the twenty-first century. It covers the principal developments in the history of the region, including aspects of Russian, German, Central European and South-East European history. The aim of the course is to give first-year students a thorough grounding in the modern history of the region.

The course is taught by lectures, given by all members of the SSEES History teaching staff, and is supported by weekly classes.

The course is compulsory for all first-year History students and Combined Honours History students. Unlike other courses taught within the department to first-year students, this course does contribute to degree classification.

PRELIMINARY READING

Robin Okey, *Eastern Europe 1740-1980: From Feudalism to Communism*, 2nd edition, 1991. (terribly expensive; do not buy new! Go instead to www.abebooks.co.uk).

Ian Armour, *A History of Eastern Europe, 1740-1918*, 2006.

Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia and the Russians: A History*, 2001.

Title: Eastern Europe Since 1856
Course Code: SEHI0005
Course-unit value: 1.0
Level: Intermediate

Availability: 2009-10
Open to: All first-year undergraduates
Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites

Course leaders: Rebecca Haynes (as Head of Dept)

Aims: To acquire a body of historical knowledge relating to the history of Eastern Europe since 1856. This knowledge will relate not only to the facts of history but also to broader concepts and explanatory tools.

Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:

1. Enhanced ability to understand and to appreciate how people have existed, acted and thought in the past in the context of the complexity and diversity of historical situations, events and intellectual outlooks.
 2. Enhanced ability to use and evaluate texts and other source materials both critically and empathetically, as well as appreciating the limits and challenges of the extant record. The critical evaluation of texts should include an understanding of the questions which historians ask and why they do so. By the end of the course students will have read and mastered a wide selection of historical works drawn from the historiography on this period.
 3. Enhanced ability to frame an argument in a sustained manner both orally and in writing. Arguments should be structured, coherent, relevant, and concise, and should take into account all aspects of a given problem.
 4. Enhanced generic skills: these may be defined as –
 - (i) self-direction and self-discipline
 - (ii) independence of mind, and initiative
 - (iii) the ability to work with others and to have respect for the reasoned views of others
 - (iv) the ability to identify, gather, deploy and organize evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of achieving this
 - (v) analytical ability and the capacity to consider and solve problems, including complex problems
 - (vi) structure, clarity and fluency of expression, both written and oral
 - (vii) intellectual maturity and integrity
 - (viii) empathy and imaginative insight
 - (ix) ability to organize time, work and personal resources to optimal effect.
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Teaching & Learning Methods:

Number of Hours:

Lectures

20 hours

Classes

20 hours

Private Study

approximately 260 hours (although this will vary

according to individual needs)

Assessment:

Coursework: Two essays of 2500 words each, with full bibliography and footnotes, to be submitted according to a fixed deadline. The aggregate mark for the two essays will count for 25% of the total mark for the course.

Examination: A three-hour written examination of twelve questions, of which three must be answered. All questions carry equal weight and the aggregate mark counts for 75% of the total mark for this course.

AFFILIATE STUDENTS:

See regulations posted elsewhere.

100% fulfilment of coursework is required for the successful completion of this course. If this requirement is not met by the final departmental deadline, it will normally lead to you being debarred from the exam and the course unit being marked as incomplete on your final degree transcript.