

Course title	<i>History of the USSR (1922-1991)</i>
Course code	Vēst2011
Credit points	2
ECTS credit points	3
Total Contact Hours	32
Number of hours for lectures	22
Number of hours for seminars	10

Course developer(s):

Irēna Saleniece

Course abstract

The aim of the course - to acquaint students with history of the USSR, which included Latvia for 50 years, putting emphasis on issues of socio-political development of the USSR and evaluation of "real socialism", developed by the USSR, in historiography. Tasks of the course: to provide knowledge on the most significant events and processes in the USSR from 1917 till 1991. to improve knowledge in history of Latvia (1940-1991), studying it in the context of USSR history; to strengthen and appropiate theoretical knowledge in historiography;

to analyze historians' works on the chosen theme, to possess skills to distinguish differences of interpretation of particular facts and historical processes in works of representatives of various historiography schools; to discuss complicated problems of USSR history, basing on historiographic analysis; to substantiate one's own opinion of essence and significance of USSR history processes.

Learning outcomes

Knowledge

- get acquainted with the most significant events and processes in the USSR from 1917 till 1991;
- strengthen and appropiate theoretical knowledge in historiography; improved knowledge in history of Latvia (1940-1991), studying it in the context of USSR history.

Skills

- analyze historians' works on the chosen theme (acquisition, check and comparison of information);
- distinguish differences of interpretation of particular facts and historical processes in works of representatives of various historiography schools; discuss complicated problems of USSR history, basing on historiographic analysis; substantiate one's own opinion of essence and significance of USSR history processes.

Competence Interest and comprehension of recent history.

Course plan

Course structure: lectures - 22 h., seminars - 10 h.

Themes of lectures:

1. The most important events in Russia in 1917. Civil war.

2. Formation of the USSR. National structures in the territory of Russia, their relations.
 3. Development of the USSR in 1920s-1930s. New economic policy. Socio-political situation in the state. International condition of Soviet republics, their aspirations to break isolation. USSR Constitution of 1924. Struggles in Bolshevik party for leader's place, their stages, significance in fate of state.
 4. Peculiarities of USSR industrialization. Variants of agriculture modernization. Economic and social consequences of collectivization. Ideological basis of spiritual social life in Soviet state. Reformation of education system. Politicization of social life.
 5. Strengthening of centralized management, administrative system. Regime of personal I.Stalin's power, resistance to it. Foreign USSR policy in 1930s.
 6. The USSR before and during World War II (1939-1945).
Molotov - Ribbentrop pact, its secret protocols. Beginning of World War II. Invasion of the USSR in Poland. USSR agreement with Germany (28 September, 1939). War of Soviet Union and Finland. Annexation of Bessarabia and the Baltic States. Attack of Germany towards the USSR. Use of Russian patriotism traditions during war. Changes in the foreign policy of the USSR. Contradictions of Western states and the USSR.
 7. German occupation regime in the territory of the USSR. Collapse of Germany.
 8. Post-war period.
Consequence of war in economics, social sphere. Peculiarities of development of the Baltic States.
Beginning of the Cold War. Policy of the USSR in the Southern and Eastern Europe.
 9. I.Stalin's decease. Evaluation of his heritage. Attempts to commute totalitarian regime. Increase of social activity. Democratic and conservative tendencies. Alterations in solution of economic problems. Change of political course in state life.
 10. Crisis of ruling ideology. Spiritual opposition, its manifestations. Economic reforms in the 2nd part of 1960s.
 11. Perestroika. Aims and main stages. Ways of social democratization.
Development of new legislative institutions, introduction of presidency institute.
Ethnic conflicts in various regions of the state. National movement in the Baltic. Announcement of sovereignty of republics. New course in the foreign policy of the USSR.
Changes of situation in the state. Collapse of the USSR.
- Practical tasks: 12-16. Discussion of the results of practical independent work (students' research papers on the chosen themes).

Requirements for awarding credit points Participation in classes - 20%; development and presentation of research paper; reviewing; participation in discussion - 70%; differentiated test - 10%.

Course content

The most important events in Russia in 1917. Civil war. Development of the USSR as federal state. Development of the USSR in 1920s-1930s. New economic policy. Strengthening of control of Communist Party. Peculiarities of USSR industrialization. Economic and social consequences of collectivization. Ideological basis of spiritual social life in Soviet state. Politicization of social life. Strengthening of centralized management, administrative system. Regime of personal I.Stalin's power, resistance to it. The USSR before and during World War II (1939-1945). Post-war period.

Consequence of war in economics, social sphere. Alterations in solution of economic problems. Crisis of ruling ideology. Perestroika. Acknowledgement of independence of the Baltic States. Collapse of the USSR.

Compulsory reading

1. Keep J. Last of the empires: A history of the Soviet Union. 1945 - 1991. Oxford, New York, 1996
2. Pipes R. The formation of the Soviet Union. New York, 1968
3. Барсенков А.С., Вдовин И.И. История России. 1938 – 2002. Москва. 2002
4. Боффа Дж. История Советского Союза. В 2 т. Москва, 1990
5. Боффа Дж. От СССР к России: история неоконченного кризиса. 1964 - 1994. Москва, 1996
6. Верт Н. История советского государства 1900 - 1991. М., 1992
7. Карр Э. История Советской России. Книга 1. Большеви́стская революция. 1917 - 1923. Т.1, 2. Москва, 1990
8. Карр Э. Русская революция от Ленина до Сталина. 1917 - 1929. Москва., 1990
1984
9. Пайпс Р. Россия при большевиках. Москва, 1990
10. Политическая история: Россия - СССР - Российская Федерация. В 2-х т. Москва, 1996
11. Ратьковский Н.С., Хадаков М.В., История Советской России. СПб., 1999
12. Российское государство и общество. XX век. Москва, 1999
13. Советская внешняя политика в годы “холодной войны” (1945 - 1985). Новое прочтение. Москва, 1995
14. Советское общество: возникновение, развитие, исторический финал. В-2х тт. Москва, 1997
15. Судьбы российского крестьянства. Москва, 1996
16. Фицпатрик Ш. Классы и проблемы классовой принадлежности в Советской России 20-х годов. <http://historystudies.org/2012/07/ficpatrik-sh-klassy-i-problemyklassovoj-prinadlezhnosti-v-sovetskoj-rossii-20-x-godov/>
17. Хоскинг Д. История Советского Союза. 1917 – 1991. Москва, 1994

Further reading

1. Adžubejs A. Tie desmit gadi. – Rīga, 1991
2. Werth A. Russia: hopes and fears. – New York, 1970
3. Faidžiss, O. Čukstētāji. [Rīga, 2011.]
4. Арбатов Г.А. Затянувшееся выздоровление (1953 – 1985). Свидетельство современника.- М., 1991
5. Бурлацкий Ф. Вожди и советники: О Хрущёве, Андропове и не только о них.- М., 1990
7. Волгогонов Д.А. Семь вождей. Галерея лидеров СССР. Кн. 1-2.- М., 1995
8. Волгогонов Д.А. Триумф и трагедия: Политический портрет И.В.Сталина. В 2-х т. – М., 1989
9. Волгогонов Д.А. Ленин. Политический портрет.- М., 1994

10. Волкогонов Д.А. Троцкий. Политический портрет. В 2 кн.- М., 1992
11. Восленский М.С. Номенклатура.- М., 1991
12. Гришин В.В. От Хрущева до Горбачева: Политические портреты. Мемуары. – М., 1996
13. Горбачёв М.С. Размышления о прошлом и будущем. – М., 1998
14. Ельцин Б.Н. Исповедь на заданную тему. – М., 1990
15. Лацис О. Перелом. Опыт прочтения несекретных документов.- М., 1990
16. Медведев Р. О Сталине и сталинизме. – М., 1990
17. Мэтлок Д.Ф. Смерть империи: Взгляд американского посла на распад Советского Союза. Москва, 2003.
18. Несостоявшийся юбилей. Почему СССР не отпраздновал своего 70-летия .- М., 1992
19. НЭП. Взгляд со стороны. – М., 1991
20. Рыжков Н.И. Перестройка: история предательства. – М., 1992
21. Хрущёв Н.С. Воспоминания. Избранные фрагменты.- М., 1997
22. Шелест П.П. Да не судимы будете. – М., 1995

Periodicals and other sources

Вопросы истории

http://Annales.info/sbo/contens/vi3.htm#90_2

История СССР/ Отечественная история/Российская история

<http://Annales.info/sbo/contens/oi.htm> История советского периода (1917-1991)

http://scepstis.net/tags/id_112.html

Справочник по истории Коммунистической партии и Советского Союза 1898 - 1991 <http://www.knowbysight.info/>

Notes