

SOUTHERN POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY

IS 4005 – Regional Studies/Russia
FALL SEMESTER 2011

(1st page of 12 page syllabus)

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Thomas E. Rotnem

OFFICE HOURS: TTH 1-2:00, M 9:00-12:00

OFFICE: J-306

OFFICE PHONE: (678) 915-7523 (If no answer, PLEASE leave detailed message.)

TEXT/READINGS:

- 1) MacKenzie, David and Michael W. Curran. 2002. *Russia and the USSR in the Twentieth Century*, 4th edition. Wadsworth.
- 2) In addition, additional readings will be placed either on e-reserve *or* handed out in class during the semester. Students will be responsible for reading these articles, as well as the aforementioned text. (See syllabus for asterisked [*] items.)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The course catalog states that SIS 4005 “Focuses on the political, economic, and social forces within Russia and/or Eastern Europe.” That being the case, and due to time constraints, the instructor has determined this course will solely cover developments within “Russia” (broadly defined), from past to present.

The course provides a comprehensive examination of social, political and economic developments in Russia from 1917 to the present. It includes a brief discussion of the pre-revolutionary features of Russian political and social development on the eve of the historic events of 1917, the origination of the totalitarian Soviet political and economic model under Vladimir Lenin and Josef Stalin, the reform process underway in the latter half of the Soviet experiment, the collapse of the U.S.S.R., as well as the post-communist reforms of Boris Yeltsin and Vladimir Putin. It is the instructor’s desire to spend approximately one-third of the semester covering the period since 1985.

LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR SIS 400X COURSES: Students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an awareness of significant political and economic developments in the region studied.
2. Exhibit an understanding of the historical background in the region under study.
3. Demonstrate a knowledge of the variety of cultural expressions and social dynamics in the region considered.