HI31E-30 Stalinism in Europe, 1928-1953

23/24

Department
History
Level
Undergraduate Level 3
Module leader
Christoph Mick
Credit value
30
Module duration
23 weeks
Assessment
100% coursework
Study location
University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This 30 CATS final-year undergraduate Advanced Option module aims to examine the phenomenon of Stalinism between 1928 (the beginning of the “Revolution from above”) and 1953 (Stalin’s death). After a discussion of the transformation of the economy, society and culture the focus is on the social and cultural history of Stalinism as a ‘civilisation’. The Soviet leadership attempted to implement a socialist way of life and to construct a socialist identity. The consequences of this attempt for everyday life are considered as are central mythologies of Stalinist propaganda and the ‘culture of violence’. We will also discuss how far Stalinism was a purely Russian/Soviet phenomenon. We will therefore look at the consequences of Stalinism for the international communist movement and for the sovietisation of Eastern Europe after 1945.

Module web page

Module aims

Students will examine theories on Stalinism and how the Cold War affected the interpretation of Stalinism. We will discuss the totalitarian approach, the revisionist approaches of the 1980’s and the post-revisionist discussions of the recent period. Students will examine primary sources,

including official materials such as political speeches and propaganda and sources such as private letters, diaries, and memoirs.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. What is Stalinism?
2. ‘Socialism in one country’: The Soviet Union in the 1920’s
3. Transforming Russia: the ‘Revolution from above’
4. Industrialisation and Economic Planning
5. Looking East: Perceptions of the Soviet Union in Europe
6. Stalinist Culture
7. Society and Everyday Life
8. The ‘Stalinist Self’ I
9. The 'Stalinist Self'' II
10. Communism vs. Fascism
11. The 'Great Terror'
12. The Imperial Dimension
13. Anti-Soviet Campaigns and Fellow-Travelling
14. Russian Nationalism and Soviet Patriotism
15. The Great Patriotic War
16. Late Stalinism
17. The Sovietisation of Eastern Europe
18. Stalinism after Stalin

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a systematic knowledge and understanding of the key social, political and cultural developments occurring within the Soviet Union between 1928 and 1953
- Critically analyse and evaluate a broad range of primary sources (including political speeches, propaganda material, diaries, art, and film) relating to the history of Stalinism.
- Effectively communicate ideas, and make informed, coherent and persuasive arguments, relating to the history of Stalinism
- Critically review and consolidate theoretical, methodological, and historiographical ideas relating to the history of Stalinism

Indicative reading list

Reading lists can be found in Talis

Specific reading list for the module

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (12%)
Tutorials	4 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	260 hours (87%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A1

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Seminar contribution	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
1500 word essay	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000 word essay	40%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
7 day take-home essay with citations and a bibliography	40%		No
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written feedback provided via Tabula; optional oral feedback in office hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 4 of UHIA-V101 Undergraduate History (with Year Abroad)

- Year 4 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 3 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 4 of UHIA-VL14 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with Year Abroad)