Denis Melnik

The Development of Russian Social and Economic Thought: A Historical Overview

Plan of the course (40 hours):

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| *Title* | *Academic hours* |
| **I. The Birth of Empire: An Intellectual History** (6 hours) | |
| 1. Russia and the West: early encounters (14th – 16th centuries) | 2 |
| 2. Russian Mercantilism as a strive for efficient governance (17th century) | 2 |
| 3. Russia in the Age of Reason: the century of enlightened despots (18th century) | 2 |
| *Main reading:*   * Lavrin, J. "Yury Krizhanich." *The Russian Review* 25, no. 4 (1966): 369-82. doi:10.2307/127200. [www.jstor.org/stable/127200](http://www.jstor.org/stable/127200) * Lewitter, L. R. "Ivan Tikhonovich Pososhkov (1652-1726) and 'The Spirit of Capitalism'." The Slavonic and East European Review 51, no. 125 (1973): 524-53. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4206787> * Gershenkron, A. Europe in the Russian Mirror. Cambridge, 1970. Lecture 3 | |
| **II. Russia’s Long Nineteenth Century** (16 hours) | |
| 4. Russian civil society in the early 19th century: liberalism and conservatism | 1 |
| 5. ‘Whence is come the Russian land’: invention of History (N. Karamzin, P. Chaadaev, the early Westernizers and Slavophiles) | 1 |
| 6. The origins of Russian radicalism (A. Herzen and the early socialist groups) | 2 |
| 7. Russia’s agrarian curse: debates on Serfdom and the *Obshchina* | 2 |
| 8. The *Narodink* (Populist) movement | 2 |
| 9. Marx and the Russians | 2 |
| 10. Intellectual biographies of first Russian ‘orthodox’ Marxists (G. Plekhanov, P. Struve, M. Tugan-Baranovsky, V. Lenin) | 2 |
| 11. The Golden Age of Russian economics (1890s–1920s) | 4 |
| *Main reading:*   * Malia, M. Russian Under Western Eyes. Harvard University Press, 1999. Ch.2 * Kelly, A. The Discovery of Chance. The Life and Thought of Alexander Herzen. Harvard University Press, 2016. Ch. 2. * Wada, H. “Marx and Revolutionary Russia,” In: Theodor Shanin (ed.) Late Marx and the Russian Road: Marx and the ‘Peripheries of Capitalism’ (New York, 1983): 40–76. * Jasny, N. Soviet Economists of the Twenties. Cambridge, 1972. Ch. 9. | |
| **III. Economics of the Revolution** (8 hours) | |
| 12. Intellectual landscape on the eve of the First World War | 1 |
| 13. The splits among Russian Marxists. Bolsheviks and Mensheviks | 1 |
| 14. Bolshevism: political doctrine and economic reasoning | 2 |
| 15. Challenges of the victory: Bolshevik economics in the post-revolutionary decade | 4 |
| *Main reading:*   * Day, R.B. Leon Trotsky and the Politics of Economic Isolation. Cambridge, 2004. Ch. 3–5. * Melnik, D. “Revolutionary Economic Reasoning in the Context of Revolution: The Origins and Fate of Bolshevik Economics.” Slavic Review. 2017. Vol. 76. No. 3. P. 722-731. doi:10.1017/slr.2017.180 | |
| **IV. Soviet Economic Thought: From Internationalism to Economic Nationalism** (6 hours) | |
| 16. Soviet Political Economy: making of a discourse | 2 |
| 17. The strive to reforms (1956–85) | 2 |
| 18. Perestroika: fragmentation of a discourse | 2 |
| *Main reading:*   * Yurchak, A. Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More: The Last Soviet Generation. Princeton University Press, 2006. Ch. 2. * Kojevnikov, A. "Rituals of Stalinist Culture at Work: Science and the Games of Intraparty Democracy circa 1948." *The Russian Review* 57, no. 1 (1998): 25-52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/131690> * Melnik, D. and O. Ananyin. “Fighting Dogma, Rescuing Doctrine. Toward a History of Ownership Debates in Soviet Economic Literature,” In: Janos M. Kovacs (ed.) Populating No Man’s Land. Concepts of Ownership in Economic Thought under Communism (forthcoming) | |
| **V. Post-Soviet social and economic thought: an overview** (4 hours) | |
| *Main reading:*   * Daniels, R. V. "The Soviet Union in Post‐Soviet Perspective." The Journal of Modern History 74, no. 2 (2002): 381-91. doi:10.1086/343412 * Daniels, R. V. "Revolution, Modernization and the Paradox of Twentieth-Century Russia." Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue Canadienne Des Slavistes 42, no. 3 (2000): 249-68. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40870169> | |
| ***TOTAL*** | ***40*** |

**Final exam**: written answers to 2 essay-type questions (80 minutes).