

**Программа учебной дисциплины
«Англоязычная историография истории России XX в.
(English Language Historiography
of Russian History of the 20th Century)»**

Утверждена
Академическим советом ООП
Протокол № 8 от «26» июня 2018 г.

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Credits	3
Contact work (hours)	42
Individual work (hours)	72
Course	3
Format of study	Without the on-line course

I. Learning Objectives, Expected Outcomes and Prerequisites

1. Learning objectives:

- To introduce students to the main problems of the course, to its notions, concepts and terminology, to the existing literature.
- To enable students to master methods of historiographical analysis and to the application of this analysis at theoretical, ideological, institutional and research-tools levels.
- To inculcate into students the understanding of the dynamics and causality of political processes of the 20th century.
- To introduce students to the English language terminology relevant to the course.

2. Expected Outcomes:

As a result of studying the course ‘English Language Historiography of the Russian History of the 20th century’ the student should:

- Know the main stages of the development of English language historiography of Russian history of the 20th century.
- Know the main theoretical and ideological approaches of British and American historians to Russian history of the 20th century.
- Be able to identify, analyse and categorise the approaches of British and American historians to Russian history of the 20th century.
- Have the experience of discussing and analysing the problems of Anglo-American historiography of Russian 20th century history on the basis of the appropriate English language terminology.

3. Prerequisites:

The following knowledge and competence are needed to study the discipline:

- A good command of the English language
- A basic knowledge of the main stages and events of Russian and Western history of the 20th century

II. Contents of the Discipline

Topic 1. The Era of the Deceived: 1930s – mid 1940s. ‘Useful Idiots’ and ‘Unreliable’ Critics.

Officialdom and the media from 1917 to the early 1920s. Anti-communists and communists. The Zinoviev letter. The changing attitudes from the mid 1920s to the late 1930s. Communists and socialists in Britain and the USA. Ideological and academic limitations of Western historians’ knowledge and research. Left book clubs. The deceivers and the deceived: Walter Duranty, Maurice Dobb, the Webbs, Bernard Shaw. Critics from the left: Trotsky.

1940s: some truths get through (with difficulty) but the glorification continues. Testimonies by Russian émigrés. The Dewey commission.

Topic 2. The Cold War: late 1940s to early 1960s. Loyalists, Spoilers and Disillusioned communists.

The Cold War ideological divide. Political pressures and historians’ responses. The new sources and the new revelations. Academic achievements and failures. Political influence and ideological limitations. Cold war journals.

The last believer: E.H. Carr and his *History of Soviet Russia*.

The new political climate: Arthur Koestler, George Orwell, Isaiah Berlin.

Critics from the right and from the left. Sbigniew Brzezinski, John Shelton Curtiss. Merle Fainsod, Leonard Schapiro, David Dallin, Franz Borkenau, Jane Degras, Ruth Fisher, Milovan Djilas, Isaak Deutscher.

Topic 3. The Cold War: late 1960s to mid-1980s. ‘High’ Cold War and detente.

Better knowledge, more new sources and great break throughs. The ‘high’ Cold War mantra. The ‘cold warriors’, ‘conservatives’ and ‘progressives’. Sovietologists, political scientists and historians. Neo-Marxists and other critics from the Left. Détente, the convergence theory and historians.

Robert Conquest and *The Great Terror*. Robert Tucker. Richard Pipes. Geoffrey Hosking. John Erickson. George Katkov. Norman Stone. Annie Kriegel. Perry Anderson and the *New Left Review*.

Topic 4. Revising History: late 1980s to late 1990s. The Golden Era.

The short-lived ‘end of history’. ‘Revisionist’ history and ‘revisionist’ historians. Open dialogue, open archives, reinterpretations. Interaction with Russian historians.

Publication of documents. Translations. Events and places. Biography as history. Geoffrey Hosking, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Robert Service, Antony Beevor, Orlando Figes.

Topic 5. Post-Revisionist historiography: late 1990s to the present. The golden era continues.

Deeper understanding, better sources and better background. The diminished attention to and interest in Russia among the general public and the academia. Stalinism as the major subject of Russia's 20th century history. The emergence of the Putin era and 'Putinism' as subjects of historical research. Robert Service, Stephen Kotkin, Richard Sakwa, Orlando Figes, Oleg Khlevniuk.

Topic 6. Post-post-revisionist historiography: 2000s. The new mantra and the new ideological divide.

A different take on Russia's history of the 20th century. The blame game. 'Offensive neorealism' in history and the case of Ukraine as a litmus test. Is the balanced approach achievable? Balance and ideology in writing Russian history.

Topic 7. The 'amateur' historians?

'Amateur' approaches to Russian history. Who are amateurs? What they do right and what they do wrong. Societal and political role of amateur historians. Sebag-Montefiore, Anne Applebaum, Suvorov, and many others.

III. Examples of Grading Means.

1. Means of continuous assessment (topics for tutorial discussions and essays):

1. 'Useful Idiots' – who and why.
2. Sidney and Beatrice Webb: political ideology and writing on Russia.
3. Journalists as witnesses: Duranty and Maggeridge.
4. Russian émigré literature. David Dallin.
5. The birth of cold war discourse: from Koestler and Borkeu to Orwell, Isaiah Berlin and Brzezinski.
6. Edward Hallet Carr: protagonist of Stalinism or a dispassionate professional.
7. Disillusioned communists: Djilas and Deutscher.
8. Robert Conquest: the legacy.
9. Richard Pipes: the cold warrior.
10. Robert Tucker and his vision of Stalinism.
11. The cold war historiography: achievements and limitations.
12. Geoffrey Hosking: the topics, the approach and the style.
13. Revisionist historiography: what it meant in the context of Russian history.
14. Sheila Fitzpatrick and her 'social' approach to history.
15. Robert Service: history as biography.
16. The topic of Stalinism in revisionist historiography.

17. Anne Applebaum: writing and views.
18. The rise and fall of Orlando Figes.
19. Putin in Anglo-American historiography.
20. Richard Sakwa and Russia's contemporary history.
21. New apologists or a balanced approach?
22. The missing topics: what Western historians did not write about or wrote not enough about.

2. Means of intermediary assessment:

1. Assess the phenomenon of 'fellow travellers'.
2. Describe the approach of Maurice Dobb and of the Webbs to Soviet realities.
3. The war and the post-war: explain the change of attitudes.
4. E.H. Carr and the *History of Soviet Russia*.
5. David Dallin: *The Real Soviet Russia*.
6. Sbigniew Brzezinski: the writing and the political role.
7. Describe the new sources on Russian history after the Second World War.
8. Merle Fainson. *Smolensk under Soviet Rule*.
9. Analyse critical approaches to Soviet history by the Left.
10. The god that failed: Koestler and Djilas. Analyse their contribution.
11. Assess Conquest's major works and his role in Soviet studies.
12. Geoffrey Hosking. Describe and assess his writing in the 1970s and 1980s.
13. Richard Pipes. Analyse his vision and presentation of the Soviet history.
14. Robert Tucker and his interpretation of Soviet history.
15. The only historiography? Laqueur's *The Fate of the Revolution*. Assess.
16. Geoffrey Hosking: the post-Soviet writing. Describe and Analyse.
17. Explain the notions of 'revisionist history' in the context of Russian history.
18. Robert Service and his biographies of Russian leaders. Describe.
19. Sheila Fitzpatrick's work. Explain the significance of her contribution.
20. Anne Applebaum as a historian and as a journalist.
21. Orlando Figes: *A People's Tragedy*. Describe.
21. Richard Sakwa's changing vision of contemporary Russia.
22. Stephen Cohen's work in the new political dispensation.

IV. Resources.

1. Required reading:

- Фицпатрик Ш. Повседневный сталинизм. Социальная история Советской России в 30-е годы. Город. М.: Росспэн, 2001
- Фицпатрик Ш. Сталинские крестьяне. Социальная история Советской России в 30-е годы: деревня. М.: Росспэн, 2001
- Pipes R. *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution*, New York: Knopf, 1995

2. Recommended reading

- Hosking G. *Russia and the Russians: from earliest times to the present*. London: Penguin Press Classics, 2012

