This course traces the political, social and economic history of the Soviet Union from the disintegration of the Russian Empire through the revolutionary era of Lenin and Stalin to the height of Soviet power after the Second World War until its dissolution in 1991. In October of 1917 in the midst of World War I, a revolutionary Marxist party seized control of Russia and against all odds it maintained power through civil war, rapid industrialization, colossal loss of life to famine and terror, Nazi invasion and the Cold War, until its remarkably bloodless collapse in the late twentieth century. What made this power grip so robust? What was Communism and how did it triumph in Russia? Why did a regime that withstood a civil war, invasion and the Cold War so easily collapse in 1991? Students will submit weekly Blackboard discussions on assigned readings and video material and write a final 5-7 pg. on one of the following required texts: Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*; Koestler, *Darkness at Noon*; 3) the HBO Miniseries *Chernobyl*. 

Soviet Russia
HIS 210
Satisfies: GLO [DEC: I]

Instructor: Dafina Nedelcheva
Online Asynchronous