SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2018-2019

HI4012 – SPECIAL SUBJECT
BRITAIN AND REVOLUTIONARY RUSSIA, 1917-1924

30 CREDITS: 11 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. **You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.**

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR
Course coordinator: Professor A.J. Heywood
Office hours: see departmental webpage
Telephone: 01224-272640
Email: t.heywood@abdn.ac.uk

Discipline Administration
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
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Room CBLG01
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TIMETABLE
Two classes per week throughout the half session, total 33 hours.

For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen

_Students can view their university timetable at_  
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course explores Britain’s relations with Russia during the early years of the Soviet regime. It highlights a series of key developments in the relationship, especially major changes in British government policy that charted a course from military intervention to diplomatic recognition. Most of the seminars trace an aspect of the relationship within a fairly short time-frame, but some seminars investigate a particular issue through the whole period 1917–24. Several sessions will be used specifically for analysing gobbets. Knowledge of the Russian language is not required.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
This course aims to examine in detail key aspects of Britain’s relations with Russia during the early years of the Soviet regime, through a detailed study of contemporary sources as well as secondary sources. Special emphasis will be placed on trying to explain how and why the British government intervened militarily in the Russian civil war, but granted diplomatic recognition to the Soviet regime just six years later.

Learning Outcomes

Intellectual skills
By the end of the course students should be able:

- to outline chronologically the main developments in British–Russian relations during the years immediately following the Bolshevik Revolution;
- to offer explanations for the key developments in the period;
- to assess and judge issues which were, and which remain, controversial and emotionally charged;
- to examine the relationship between the plans and real outcomes;
- to examine complex and dynamic historical situations;
- to appraise critically relevant primary and secondary literature, including visual material.
**Personal and Transferable Skills**
By the end of the course, students should have:

- enhanced their skills in written and verbal communications, through essay and examination work and seminar discussion;
- enhanced their teamwork skills, through collaboration with other students in group work;
- enhanced their ability to learn independently, through preparation for seminars and written work;
- enhanced their analytical skills, through the detailed examination of contemporary documents and visual sources;
- enhanced their IT skills, through use of bibliographical tools, as demonstrated in the library session.

**Attitudinal Skills**
This course is intended to enhance appreciation and awareness of:

- the complexity and fluidity of rapidly evolving situations in international relations on the way from chaos to order;
- scholarly debates relating to the period;
- the major gaps that still remain in our knowledge and understanding of this subject;
- the skills characteristic of the professional historian.

**LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME**

**Week 1**
1.1 Introductory: aims, themes, seminar organisation, schedule, etc; election of class reps
1.2 Lecture 1: Revolutionary Russia, 1917–1924

**Week 2**
2.1 Sources
2.2 Lecture 2: The Bolsheviks and the World, 1917–1924

**Week 3**
3.1 Gobbets
3.2 Lecture 3: Britain and the Bolshevik Revolution, 1917–1924

**Week 4**
The fundamental nature of Soviet foreign policy, 1917–1924
Week 5
The UK government’s initial reaction to the Bolshevik Revolution, 1917–18

Week 6
The UK government’s decision to intervene militarily in Russia, 1917–18

Week 7
The nature and impacts of the British military intervention in Russia, 1917–19

Week 8
The change in UK policy from military intervention to negotiation, 1919–20

Week 9
The UK govt and the Anglo-Soviet trade agreement, 1920–21

Week 10
Britain, Russia and European reconstruction, 1921–22

Week 11
The decision to confer diplomatic recognition, 1923–24

Week 12 Revision week

READING LIST
Extensive reading is an essential part of any course in History and will deepen your understanding and enjoyment of the period and the discipline of history. The selected bibliography below provides points of departure for reading on the topics covered. The footnotes and bibliographies of these books and articles are two sources of still further reading; the search-features of the library catalogue, browsing the open shelves, and consulting the course co-ordinator are other ways forward. A major outcome of a university education should be an ability to find information on any topic within your field. You are encouraged to show initiative in developing this ability.

By the same token, a lot of emphasis will be placed on downloading Cabinet papers from the National Archives, but it will be up to you to decide how much material to collect and which items to collect. Accordingly, this work will not be monitored. Essentially, the more you collect and read, the better prepared you will be.
It is an important learning experience for you to find relevant primary and secondary sources yourself, so only a relatively limited list of references is provided here.

+ denotes not in the QML; such items might be available at or through the Public Library.

**Bibliographies** (English-language sources only)


**Primary Sources**

**Printed Document Collections**

(some useful documents can also be found in series H on the First World War, likewise at per 320)

**UK Government publications**

**Parliamentary Debates (Hansard): House of Commons; House of Lords**

**Documents available via websites**

There are numerous relevant sites. Prioritise the sites of archives, libraries and academic institutions. Be very wary of other sites — usually they are not sufficiently reliable.

The single most useful website for this course is run by the National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk). It has a section where you can download pdf
files of original documents. There is no charge to download a file unless it contains an image. For our purposes the key items are the Cabinet papers from 1917-1924: click on the ‘Records’ button in the centre of the website home page, and then on ‘Catalogue and online records’ tag at the top right. In the resultant page look in the left-side column for ‘Cabinet Papers’ and click on that. In the resultant page use the search box. If you search here for Russia and Russian for our dates, you will get several thousand hits. So for one search it’s best to use a narrow time-frame of, say, one or two months. Most if not all of these documents will be free of charge, notwithstanding the site’s ‘shopping basket’ system.

Note, however, that the search and download process is slow and cumbersome, so aim to get as many as possible of these files during the summer. You will need to rename the pdf files, so devise a logical renaming system that will enable you to save a given document quickly and retrieve it easily when you need it. Bear in mind the format of the following examples of bibliographic references for such documents:

- War Cabinet, No.358, ‘Minutes’, 4 March 1918: National Archives, CAB/23/5
- War Cabinet, ‘Supplies to Russia’, GT-3103, 19 Dec 1917: National Archives, CAB/24/37

Note also that the system is prone to crashing if it overloads. I suggest that you put no more than 10 items in your shopping basket at any one time.

Newspapers and Periodicals

Aberdeen Daily Journal (to Nov 1922)
Aberdeen Free Press (to Nov 1922)
Aberdeen Press and Journal (from Dec 1922)
Board of Trade Journal and Commercial Gazette
The Economist
Fortnightly Review (new series)
+The Herald
Journal (Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce)
The Manchester Guardian
National Review
The Naval Review
+The New Statesman
Punch
Quarterly Review
The Scotsman
The Times
Contemporary Works and Memoirs
For comprehensive lists see Smele’s annotated bibliography, noted above, and
the bibliography of S. White, Britain and the Bolshevik Revolution. Most but
not all of the books in the list below are in our library, and you may well also
find them in scanned form on the web. Examples are the books by
Dunsterville and Donohoe, which can be found within the Texts sub-division of
the website www.archive.org (use the advanced search facility here).

Anstey, F., Red Europe (Glasgow, 1921)
Baron, N., The King of Karelia: Col. P.J. Woods and the British Intervention in
North Russia, 1918-1919: A History and Memoir (London, 2007)
Brockway, A.F., Inside the Left: Thirty Years of Platform, Press, Prison and
Parliament (London, 1942)
Bruce Lockhart, R.H., Memoirs of a British Agent (London, 1932; also various
later edns)
Buchanan, G., My Mission to Russia and other Diplomatic Memories, 2 vols.
(London, 1923)
Coates, W.P. and Coates, Z.K., Armed Intervention in Russia, 1918–1922
(London, 1935)
Donohoe, M.H., With the Persian Expedition (London, 1919)
Farbman, M.S., Bolshevism in Retreat (London, 1923)
Francis, D.R., Russia from the American Embassy, April 1916–November 1918
(New York, 1921; also 1970)
Gallacher, W., Revolt on the Clyde: An Autobiography (London, 1936)
Gregory, J.D., On the Edge of Diplomacy: Rambles and Reflections, 1902–1928
(London, 1928)
Hodges, P., Britmis: a great adventure of the war: being an account of Allied
intervention in Siberia and of an escape across the Gobi to Peking
(Uckfield, 2010 reprint edn)
Labour Party, Report of the Annual Conference (various years)
Lansbury, G., My Life (London, 1928)
Lansbury, G., What I saw in Russia (London, 1920)
Lenin, V.I., Selected Works (London, 1936)
Lloyd George, D., War Memoirs, 6 vols. (London, 1933-36; also collected 1938)
MacDonald, J.R., The Foreign Policy of the Labour Party (London, 1923)
Macpherson, W.G. and Mitchell, T.J., History of the Great War based on
official documents: Medical Services General History, vol. IV (London:
HMSO, 1924) (see ch.22, ‘The Campaign in North Russia’, pp. 512-59)
Maynard, C., The Murmansk Venture (Uckfield, 2010 reprint edn)
Price, M.P., Dispatches from the Revolution: Russia, 1916–1918 (edited by
Tania Rose) (London, 1997)
Ransome, A., *Six Weeks in Russia in 1919* (Glasgow, 1919)
Singleton-Gates, G.R., *Bolos and Barishnyas: being an account of the doings of the Sadleir-Jackson brigade, and Altham Flotilla, on the North Dvina during the summer, 1919* (Uckfield, 2004 reprint edn)
Williams, R., *The New Labour Outlook* (London, 1921)

**Secondary Sources – a small selection**

I strongly recommend that you read the Ullman trilogy and White, *Britain and the Bolshevik Revolution* as soon as possible. Second-hand copies may be available reasonably cheaply – search in internet bookshop sites. I have one set of Ullman that I will make available for loan.


+Doerr, P.W., *British Foreign Policy, 1919–1939* (Manchester, 1998) (chaps 1–4) (available from me)
Fink, C. et al (eds), *Genoa, Rapallo, and European Reconstruction in 1922* (Cambridge, 1991) (chaps 1, 2)
Kennan, G.F., *Russia and the West under Lenin and Stalin* (Boston, Mass., 1961) (chaps 1–16)
Morgan, A., *J. Ramsay MacDonald* (Manchester, 1987)


White, C., *British and American Commercial Relations with Soviet Russia, 1918–1924* (Chapel Hill, NC, 1992)


Wrigley, C., *David Lloyd George and the British Labour Movement: Peace and War* (Hassocks, 1976)

The following volumes of the centennial series *Russia’s Great War and Revolution 1914-22* (Bloomington IN: Slavica, 2014- ) are now available and have relevant chapters:

- **vol.1** *Russian Culture in War and Revolution, 1914-22*, eds Murray Frame et al (2 books, 2014)
- **vol.2** *The Empire and Nationalism at War*, eds Eric Lohr et al (2014)
- **vol.3** *Russia’s Home Front in War and Revolution, 1914-22*, eds Sarah Badcock et al (4 books, 2015–18)

Also, I suggest that you read one or two of the following general overviews of the revolutionary period:


**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment is based on one three-hour degree examination at 100% of the final assessment. The Degree Examination will be held in December.

Additionally, you are required to:
* submit a 2,000-word annotated bibliography.
* submit three 400-word gobbet answers.

To view the CGS Descriptors please go to MyAberdeen- Organisations- Divinity, History, & Philosophy Student Information for Undergraduates. The link to the CGS Descriptors is on the left hand menu.

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

If you submit your work on time, you can expect that feedback will *normally be provided within three working weeks* (excluding vacation periods) of the submission deadline.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GOBBET ANSWERS**

The annotated bibliography must have FIVE items of secondary literature, including:


two other monographs

two journal articles and/or edited-book chapters.

Focus the bibliography on one of the eight seminar themes; the relevance of your selection to your topic will be one of the marking criteria. Consult me if you feel unsure. Take care with matters of presentation: the quality of presentation will be a marking criterion. Each review should be approximately
400 words excluding the citation. Give a brief description of each item, locate it in the literature, and comment on the strengths and weaknesses of its argument.

The bibliography must be structured and formatted in accordance with the departmental guidelines, which will be made available on the course website.

The gobbet answers should each be about 400 words long; no bibliography is needed, but do please paste the chosen gobbets into your document to aid marking. A selection of gobbets will be provided. Give a brief description of each item, locating it in the literature and identifying the issue to which it relates, and comment on how it contributes to our understanding of said issue. You might find it helpful to dissect the source sentence by sentence. Explain any names, dates and events that are mentioned.

We will discuss in week 1 how you want to organise the seminars. If you decide to have presentations, the rules will be as follows: You will take turns to lead the seminars with a presentation. The course co-ordinator will happily assist presenters in preparing these. The rest of the class must prepare for discussion of the topic by appropriate reading, analysis and preparation of questions and arguments. Presentations should make significant use of primary material, analysis of which will form a major element of the discussion. They should last about 15–30 minutes, depending on the number of presenters. They should not overlap with other presentations. Students must speak to the course co-ordinator about their presentations in advance. After each presentation there will be a general discussion. Students not giving presentations will read generally on that seminar’s topic(s) and relevant documentary sources.

LIST OF BIBLIOGRAPHY TOPICS

You are responsible for choosing the topic for your annotated bibliography. The bibliography topic must be approved by the course co-ordinator. Failure to do so may lead to a loss of marks. If the seminars are organised with presentations, the bibliography topic must NOT overlap with your presentation topic, to help ensure that you cover as many themes as possible for the exam.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Annotated bibliography: the deadline is Thursday, Week 4 (4 October), 3pm. Gobbet answers: the deadline is Thursday, Week 8 (1 November), 3pm.
SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Submit one paper copy with a completed essay cover sheet to the drop boxes in CB008 in 50-52 College Bounds and one official electronic copy to TurnitinUK via MyAberdeen. Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

**Paper Copy:** One paper copy, typed and double spaced, together with an Assessment cover sheet – this should have your ID number clearly written on the cover sheet, with NO name or signature but EVERYTHING ELSE completed, including tutor’s name – and should be delivered to the drop boxes in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds.

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen. (for instructions please see http://www.abdn.ac.uk/eLearning/turnitinuk/students/)

Students are asked to retain the Turnitin receipt so they are able to provide proof of submission at a later date if required.

In advance of uploading, please save the assignment with your student ID number listed in the filename, i.e. 59999999 HI4012 Essay 1.

When asked to enter a title for the assignment, please enter a title identical to the name of your saved assignment, i.e. HI4012 Essay 1.

Both copies to be submitted by 3.00pm on the due date.

*Please note: Failure to submit both an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.*

EXAMINATION

The purpose of the examination is to test your ability to analyse and synthesise material covered in the course, including the primary source material that you collect. During the examination you will write:

1/ responses to three ‘gobbets’ from a selection of eight, which will correspond to the eight core themes of the seminar syllabus (ie. one gobbet per theme); you should spend 40% of the exam time on this task. The selection may include visual sources such as a cartoon.

2/ two essays from a selection of eight questions. As with the gobbets, there will be one question for each of eight seminar themes.
Thus, you will need to revise a minimum of three themes for the exam, and it would be best to do four plus a fifth one for emergency use.

General exam guidance is given in the Student Handbook.

*Past exam papers can be viewed at* [http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/).

**PLEASE NOTE:** Candidates whose first language is not English may refer to English/native tongue dictionaries, when permitted by their Schools to do so. Electronic dictionaries are not permitted in the examination venue. Invigilators are entitled to request inspection of dictionaries prior to the examination, thumbing through them to check that there is no extra written material present.