DESCRIPTION: In 1917 the tsarist government toppled in what has been called the greatest event of the twentieth century--the Russian Revolution. History 421 begins with an overview of the developments leading to this dramatic event and chronicles the tumultuous evolution of Soviet and Russian history up to the present. After providing a snapshot of Russia on the eve of revolutions, the course emphasizes the social origins of the Russian Revolution; how a great revolution made in the name of social democracy gave rise to one-party rule; and how this set in motion a chain of events which placed the Soviet Union on a new path of historical development leading eventually to its own demise in 1991 and the ensuing recasting of politics and society.

REQUIRED READINGS:
Riasanovksy and Steinberg, A History of Russia Since 1855, vol. 2
Tian-Shinskaya, Village Life in Late Imperial Russia
Scott, J. Behind the Urals
Ginsberg, E. Journey into the Whirlwind
Politkovskaya, Anna, A Russian Diary
http://www.soviethistory.org

Additional readings will be made available throughout the semester

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course allows students to practice student learning outcomes 1-2 and 5-7.
--The course offers one midterm and one final exam each worth 25% of your grade.
--There will be one short paper on the Tian-Shinskaya book worth 15% of your grade
--There will be one primary resource project (to be discussed in class) worth 10%.
--Discussion is an essential element of this course and attendance is mandatory. It is therefore important to come to class prepared to talk about the assigned readings. Each Thursday, in order to facilitate discussions, all students must come to class with an outline of that week’s Riasanovksy readings. This will count for 25% of your grade.

Graduate students are required to complete an additional assignment that I will discuss with them separately. All assignments MUST be turned in on time. Students who are unable to meet the deadlines posted may turn in their assignments early. Please note that I do not give an incomplete unless there is a medical emergency.

***Lectures and discussions are designed to supplement, clarify, and complement reading assignments. Please read all assignments before coming to class. You are
urged to attend all class meetings and are responsible for any material, announcements, and course changes covered in class.

**Students who miss 5 or more classes for ANY reason will receive a failing grade for the course**--no make-ups, no incomplete, no pleading, no discussion.

*****VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Due to drastic budget cutbacks for the California State University system (thank you, Governor Schwarzenegger and state legislators!), faculty are **REQUIRED** to take nine **mandatory unpaid furlough days** each semester. Three of these have already been pre-set by Chico State for the spring semester: 2/12, 2/15, and 4/1. At this point it is unclear exactly what the remaining six days will be. This syllabus reflects what days I THINK I will be forced to stay home. However, this may change over the course of the semester. It is your responsibility to check the syllabus posted online to get the most current furlough days. Even though I may not be in the classroom, you are still responsible for the readings and assignments required for those days.

(NB: Students with perfect attendance and getting a B+ or better by week 15 may opt out of the final)

**LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS:**

Week 1  
**Jan 26-28** Introduction and The Great Reforms
   (Riasanovsky, xxv-xxxi, 341-353)

Week 2  
**Feb 2-4** The Revolutionary Movement
   (Riasanovsky, 353-361; Begin reading Tian-Shinskaia)

Week 3  
**Feb 9-11** Revolution, and Constitution
   (Riasanovsky 362-395; Finish Tian-Shanskaia ). Papers on **Tian-Shanskaia due Thursday**.

Week 4  
**Feb 16-18** Everyday Life Under the Old Regime
   (Riasanovsky, 396-438)

Week 5  
**Feb 23-25** The Revolutions of 1917
   (Riasanovsky, 439-459).

Week 6  
**March 2-4** Civil War and the NEP
   (Riasanovsky,460-481; Begin Reading Scott, *Behind the Urals*)

Week 7  
**March 9-11** The Stalin Revolution as Cultural Revolution
   (Riasanovsky, 482-489) **Discussion of Scott book on Tuesday.**

Week 8  
**March 15-19** SPRING BREAK!

Week 8  
**March 23** **Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day**
March 25  High Stalinism
   Riasanovsky, 489-516; Begin Reading Ginzberg, Journey Into the Whirlwind)
******MIDTERM EXAMS DUE THURSDAY  (No make up exams will be
   given except in medical emergencies)

Week 9
March 30  The Great Terror and the Great War
   Discussion of Ginsberg book Tuesday

April 1  Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day

Week 10
April 6-8  Bye-Bye Uncle Joe, Hello Comrade Khrushchev
   (Riasanovsky, 517-533)

Week 11
April 13  The Gerontocracy
   (Riasanovsky, 534-583)

April 15  Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day

Week 12
April 20-22  Gorbachev in Historical Perspective
   (Riasanovsky, 584-607; Begin reading Politkovskaya, A Russian Diary)

Week 13
April 27-29  Russia after Communism: Yeltsin and Putin
   (Riasanovsky, 609-640) A Russian Diary Discussion on Thursday

Week 14
May 4-6  Society and Culture After Communism
   (Riasanovsky, 641-665)

Week 15
May 11-What is to Be Done?
May 13  Mandatory Unpaid Furlough Day

FINAL EXAM: MAY 20 10am