

DOCTORAL SUBJECT SUB-UNIT

Subject name	Field of study (branch) code	Faculty	Department
Western historiography about the Soviet era. The most important trends	History and Archaeology H 005	Lithuanian Institute of History	

Mode of study	Number of credits ECTS	Mode of study	Number of credits ECTS
lectures		consultations	1
individual	4	seminars	2,5

Total 7,5

Subject annotation
<p>This course will focus on Anglo-Saxon historiography of the Soviet era. For a long time, it was this historiography that shaped the Western (and non-Western) academic approach to the Soviet Union, its political system, its regime, social structure and culture. In particular, scholars were interested in the causes of the social/socialist revolution in Russia and the radicalisation of the post-revolutionary political regime. The first researchers were political scientists rather than historians (Lyford P. Edwards, George Crane Brinton.) At the beginning of the Cold War, the so-called totalitarian perspective took hold in Western academia in the study of the Soviet Union (Leonard Schapiro, George Robert Acworth Conquest, Richard Pipes, Martina Malia.) Around the 1960s, during the period of the so-called <i>détente</i>, an alternative perspective to totalitarian historiography emerged, called revisionism (Jerry F. Hough, Vera S. Dunham, Moshe Lewin, Robert C. Tucker, Sheila Fitzpatrick, St. Kotkin). While the "totalitarians" focused on the political-partisan Soviet system, discussing the regime's repressive practices (mass repression, collectivisation), the main object of the „revisionists“ was Soviet society and its interaction with the Soviet political regime.</p> <p>At the end of the twentieth century, historiography gained new theoretical impetus, and the field of problems studied also expanded. Historiography was influenced by the theoretical approaches of the "cultural turn", the "history of everyday life", and "postcolonialism". As a result, historians have increasingly focused on "identity politics": the various aspects of the change in Soviet "cultural norms and values", the "tactics and strategies" of individual survival in the Soviet political system, etc. (David L. Hoffman, Timothy Jonston, Catriona Kelly, Orlando Figes, Lynne Viola, Evgeny Dobrenko, Alexei Yurchak.) On the other hand, the traditional themes have not disappeared from the field of historians' research: scholars have continued to study the Soviet political regime (D. Brandenberger, Y. Slezhkin), Soviet national politics (Terry Martin, Ronald Suny).</p>
Key literature
<p>Leonard Schapiro, <i>The Communist Party of the Soviet Union</i>, New York: Random House, 1970.</p> <p>Robert Conquest, <i>Power and Policy in the U.S.S.R.: The Study of Soviet Dynasties</i>, London, 1961.</p> <p>Richard Pipes, <i>The Formation of the Soviet Union: Communism and Nationalism, 1917–1923</i>, 1997.</p> <p>Moshe Lewin, <i>The Soviet Century</i>, London – New York: Verso, 2005.</p>

Stalinism. Essays in Historical Interpretation, ed. by Robert C. Tucker, London: Transaction Publishers, 1977.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, Tear off the Masks! Identity and Imposture in Twentieth Century Russia, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, The Cultural Front. Power and Culture in Revolutionary Russia, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1992.

Stephen Kotkin, Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization, University of California Press, 1997.

David L. Hoffman, Stalinist Values. The Cultural Norms of Soviet Modernity, 1917 – 1941, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2003.

Timothy Johnston, Being Soviet: Identity, Rumour, and Everyday Life under Stalin, 1939-53, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Orlando Figes, The Whisperers. Private Life in Stalin's Russia, Allen Lane, 2007.

Petrified Utopia. Happiness Soviet Style, ed. by Marina Balina, Evgeny Dobrenko, London/New York: Anthem Press, 2009.

Alexei Yurchak, Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More: The Last Soviet Generation. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Terry Martin, The Affirmative Action Empire: Nations and Nationalism in the Soviet Union, 1923–1939, Cornell University Press, 2001.

Ronald G. Suny, The Revenge of the Past: Nationalism, Revolution, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union, Stanford University Press, 1993.

Supervising lecturers' names and surnames	Academic degree	Major works in the field (branch) published in the recent 5 years
Vladas Sirutavičius	Dr.	Politinė galia ir lietuviškas etniškumas. Vėlyvasis stalinizmas ir ansktyvoji destalinizacija Lietuvoje 1944 – 1956 m. Vilnius: LII, 2022.
		Stalinizmas ir etnokultūros institucionalizavimas. Pirmoji Dainų šventė sovietinėje Lietuvoje 1946 m., <i>Lietuvos istorijos metraštis</i> 2019, nr.1, p.127-144.
		Between National and Indigenous Communism. Some Broad Brushstrokes in the Political Biography of Justas Paleckis: 1944 – 1953, <i>Lithuanian Historical Studies</i> , vol.23, 2019.
		<i>Taikė į Sniečkę, o pataikė į Berklavą...</i> Arba apie atlydžio politikos vingius sovietinėje Lietuvoje, <i>Istorija</i> , 2023, t.132, nr.4, p.57-90.

Approved by the Doctoral Committee of History and Archaeology
24 October 2024, No 15600-KT-510

Chair of the Doctoral Committee Prof. habil. dr. Tamara Bairašauskaitė