



***RUSS 240 Russian Culture
CRN 41914 4 credits
1400-1550 MTWRF
July 22- Aug. 14***

Instructor Alena Nekrasova

USSR: Back to the Future

It had existed for 70 years and was labeled as an “evil empire.” Its technological developments and geographical discoveries are amazing: the first flight of a man into space, marine farms and the foundation of a city on stilts, the construction of the ship “Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin” twice as big as the Titanic and the very first delivery of a Mars rover to Mars. The list may be easily continued. However, its dark aspects, such as consumer-goods shortage and queues, censorship, surveillance, repression and travel restrictions, are shocking as well. The effects of its collapse in 1991 were felt throughout the world in many aspects of peoples’ day to day life...

Everything above can be attributed to one and the same country, now vanished from all the maps: the USSR! It was a great, eventful, and at the same time horrible and difficult period. Nowadays, many average Russians feel tenderness for the Soviet system. People feel nostalgic for the sense of something

genuine and real that they have back then. Let's explore together the phenomenon of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Person archetype that still have a huge impact on the contemporary life in Russia!

In this class, we will take a close look at each decade beginning with 1920s till the present time. In order to have an idea of what made every chosen period remarkable, we will be reading articles, literary works, watching documentaries and movies, and listening to the music that most vividly characterize that time.

Class will be conducted in English in the form of a discussion. No prerequisites are required! Just sign up and come to class to learn something new about the legendary USSR and simply have fun!