

## **FORCED EXILE IN WORLD HISTORY**

New York University  
Instructor: David Rainbow  
Summer 2012: HIST-UA 538

Lecture: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-4:00pm (May 22 – June 28, 2012)

Room: TBA

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:00-12:45pm

email: der3@nyu.edu

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course examines systems of forced exile in modern history, how they worked and why states devised them. Exile is an ancient form of punishment. During the past several hundred years, however, states have become more effective than ever at forcing large numbers of people away from their homes for political reasons. Forced exile has transported populations to all parts of the globe. This course will focus on several exile systems in Europe and Eurasia, with particular attention to how they affected world history. Relatively recent innovations in ideology such as nationalism, racism, the idea of progress, Liberalism, Nazism, Marxism, Bolshevism provided reasons for states to try to create a certain type of population. Innovations in technology such as new forms of transportation, incarceration, race science, ethnography and photography provided powerful tools for new forms of social control. Course readings will address the history of exile in modern Russia (and the Soviet Union), Britain, Germany, France and China in the context of world history. These readings will include a wide variety of primary sources such as eyewitness accounts, diaries, police records, oral histories, literature, photography, art, and film. These sources will be analyzed and discussed in a comparative framework, with particular attention to broad political and social changes in modern European, Eurasian and world history.

There will be two class fieldtrips. We will visit the Tamiment Library and Labor Archive to examine materials related to the Soviet Gulag system, and the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City to view the exhibit, “Emma Lazarus: Poet of Exiles,” on view through summer 2012. Both of these excursions will highlight the continued salience of exile in history and memory today.

### **COURSE GOALS**

The goals of the course are threefold: to introduce students to broad themes in political and social history through the topic of exile, especially in Europe and Eurasia; to familiarize students with the ways historians make arguments using primary sources; to develop critical reading and writing skills.

### **EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated based on their written work, completion of assignments and participation in class discussion. Success in the class will therefore depend on timely completion of written assignments and course readings, as well as thoughtful engagement

with those readings in class through asking questions, formulating responses, and participating in discussion.

**Written assignments:**

Writing will be evaluated based on periodic in-class assignments (e.g., responding to a question that relates to the readings) and a paper (6-8 pages) that will be type-written. Specific instructions for the final paper will be distributed and discussed in advance.

**Primary source assignment:**

Each student will locate a *primary source* (i.e., a document, photo, archival paper, etc. that is from a particular historical period) that has to do with the experience of exile, and give a brief analysis and presentation of its significance in light of the course. Our visit to the Tamiment Library and Labor Archive will help with this assignment.

**Peer review assignment:**

Students will share drafts of their final paper with a partner from the class prior to turning in the finished product. Partners will provide formal, written and constructive feedback on one another's papers, which can then be incorporated into the final drafts.

**Grading Policy:**

- 30% In-class written assignments
- 30% Final Paper
- 20% Primary source assignment
- 10% Peer review assignment
- 10% Class participation

**POLICIES**

**Late Submission of Work:**

Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per day (e.g., from B+ to C+), unless prior arrangements with the instructor have been made.

**Attendance:**

This course is an intensive, short-term course. The material covered in each meeting cannot be made up. Therefore, more than one absence will negatively affect your grade. Advanced notice is required for absences unless for reasons of health, in which case documentation should be provided after the fact.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism will be penalized to the fullest possible extent. For the university policy, see <http://cas.nyu.edu/page/ug.academicintegrity>.

**TEXTS**

Most readings will be made available to you on the course website. In addition, you are required to purchase the following books. They are available for purchase at the university bookstore or through any online bookseller. Copies of the following books will also be put on reserve in Bobst Library.

- 1) Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (New York: Knopf, 1995).
- 2) Anne Applebaum, *Gulag: A History* (New York: Doubleday, 2003).
- 3) Siân Rees, *The Floating Brothel: The Extraordinary True Story of an Eighteenth-Century Ship and Its Cargo of Female Convicts* (New York: Hyperion, 2002).

## WEEK 1

### **May 22 – Introduction: Exile as Statecraft**

Introductory lecture: Forced Exile in World History.

In-class reading and discussion: Baldaev, D. S., *Drawings from the Gulag* (London: Fuel, 2010), selections.

Viewing and discussion of online museum exhibit: *The Gulag*.

<http://gulaghistory.org/nps/onlineexhibit/>

### **May 24 – Russian Empire: Walking to Siberia in Chains**

Andrew Gentes, *Exiled to Siberia, 1590-1822* (Basingstoke, 2008), pp. 1-16, 17-37.

#### Primary Sources:

Feodor Dostoevsky, *The House of the Dead*, translated by Constance Garnett (New York, 1915), pp. 13-18.

Marie Sukloff, *The Life-Story of a Russian Exile; The Remarkable Experience of a Young Girl: Being an Account of Her Peasant Childhood, Her Girlhood in Prison, Her Exile to Siberia, and Escape from There*, translated by Gregory Yarros (New York, 1914), pp. 201-210.

## WEEK 2

### **May 29 – Chinese Empire: Borderland Exile**

Philip F. Williams and Yenna Wu, “The Cultural Foundations of China’s Prison Camp System,” in *The Great Wall of Confinement* (Berkeley, 2004), pp.17-34.

#### Primary Sources:

*China: City and Exile (Poetry of Place)*, ed., Alexander Monro (London: 2010), excerpts.

### **May 31 – Britain: Islands and Penal Colonies**

Thomas Keneally, *A Commonwealth of Thieves: The Improbable Birth of Australia* (New York: Doubleday, 2006), excerpts.

Kirsty Reid, “Regulating Society, Purifying the State: Gender, Respectability and Colonial Authority” in *Gender, Crime and Empire: Convicts, Settlers and the State in Early Colonial Australia* (Manchester and New York: Manchester University Press, 2007).

### WEEK 3

#### **June 5 – Germany: Marx, Hitler and Friends**

Lloyd S. Kramer, “Marx in Paris: Exile and the New Social Theory,” in *Threshold of a New World: Intellectuals and the Exile Experience in Paris, 1830-1848* (Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1988).

Nikolaus Wachsmann, “The Campaign Against ‘Community Aliens’,” in *Hitler’s Prisons: Legal Terror in Nazi Germany* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2004), 112-130.

#### Primary Sources:

“Homecomers and Refugees,” in *Germany 1945-1949, A Sourcebook*, ed., Manfred Malzahn (London and New York: Routledge, 1991), pp. 35-40.

Elie Wiesel, *Night* (New York: Bantam, 1982), excerpts.

#### **June 7 – Soviet Union: The GULAG, part I**

##### **Primary source assignment due.**

Anne Applebaum, “Part One: The Origins of the Gulag, 1917-1939,” in *Gulag: A History* (New York: Doubleday, 2003).

#### Primary Sources:

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (New York: Knopf, 1995).

### WEEK 4

#### **June 12 – Soviet Union: The GULAG, part II**

Anne Applebaum, “Part Two: Life and Work in the Camps,” in *Gulag: A History* (New York: Doubleday, 2003).

#### Primary Sources:

Fyodor Vasilevich Mochulsky, *Gulag Boss: A Soviet Memoir* (Oxford, 2011), excerpts.

Archive Visit: Tamiment Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives

#### **June 14 – Women and Exile**

Siân Rees, *The Floating Brothel: The Extraordinary True Story of an Eighteenth-Century Ship and Its Cargo of Female Convicts* (New York: Hyperion, 2002).

#### Primary sources:

Eugenia Semyonovna Ginzburg, *Journey into the Whirlwind* (San Diego: Harcourt, 1995), excerpts.

### WEEK 5

#### **June 19 – Visions of Exile: Film, Photography and Art**

##### **Peer review report due.**

Thomas Elsaesser, "Ethnicity, Authenticity, and Exile: A Counterfeit Trade?" in *Home, Exile, Homeland: Film, Media, and the Politics of Place*, ed., Hamid Naficy (London: Routledge, 1999), 97-124.

Primary sources:

*M* (film), directed by Fritz Lang, 1931.

Tomasz Kizny, *Gulag* (Firefly Books, 2004). [photography]

Anna Akhmatova, "Requiem." [poetry]

Baldaev, D. S., *Drawings from the Gulag* (London: Fuel, 2010).

"Thank you Comrade Stalin for our happy childhood!" [poster]

"We'll surround orphans with maternal kindness and love!" [poster]

**June 21 – Museum visit**

*The Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York City*

**WEEK 6**

**June 26 – Memories of Exile**

Cathy A. Frierson and Semyon Samuilovich Vilensky, "Introduction," *Children of the Gulag (Annals of Communism Series)* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010).

Primary Sources:

Online Gulag museum exhibits (to be viewed in class): "Days and Lives" and "Perm 36"  
"From Orphans Stories about Themselves," in Cathy A. Frierson and Semyon Samuilovich Vilensky, *Children of the Gulag (Annals of Communism Series)* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010), pp. 43-44.

George John Seaton, *Isle of the Damned: Twenty Years in the Penal Colony of French Guinea* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Young, 1951), excerpts.

**June 28 – Conclusion: The End of Exile?**

***Final paper due.***

Anne Applebaum, "Part Three: The Rise and Fall of the Camp-Industrial Complex, 1940-1986," in *Gulag: A History* (New York, 2003).

Jonathan M. Hansen, "The Chosen," in *Guantánamo: An American History* (New York, 2011).

Primary Sources:

"Guantanamo Bay Inquiry," Federal Bureau of Investigation.