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Assignments and Grading

Your grade in this class will be based on the following requirements. Note that you must hand in every assignment listed below in order to pass the class, and that if your grades improve steadily over the course of the semester, I will take that into consideration in deciding your final grade.

Two short document analyses (worth 15% of your grade, or 7.5% each). You will submit two short writing assignments (each 1 to 1.5 pages long); the first (an analysis of the Petrograd Soviet's Order Number 1) will be due by Tuesday, January 29, at 10 PM; a revised version will be due by Wednesday, February 6, at 5 PM. The second (an analysis of the 1922 marriage and family code) will be due at 10 PM on Thursday, February 14.

A 5-page paper (15% of your grade). This paper will be an analysis and synthesis of our course readings on the revolution's aftermath. It will be due at 5 PM on Wednesday, February 27.

A 6-to-8-page oral history analysis (20% of your final grade). In the second half of the semester, you will write a 6-to-8-page analysis of the oral history interviews of the Harvard Project, which interviewed Soviet citizens on their life under Stalin in the 1950s. You will need to send me a 2-to-3-page proposal for your paper by April 12; the final version of the paper will be due on April 27.

A mid-term exam (10% of your grade.) This exam will have two sections: an ID section (in which you explain the significance of several people, places, things, or concepts from the first half of the course) and a section in which you identify and explain passages from the course's primary source readings. The mid-term exam will take place in class on Wednesday, March 13.

A final exam (20% of your grade.) This three-hour exam will have roughly the same format as the mid-term and will take place on Wednesday, May 15, at 2:00 PM. The exam will feature ID and primary source sections (like on the mid-term), as well as two essay sections, in which you will answer one of 2-3 essay questions on material from the second half of the course and one of 2-3 essay questions on themes from the entire course.

Class participation (20% of your grade). Although this class will occasionally include brief lectures on the course material, it is primarily intended as a discussion course. The final requirement for the class, then, is active and informed participation in class discussions. You should come to class having read the day's reading and thought about its contents; you should be ready to talk about the course material, to remember the main strategies we'll use for analyzing and discussing primary and secondary sources, and to help the class have a productive discussion in whatever way seems most appropriate to you at the time.

Here are some general observations about class participation:

- Although I hope that all students will take part in the discussion (ideally speaking at least once per class session on average), remember that the quality of your comments is generally more important than the quantity of your remarks.
- Remember that there are many ways to participate in class discussions. The strongest participants in discussion will often make comments that analyze the readings (rather

them merely recapping them), but I expect that active participants in discussion will play different roles at different times: for example, you might answer a question of mine, summarize a reading, provide evidence for a point, pose a question to me or the class, respond to a classmate, or connect the day's reading to an earlier reading or class discussion. In general, any form of participation that shows engagement with the material and helps the class to understand Soviet history is fair game.

- All else being equal, it will help you to provide evidence for your arguments when you speak in class. Ground your participation in the text: be ready to quote the readings or to point out specific passages that you find useful, significant, or relevant.
- You should therefore come to class with copies of the day's reading and with your notes on what you've read. (You are welcome to bring the readings either in hard copies or on a computer, but you should remember that it is often easier to mark significant passages in a paper copy of the readings.) In particular, I recommend that you make note of quotations and details in the readings that you find especially compelling.
- Class participation depends on attendance. I'll therefore keep track of your attendance throughout the semester; missing class once or twice won't affect your grade, but if you have more than two unexcused absences, your participation grade will go down. If you have more than six unexcused absences, you will generally receive a participation grade of F or zero. Please contact me at least a week in advance if you will be missing class because of an athletic event or another campus activity.
- If you will be missing a class, you can make sure your absence does not affect your grade by sending me a 300-to-500 word email on the day's reading. Under normal circumstances, this email will be due within 24 hours of the class period; it should analyze the day's reading using the approach discussed in our primary and secondary source handouts or answer a question I posed by email to the class.
- Finally, remember that class participation depends not only on speaking, but on listening—both to me and to your classmates. Be respectful, listen carefully, and be ready to respond to your classmates and not just to me.

I will generally give each student a brief "participation update" each time I send you feedback on a written assignment. I also encourage you to check in with me at any point if you have questions about the class or about how you can become more involved in the discussion.

Extension Policy

Each student in the class can have one (and only one) 48-hour extension on a writing assignment over the course of the semester; this policy applies only to the 5-page paper due in February or to the 6-to-8-page paper due in May (i.e., it does not apply to the two short document analyses.) To claim this extension, send me a brief email asking for an extension before the assignment's deadline; I will grant this extension automatically, so there is no need for you to explain why you need more time. Keep in mind, however, that once you've received an extension on an assignment, I will not give you an extension on another except in the case of a documented emergency. (Note, too, that you cannot break up your one 48-hour extension into two 24-hour extensions or a 2-hour extension and a 46-hour extension.) In the absence of an extension, late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day.

Friday, January 25: Prelude to Revolution

Reading: Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy*, ch. 1 [Pioneerweb]
Semen Kanatchikov, *A Radical Worker in Tsarist Russia*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Monday, January 28: Red October

Reading: Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, ch. 2
Boris Kolonitskii, "Anti-Bourgeois Propaganda and Anti-Burzhui Consciousness in 1917" [Suny]
Alexander Rabinowitch, "How the Bolsheviks Won"
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Tuesday, January 29: **email me a 1-to-1.5-page analysis of Order Number 1 by 10 PM**

Wednesday, January 30: The Revolution in Documents

Reading: primary documents from the Suny reader, pp. 33-48
Order Number 1 [Suny]
Kerenskii's statement in the Soviet of Workers' Deputies [Suny]
Tsereteli's speech on returning from Soviet exile [Suny]
The April Theses [Suny]
Tsereteli and Lenin's exchange [Suny]
report from Kovno Guberniia [Suny]
Lenin's letter to the Central Committee [Suny]

Friday, February 1: Remembering the Revolution

Film: *October* (Sergei Eisenstein, dir.) available online at:
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Monday, February 4: Civil War!

Reading: Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, ch. 3
"Lenin's Decree on Peace" [Suny]
"Decree on the Land" [Suny]
"Decree on Suppression of Hostile Newspapers" [Suny]
"Declaration of the Rights of the Peoples of Russia" [Suny]

Wednesday, February 6: The Militarization of the Soviet State

Reading: "Iulii Martov's Letter to A.N. Stein" [Suny]
"Lenin's Letter to V. V. Kuraev, E. B. Bosh, and A. E. Minkin" [Suny]
Lev Trotskii, "Report on the Red Army" [Suny]
Assignment: **email me a revised version of your Order Number 1 analysis by 5:00 PM**

- Friday, February 8: Revolution and Civil War in Context
- Reading: Peter Holquist, “‘Information is the Alpha and Omega of Our Work’: Bolshevnik Surveillance in its Pan-European Context” [Sunny]
- Monday, February 11: Faction-Fighting and the Rise of the Dictatorship
- Reading: Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, ch. 4
Aleksandra Kollontai, “The Workers’ Opposition” [Sunny]
Resolutions of the Tenth Congress of the Russian Communist Party [Sunny]
V. I. Lenin, “Letter to the Congress” (first part) [Sunny]
- Wednesday, February 13: Russian Society during NEP
- Reading: Sheila Fitzpatrick, “The Problem of Class Identity in NEP Society” [Pioneerweb]
Alan Ball, “Private Trade and Traders during NEP” [Pioneerweb]
- Thursday, February 14: **email me a 1-to-1.5-page analysis of the code of laws on marriage and the family (by 10:00 PM)**
- Friday, February 15: The Contradictions of NEP
- Reading: Eric Naiman, “The Case of Chubarov Alley” [Pioneerweb]
The Code of Laws on Marriage and Divorce, the Family and Guardianship [Sunny]
- Monday, February 18: An Overview of Stalinism
- Reading: Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, ch. 5-6
- Wednesday, February 20: Collectivization and De-Kulakization
- Reading: Lynne Viola, *Peasant Rebels under Stalin*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]
Stalin, “Dizzy with Success” [Sunny]
Lev Kopelev, “The Last Grain Collections” [Sunny]
- Friday, February 22: The Stalin Dictatorship
- Reading: Simon Sebag Montefiore, *Stalin: In the Court of the Red Tsar*, pp. 1-57, 93-101 [Pioneerweb]
Oleg Khlevniuk, “Stalin as Dictator: The Personalisation of Power” [Pioneerweb]
- Monday, February 25: Stalin’s Personality Cult
- Reading: Jan Plamper, *The Stalin Cult*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]
Sarah Davies, “Stalin and the Making of the Leader Cult” [Pioneerweb]
Sarah Davies, “The Leader Cult in Official Discourse” [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 27: Everyday Life and the Communist Party

Reading: Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, pp. 1-66

Assignment: **5-page paper is due at 10 PM**

Friday, March 1: A New Society?

Reading: Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, pp. 67-114

Monday, March 4: Ostracized Citizens and Broken Families

Reading: Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, pp. 115-189, 218-228

Wednesday, March 6: Nationalism in the USSR

Reading: Terry Martin, "An Affirmative Action Empire" [Suny]

Terry Martin, "Modernization or Neotraditionalism? Ascribed Nationality and Soviet Primordialism" [Pioneerweb]

Friday, March 8: Soviet Ethnicity: The Case of Georgian Food

Reading: Erik Scott, "Edible Ethnicity: How Georgian Cuisine Conquered the Soviet Table" [Pioneerweb]

Monday, March 11: The Purges

Reading: Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*, pp. 282–289 [Pioneerweb]

Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*, pp. 190-217

James Harris, "The Purging of Local Cliques in the Urals Region, 1936-7" [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, March 13: **MID-TERM EXAM**

Friday, March 15: Voices of the Purges

Reading: Eugenia Ginzburg, *Journey into the Whirlwind*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Nikolai Bukharin, "Letter to Stalin" [Suny]

SPRING BREAK: MARCH 18 TO MARCH 29

Monday, April 1: The War and After

Reading: Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*, pp. 336-361 [Pioneerweb]

Suny reader, pp. 289-297, 336-342:

Suny's chapter intro, pp. 289-293 [Suny]; The Nazi Soviet Pact [Suny]

Popular reactions to the beginning of the war [Suny]

Wednesday, April 3: From War to Cold War

Reading: Vladislav Zubok, *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev*, chapters 1-2

Friday, April 5: Stalinist Values after the War

Reading: Vera Dunham, “The Big Deal” [Suny]
Cynthia Hooper, “A Darker ‘Big Deal’” [Pioneerweb]

Monday, April 8: The Death of Stalin

Reading: Yoram Gorlizki and Oleg Khlevniuk, “Stalin’s Last Struggle” [Suny]
Miriam Dobson, “1953: ‘The Most Painful Year’” [Pioneerweb]
Evgenii Evtushenko, *A Precocious Autobiography*, excerpts [Suny]

Monday, April 22: The Space Race

Reading: Amy Nelson, "Cold War Celebrity and the Courageous Canine Scout" [Pioneerweb]
Slava Gerovitch, "The Human Inside a Propaganda Machine: The Public Image and Professional Identity of Soviet Cosmonauts" [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, April 24: The Brezhnev Era

Reading: Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*, pp. 447–475 [Pioneerweb]
John Bushnell, "The 'New Soviet Man' Turns Pessimist" [Suny]
James R. Millar, "The Little Deal: Brezhnev's Contribution to Acquisitive Socialism" [Suny]

Friday, April 26: Détente and Cold War

Reading: Zubok, chapter 7-8

Saturday, April 27: **Harvard Project analysis is due at 5:00 PM**

Monday, April 29: Dissent in the 1960s and 1970s

Reading: "Trial of a Young Poet: The Case of Joseph Brodsky" [Pioneerweb]
"The Case of Boris Kochubiyevsky" [Suny]
"Letter from Vladimir Vysotskii to Petr Dimichev" [Suny]

Wednesday, May 1: Life under Brezhnev

Film: *The Irony of Fate* (Eldar Riazanov, dir.) (available online)

Friday, May 3: The Final Years of the USSR

Reading: Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*, pp. 479-514 [Pioneerweb]
Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]
excerpt from Mikhail Gorbachev's memoirs [Suny]

Monday, May 6: Reform and its Discontents

Reading: Alexander Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR" [Suny]
Nina Andreeva, "I Cannot Give Up My Principles" [Suny]
"The Rehabilitation of Bukharin" [Suny]
"Boris Yeltsin Resigns from the Communist Party" [Suny]

Wednesday, May 8: Gorbachev's Cold War

Reading: Zubok, chapters 9-10

Friday, May 10: The August Coup

Reading: Zubok, epilogue
 “The August Coup” [Suny]
 Mikhail Gorbachev, “Speech of Resignation” [Suny]

Assignment: if you choose to revise one of your papers, the rewrite is due at 5 PM

FINAL EXAM: Wednesday, May 15, at 2:00 PM