

History 477: Revolution in Russia, 1900-1930

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Fall Semester 2010



Instructor: Professor Donald J. Raleigh, Hamilton Hall 410, 962-8077, djr@email.unc.edu

Class Meetings: T/Th, 11:00-12:15, Caldwell 105

Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 PM; Thursday, 9:00-10:00 AM; and by appointment

Description: History 477 examines what has been called the greatest event of the twentieth century—the Russian Revolution of 1917—in its historical context. The course provides close coverage of the period from the beginning of the reign of the last Romanov tsar, Nicholas II, to the so-called Stalin Revolution of 1929. The course emphasizes the social origins of the Russian Revolution; how a great revolution made in the name of social democracy and human freedom gave rise to one-party rule; and how succeeding generations of Russians and outsiders have understood this chapter in the country's history. After providing a snapshot of Russia on the eve of the twentieth century, the course addresses the following themes: social and political conditions in the country, Russian society and the rise of a revolutionary and liberal opposition, the Revolution of 1905, attempts to set up a constitutional order, the collapse of the

tsarist autocracy in February 1917, the nature of political power in 1917 and growing social polarization, the October Revolution, the tragedy of civil war and its legacy, the introduction of the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1921, the succession crisis, the debate over the NEP, the complicated “making” of the USSR, the October Revolution as memory project, and the launching of the turbulent Stalin Revolution and its consequences.

Assignments are designed to help you to acquire and sharpen basic skills that will assist you in all of your academic endeavors. You should demonstrate improvement in:

- Reading critically and writing clearly.
- Identifying an author's thesis and evaluating how she or he supports it with evidence.
- Articulating arguments of your own based on historical evidence.
- Writing logical and coherent arguments and accurate exams.

Requirements: I have revamped this course, making it even more interactive and student-centered. Students will actively participate in class discussions, take an in-class exam, write a ten-page take-home exam, complete a course project (see below), and craft a final book review. The grade for participation will be based on the level and quality of students' contributions, and grades on any quizzes or homework assignments that might be given. Let me belabor the obvious: if you're not in class, you're not participating. One more thing: I expect students to turn in all assignments on time, or early, in the event of a conflict.

Graduate students who might enroll in this course are required to complete additional assignments, which I will discuss with them separately.

The course requirements are worth the following percentages of your final grade:

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| • in-class exam | 20% |
| • take-home exam | 20% |
| • course project | 15% |
| • participation | 20% |
| • final exam | 25% |

Course project: You have three options to choose among: you may make a 15-minute Power Point presentation on a book to be selected from a list I will provide; you may write a four-page critical review of a book to be selected from the same list; or you may lead a class discussion. I will distribute more detailed information about this assignment during the first day of class.

Required Readings: The following books can be purchased in the textbook department at Student Stores.

Lincoln, W. Bruce. *In War's Dark Shadow: The Russians before the Great War*
 Pipes, Richard. *A Concise History of the Russian Revolution*
 Wade, Rex A. *The Russian Revolution, 1917*
 Corney, Frederick C. *Telling October: Memory and the Making of the Bolshevik Revolution*

In addition, students are required to read some primary documents and several articles and book chapters available electronically. The documents are available through the *Internet Modern History Sourcebook*, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook39.html> (.) See

also *Seventeen Moments in Soviet History*, <http://www.soviethistory.org/index.php> (.) The articles are posted on Blackboard.

Honor Code: Students are bound by the Honor Code in taking exams and quizzes and in writing papers. As per university guidelines, students must sign the Honor Code on all papers and exams in order to have the grade officially recorded. Please consult with me if you have any questions about the Honor Code.

Academic Support Services: The College of Arts and Sciences has developed several support programs to assist students in their endeavors to succeed academically. Learning Disabilities Services provides individual support to students with diagnosed learning disabilities (962-7227). The Learning Skills Center offers free instruction in a variety of academic learning strategies (962-3782, 962-6389). The Writing Center, which fills up quickly, provides free tutorial services (962-7710, 962-4060).

Lecture/Discussion Topics and Required Reading Assignments: All reading assignments need to be completed before the class meets to make this course successful.

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| Aug | 24 | Introduction: Russia in 1894 and Portrait of the Last Tsar (Pipes, 1-30) |
| Aug | 26 | Peasants and Workers (Lincoln, 1-135; <i>optional</i> , Sergei Witte's assessment, http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.k.harrington/witte.html (.)) |
| Aug | 31 | The Intelligentsia & Emergence of Russian Liberalism (Lincoln, 136-90; Program of the Constitutional Democrats, http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.k.harrington/kadprog.html (.)) |
| Sept | 2 | Marxism in Russia: Lenin and Bolshevism (Wade, 1-13; Pipes, 101-12; Excerpts from Lenin's "What Is to Be Done?" http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1902lenin.html) |
| Sept | 7 | The Socialist Revolutionaries (Lincoln, 191-226; SR Party Program, http://www.dur.ac.uk/a.k.harrington/srprog.html (.)) |
| Sept | 9 | Oral Presentations: Revolution of 1905 (Lincoln, 227-312; Wade, 13-17) |
| Sept | 14 | Discussion: The Revolution of 1905 (Pipes, 31-44) |
| Sept | 16 | Discussion: The Constitutional Experiment (Lincoln, 313-88; Pipes, 45-56) |
| Sept | 21 | Discussion of articles by Arthur Mendel, "On Interpreting the Fate of Imperial Russia, and Christopher Read, "In Search of Liberal Tsarism: The Historiography of Autocratic Decline," <i>The Historical Journal</i> 45, no. 1 (2002): 195-210. |
| Sept | 23 | Russia at War (Wade, 17-28; Pipes, 56-74; Lincoln, 389-444) |
| Sept | 28 | Oral Presentations: The February Revolution (Pipes, 75-97) |
| Sept | 30 | Discussion: The February Revolution (Wade, 29-86) |

- Oct 5 In-class Examination
- Oct 7 The Deepening of the Revolution (Wade, 87-169; Lenin's "April Theses"
<http://web.jjay.cuny.edu/~jobrien/reference/ob39.html> (.)
- Oct 12 University Day: No Class this Morning
- Oct 14 July Days and Kornilov Affair (Wade, 170-205; **optional**, Lenin, "State and Revolution," <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/lenin-staterev.html> (.)
- Oct 19 **Discussion:** The October Revolution (Pipes, 113-50; Wade, 206-54)
- Oct 21 Fall Break
- Oct 26 First Steps of the New Regime (Wade, 255-98; Pipes, 150-230)
- Oct 28 **Discussion:** Overview of the Civil War (Raleigh chapter in *Cambridge History of Russia*, hereafter *CHR*; begin reading Pipes, 233-342)
- Nov 2 **Discussion:** Raleigh essay, "How the Bolsheviks Imagined Their Enemies," and Pipes, 233-342)
- Nov 4 **Oral Presentations** (Pipes, 343-406)
- Nov 9 Take-home exam due: NB: those giving oral presentations last Thursday may turn in their exams on November 11; (Corney, *Bring your book to class today*)
- Nov 11 An Overview of the Soviet 1920s: Discussion of Alan Ball chapter *CHR* *Russia*; read Corney)
- Nov 16 **Discussion** of Corney, 1-93
- Nov 18 **Discussion** of Corney, 97-174 (optional, Trotsky's "Lessons of October," <http://www.marxist.com/classics-old/trotsky/lessonssoct.html>).
- Nov 23 Film: Eisenstein's "Ten Days" (Corney, 175-221; the film will be shown in Room 205 of the Media Center, Undergraduate Library)
- Nov 25 Thanksgiving
- Nov 30 The Stalin Revolution (Shearer chapter in *CHR*)
- Dec 2 **Oral Presentations: The Stalin Revolution**
- Dec 7 Wrap Up Session: Interpretations and Perspectives; the Fate of the Revolution; (Short Course History of the CPSU, pp. 174-214; 214-24, optional <http://www.marx2mao.com/PDFs/HCPUSU39.pdf>).
- Dec 16 Final Exam due at 11 AM today. You may turn in the exam anytime between December 7 and 11 AM on December 16