

History 1Q
Angels of Death: Russia Under Lenin and Stalin
Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Mondays 2-4
Tuesdays 1-2
Fridays 2-4

This First-Year Seminar focuses on the history of Russia from the Revolution of 1197 through the Stalinist purges of the 1930s. Particular attention is paid to assessing the impact of Lenin and Stalin on developments after 1918 and the interplay among socioeconomic, gender, cultural, and ideological currents. We explore the significance of the socialist experiment and try to explain how and why the Stalinist dictatorship emerged. Topics focus on the Bolshevik seizure of power, the cultural dreams of revolutionaries, the struggle to succeed Lenin, the rise of Stalin, the cult of personality, collectivization and industrialization, the purges, and women's emancipation. Course materials include monographs, documents, memoirs, and films.

The seminar will devote attention to developing your expository and analytical skills as a writer and speaker. We will focus on developing, organizing, revising, and editing your papers and will help you to identify a thesis, develop an argument, and analyze evidence to support your thesis.

All students are expected to read the College's policy on academic integrity and honesty that appears in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. This work you submit must be your own, and you be subject to prosecution by the College Judiciary Committee for work I suspect is plagiarized. When in doubt, check with me.

I also do not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment unless you receive my permission to submit the paper after the due date.

You are required to attend all classes, and it is the policy of the History Department that students who do not attend all classes will have their final grade lowered. Indeed, they are at risk for failing the course. In addition, I do not accept late papers and will assign a failing grade for the assignment unless you notify me and receive permission to submit the paper after the due date.

Course Requirements

Attendance and active participation
Presentation of Research Project
Three five-page papers

The following books are available for purchase at the bookstore and are also on reserve in McCabe. All other readings are on Moodle.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism* (also an ebook)
Evgeniia Ginzburg, *Journey into the Whirlwind*
Vasilii Grossman, *Everything Flows*
Moshe Lewin, *Lenin's Last Struggle* (also an ebook)
John Scott, *Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel*
Mark Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution*
Nicolas Werth, *Cannibal Island: Death in a Siberian Gulag*

Week One: Introduction

Vladimir Lenin, "What is to be Done?"
Leon Trotsky, "The Peculiarities of Russia's Development"
Stephen Cohen, "Scholarly Missions: Sovietology as a Vocation"
Ronald Suny, "Revising the Old Story: The 1917 Revolution in Light of New Sources"

Week Two: 1917--The Year of Revolutions

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, chapters 1 and 2
Mark Steinberg, *Voices of Revolution*

Week Three: The Crucible of Revolution--The Civil War and War Communism

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, chapter 3
Moshe Lewin, *Lenin's Last Struggle* On Moodle and Reserve

Week Four: The Promise of the Revolution

Alexandra Kollontai, "The Family and the Communist State" and "Make Way for Winged Eros"
Polina Vinogradskaia, "The 'Winged Eros' of Comrade Kollontai"
Nadezhda Krupskaja, "What a Revolutionary Is"
Leon Trotsky, "'Thou' and 'You' in the Red Army" and "The Struggle for Cultured Speech"
Barbara Evans Clements, "The Birth of the New Soviet Woman"

Week Five: The Quiet Before the Storm--NEP and the Rise of Stalin

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, chapter 4
Stephen Cohen, "Bolshevism and Stalinism"
Documents on the Political Struggle (Handout)
Watch *Bed and Sofa* (75 minutes) for class
Watch Part 1 of Stalin Documentary (55 minutes) for class

Week Six: Revolution from Above--Collectivization

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, chapter 5
Lynne Viola, "The Peasant Nightmare: Visions of the Apocalypse in the Soviet Countryside"
Lynne Viola, "'Babi' Bunty and Peasant Women's Protest during Collectivization"
Vasilii Grossman, *Everything Flows*, chapter 15
Lev Kopelev, *The Education of a True Believer*
Watch *Entuziazm: Simfoniia Donbassa* (65 minutes) for class

Week Seven: Revolution from Above: Industrialization

John Scott, *Behind the Urals*
Alec Nove, "Was Stalin Really Necessary?"

Week Eight: Social Engineering

Nicolas Werth, *Cannibal Island*

Week Nine: Stalinist Culture

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*, chapter 6
Sheila Fitzpatrick, "Cultural Revolution as Class War"
Documents on family, abortion, cult of personality (Handout)

Week Ten: Understanding the Purges

J. Arch Getty, "Afraid of Their Shadows: The Bolshevnik Recourse to Terror, 1932-1938"
Peter Holquist, "State Violence as Technique: The Logic of Violence in Soviet Totalitarianism"
Robert Tucker, "Stalinism as Revolution from Above"
Amir Weiner, "Nature and Nurture in a Socialist Utopia: Delineating the Soviet Socio-Ethnic Body in the Age of Socialism"
Sarah Davies, "Us Against Them: Social Identity in Soviet Russia, 1934-1939"
Watch Part 2 of Stalin Documentary (55 minutes) for class

Week Eleven: The Purge Experience

Evgeniia Ginzburg, *Journey into the Whirlwind*
Watch *Burnt by the Sun* (135 minutes) for class

Week Twelve: Daily Life in the 1930s

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *Everyday Stalinism*
Watch *Circus* (89 minutes) for class

Week Thirteen: Reflections on the Revolution

Vasili Grossman, *Everything Flows*, all chapters except 15

Week Fourteen: Presentations