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## **HIS 315: Russian Revolution(s) from Peter to Putin**

### **Midterm Media Project Assignment**

#### **Overview**

The goal of this assignment is to explore a revolutionary moment in Russian and Soviet history through research, analysis, and creativity, while building your digital humanities skills. Your task is to work with a partner on one of the topics listed below. (You may also choose your own topic with my approval.) You will create a **10-minute** video that covers the topic thoroughly and presents a clear analysis of it. During Week 8, you and your partner will present your video in class and lead a Q&A session after. On your presentation day, you must also submit a written summary of your main points and bibliography of your sources. Each pair will receive one grade.

#### **Instructions**

- 1)** Choose a **topic** and a **partner**. You may select one of the topics below or choose a topic of your own. If you choose your own topic, you must get my approval!
- 2)** Go to the **library** and make sure you have access to at least **three sources**. This include one **primary source** and two **secondary sources**. One of your sources may be a source assigned for this class, but the other two you must find on your own. It is very likely that you will need to order sources through **E-Z Borrow**! Give yourself enough time for those things to be delivered.
- 3)** Meet with me. At this check in, I will ask you to tell me about your topic, sources, and analytical perspective. If you have questions or have run into any roadblocks, this is a good opportunity to work together to find a solution that helps you move forward.
- 4)** Make you video. It must be **ten minutes long**. You may employ any genre that you like, as long the video is coherent. Possible genres include: news report, documentary, TedTalk, interview, dramatic reenactment, nature show, infomercial, etc. Remember that the video should include both *exposition and analysis*. Don't just tell your audience what happened; tell them how and why it is historically significant.
- 5)** Write up your summary and bibliography. The summary should be 1-2 pages long, double spaced. The bibliography should appear on a separate page and be formatted according to the *Chicago Manual of Style*. Remember to put both partners' names and your project title at the top.
- 6)** Give a **15-minute presentation** of your work in class. You will start with a brief introduction of your topic, then play the video. (You should save your video on Google Drive or a flash drive.) After the video ends, you will spend **five minutes** answering your colleagues' questions. Both partners should participate equally in the introduction and Q&A.

7) Be an active audience member for others! Watch their videos attentively and ask good questions. Show your colleagues that their work is as meaningful as your own.

### **Submission and Presentation**

Your **video** must be completed by the start of class on the day you give your presentation (March 16 or 18). You must submit a hard copy of your **summary** at the start of class that same day.

**Good luck!!!**

### **Midterm Project Topics**

#### **Political Revolutions**

- **Alexander I's Mixed Bag** (cover both the reforms he implemented and the ones he thought about but didn't enact)
- **Nicholas I's Third Department** (you may include other aspects of Nicholas' conservative regime, as well)
- **The Polish Rebellions of 1830 and 1863**
- **Prague Spring (1968)**

#### **Social Revolutions**

- **The Bulavin Rebellion (1707-1708)**
- **Taras Shevchenko and the Rise of Ukrainian Nationalism**
- **The Hujum (1927)**
- **The Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students (1957)**

#### **Cultural Revolutions**

- **Empress Elizabeth's Architectural Revolution**
- **The Silver Age of Russian Art**
- **Leo Tolstoy's Pacifist Philosophy**
- **Soviet Rock and Roll**