

Dr. Leah Goldman  
Office: Old Main 204C  
Office Hours: Online by appointment  
lgoldman@washjeff.edu

## **HIS 315: Russian Revolutions from Peter to Putin** **Final Paper Assignment**

### **Overview**

This paper is the culminating assignment of this class, and more importantly, an opportunity for you to research, consider, and draw analytical conclusions about a subject you find interesting and significant in relation to the question of revolutionary change in Imperial Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet history. The topic of your paper is up to you, but you must discuss it with me before you begin. The purpose of this meeting is to get you started in a viable direction, so you will not hit major roadblocks further on. I encourage you to be bold, be creative, and have fun!

Due to the limitations of remote learning, all of your sources should come from our syllabus. In choosing your topic, look through the syllabus and think about what subject you would like to explore by bringing different sources together with each other.

### **Requirements**

- Length: Your paper must be **2000 words long**, *not including* your bibliography. I will allow a maximum of 200 words deviation.
- Formatting: Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page. **Number** your pages. You must use **12-point font, double spacing and 1-inch margins**
- Citations and Bibliography: In the body of your paper, you must use **footnotes**. You must also attach a **Bibliography** as a separate page at the end of your text. Both your bibliography and your footnotes should be formatted using the *Chicago Manual of Style* (available online through the Library's website).  
If you do not have the complete bibliographic information for a source, you can find it on **WorldCat**, which is also available on the Library website.
- Sources: You must use a **minimum of three sources**, including two primary sources and one secondary source. Due to the circumstances of remote learning, all of your sources should come from our syllabus.

### **Instructions**

This assignment is scaffolded into four steps:

**1) Research Question + Sources.** This is the question you plan to answer with your paper and the sources you plan to use in writing it. You should write these out in a document and submit them on Sakai. They are due **Sunday, April 12 at 5pm.**

**2) Meeting with me.** I will meet with each of you individually for 15 minutes on MS Teams to talk through your Research Question + Sources. We will do these meetings as video chats on MS Teams. If you have access issues that prevent you from using Teams, we can do the meeting over

the phone. I will share a sign-up sheet with you so everyone can reserve a spot. These meetings will take place on **April 13 and 14**.

**3) Three Page Rough Draft.** This draft should include your Introduction and Thesis Statement, as well as the first part of the body section of your paper. You should submit it on Sakai by **Friday, April 24 at 5pm**.

\*I will email you written comments on your rough drafts as quickly as I can. If you want to meet on MS Teams to discuss my comments, please let me know. I will be happy to do so.

\*\*Remember to check out the **HIS315 Writing Handout** for advice on writing an Introduction, Thesis Statement, and more! You can find it on the course website under Writing Resources.

**4) Final Draft.** Your completed paper will be due on **Sunday, May 10 at 10pm**, submitted via Sakai. I cannot accept late papers after May 12.

\*\*\*\*\*In case you missed it before, here is my policy on **plagiarism**: Don't do it! Plagiarism is a very serious offence, which can destroy your academic career and professional prospects. If you plagiarize, **you will automatically fail my class**. I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I *will* catch you. Please, save us both a lot of time and worry: don't even try it. If at any time you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, feel free to ask me.

I will do my best to be available to meet with you as often as you like. I will read partial drafts up until May 6.

**Good luck!!!! Please let me know if you have any questions!**

**\*\*\*SPECIAL NOTE TO CAPSTONERS\*\*\***

If you are doing this paper as a Capstone project for the History Major, you *must* do original research. That means you will need to use the eBook resources and databases available through the library. Because you're doing research, that gives you a broader range of topics from which you can choose. It also means you need to use more sources.

**Special Capstone Requirements**

- Length: Your paper must be **4000 words long**, not including bibliography
- Sources: You must use at least **seven sources**: four secondary and three primary

**Special Capstone Steps**

**1) Paper Proposal.** This document includes:

- A statement of your research question
- A draft of your thesis statement (your answer to your research question)
- A 2-3 paragraph abstract that presents your topic, explains the stakes of your argument (answers the "so what?" question), and gives an overview of your sources
- An annotated bibliography. This should include at least seven sources. You may use sources we have read together, but you must also include at least four external sources that you found through the library. (\*Kelly will help you with this!) Both **primary** and

**secondary** sources should be included on this list. Give full bibliographic information for each source and write 3-5 sentences explaining what information the source contains and how it will help you make your argument.

You should send this to me by email by **Sunday, Apr. 12 at 10pm**. I will meet with you April 13 or 14 so we can go over your proposal together.

**2) Five Page Rough Draft.** This draft should include your Introduction and Thesis Statement, as well as the first part of the body section of your paper. You should send it to me by email by **Sunday, April 19 at 5pm**. I realize this is a quick turnaround! But we are hemmed in by the short semester and capstone presentation dates. I will meet with you to discuss your drafts on April 20.

**3) Full Rough Draft.** This is a full draft of your paper (4000 words). You should send it to me by email by **Sunday, April 26 at 5pm**. Again, I know that's really quick. But it's also necessary. I will send you written comments on Monday, April 27.

**4) Revise your draft and email it to all history faculty members by Friday, May 1 at 5pm.**

**5) Rock and roll at your capstone presentation!** You should be prepared to give a five-minute overview of your project and answer questions from the faculty. These presentations will be held on **May 4 and 6**.

**Good luck, Capstoners!!!! Please let me know if you have any questions!**