

Russian Revolutions From Peter to Putin: Plague Syllabus

HIS 315, Spring 2020

<http://russianrevolutions20.theleahgoldman.com/>

Leah Goldman

Email: lgoldman@washjeff.edu

Office Hours: Online by appointment

NEW Course Requirements

Online Participation:

Every week, I will post **two** videos on the blog, one for each day of content. In these videos, I will give you some information contextualizing our sources and pose a set of discussion questions. I will also post a transcript of the video, for those who may prefer to read rather than watch. Here is what you need to do:

- 1) Watch the videos and/or read the transcripts
- 2) Respond in one of three ways:
 - a) Share your thoughts on one of my discussion questions. (This is similar to a **response** post on the blog from the first half of the semester.)
 - b) Pose your own discussion question or questions. (This is similar to a **conversation starter** post on the blog from the first half of the semester.)
 - c) Respond to someone else's discussion question. (This is also similar to a **response** post on the blog from the first half of the semester.)

You must respond to **every video/transcript**. That means you will add two posts to blog every week. Each post must be one full paragraph long and address the sources in a substantive way.

Format: Your posts can be either in the form of a **video** (see instructions below) or a written paragraph. Either way, please make it clear whether you are posing your own questions or responding to my or someone else's questions.

Deadlines: I will post my videos/transcripts for each week by 9am on Mondays. You must complete both of your posts for the week by 5pm on Fridays.

Instructions for video posts: You can record yourself on your computer, with a camera, or with your phone. Upload your video to YouTube. You will need a YouTube account to do this (they are free!). I recommend that you select "Unlisted" as your privacy setting, because there are a lot of weirdos on the internet. Then, you can add a new post to our course blog and embed your video there. Please leave you videos up until the end of the semester (May 15). After that, you are welcome to take them down.

I have added a video tutorial called "How to Upload Videos on YouTube" to the blog under "Writing Resources." We are all learning how to do this—including me!—so please let me know if you have any questions.

I absolutely welcome you to be creative and have fun with this! If you would rather have a sock puppet or Lego person on camera instead of yourself, that's no problem.

Timeline: We are going to keep up the Revolutions Timeline in a modified way. Each group should still post a set of events for Unit II and Unit III. We will not do group presentations, because there isn't a good way to make that happen. Instead, you should post one event per group member (**five** for the Petrine Group, **four** each for the Height of Empire Group and Soviet

Union Group). Please coordinate with your group members so you do not duplicate each other's work. All Timeline posts are due by **5pm on Sunday, May 3**. Our discussion for May 4 will revolve around your reflections on the Timeline.

Midterm Media Project: We are still going to make this work! It will take three steps:

- 1) Put your projects online. You can put them in your **One Drive** or **Google Drive**, or upload to **YouTube** using the instructions above (remember to set privacy to "Unlisted").
- 2) Write a New Post on the blog. It should include one paragraph introducing your project and a link to the video so others can watch it. Posts are due **Sunday, Mar. 22 at 5pm**.
- 3) Watch all the videos. Write a comment or question in response to **two videos** (not your own). Respond to at least one comment or question on your own video. All responses are due **Friday, Mar. 27 at 5pm**.

Final Paper: We are going to do a more modest version of the original final paper assignment. This will NOT be a research paper, unless you are doing it as a Capstone. (Capstoners, I will give you separate instructions.) Instead, you will write a **2000-word** analytical paper, in which you use primary sources from the syllabus to answer a historical question. You will create your own research question, which must be something you can answer using the resources at hand.

This assignment has three steps:

- 1) Establish your Research Question and List of Sources. Meet with me via MS Teams to discuss them. (Week of Apr. 6)
- 2) Write a 3-Page Rough Draft. This should include your Introduction and **thesis statement**, plus part of the body of your paper. This is due on **April 19 at 5pm**. Meet with me via MS Teams to discuss your draft. (Week of Apr. 20)
- 3) Write your Final Draft. This is due on **May 10 at 10pm**.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 10%

Blog Posts 10%

You will get credit for your attendance and participation and for your blog posts as separate categories for the first half of the semester. They will be counted as a single category for the second half of the semester.

Discussion Leadership 10%

Timeline 10%

Midterm Media Project 20%

Final Paper 40% (5% Research Questions + Sources, 10% Rough Draft, 25% Final Draft)

NEW Course Policies

Office Hours: I am still available to you! We can discuss the class over email or via MS Teams video chat. If you would like to do a video chat you must email me to make an appointment. I will do my best to accommodate your scheduling needs.

Email: Email is more important than ever in these circumstances. Please feel free to email me any time with questions about the class or to schedule an appointment for online office hours. I will respond within 24 hours. You must SIGN your email with your name. **You are responsible for checking your W&J email at least once per day**. Email is my only way to communicate with you, and I need to be able to reach you.

NEW Course Schedule

Week 8 (Mar 23-27)

Day 1: Midterm Media Projects (Put online and post to blog by **Sunday, Mar. 11 at 5pm.**)

Day 2: Ludmilla Alexeyeva, *Thaw Generation*, pp. 3-7, 83-84, 97-105, 119-141, 167-169, 206-2011, 278-294

UNIT III: CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Week 9 (Mar 30-Apr 3)

Day 1: Peter's Cultural Revolution

Cracraft, *The Revolution of Peter the Great*, chapters 4 + 6

Lindsey Hughes, "From Tsar to Emperor: Portraits of Aleksei and Peter I," *Picturing Russia: Explorations in Visual Culture*, pp. 51-56

The Great Palace at Peterhof (the website is in Russian; just look at the images!):

- Start here: http://peterhofmuseum.ru/objects/peterhof/bolshoy_petergofskiy_dvorets
(click on the first small image and scroll through all 14 images)

- Continue here: <http://peterhofmuseum.ru/objects/peterhof> (click on the "play" button just above the timeline)

Day 2: Pushkin's Literary Revolution

Alexander Pushkin, "The Bronze Horseman," *An Anthology of Russian Literature*, pp. 118-130

Alexander Pushkin, "The Queen of Spades," *Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction*, pp. 211-233

Alexander Pushkin, "A Prisoner of the Caucasus," *Eugene Onegin and Other Stories*, pp. 131-148

Week 10 (Apr 6-10)

Research Question/Sources Meetings This Week!

Day 1: The Intelligentsia I: Revolutionary Awakening

Saunders, *Russia in the Age of Reaction and Reform*, chapter 6

Ivan Kireevskii, "On the Nature of European Culture and Its Relation to the Culture of Russia," *Russian Intellectual History: An Anthology*, pp. 174-207

Vissarion Belinskii, "Letter to N.V. Gogol," *Imperial Russia Sourcebook*, pp. 252-261

Please note: You **must read either Kireevskii or Belinskii. You **may** read both if you want.*

Day 2: The Intelligentsia II: Radical Revolutionaries

Saunders, *Russia in the Age of Reaction and Reform*, chapter 11

Vera Figner, *Memoirs of a Revolutionist*, pp. 68-76, 93-119

Week 11 (Apr 13-17)

Day 1: Soviet Revolutionary Rituals

Richard Stites, "Bolshevik Ritual Building in the 1920s," *Russia in the Era of NEP*, pp. 295-307

Boris Arvatov, "The Proletariat and Leftist Art," *Bolshevik Visions: First Phase of the Cultural Revolution*, pp. 238-241
"The Ideological Platform of the Russian Association of Proletarian Musicians," *Music and Soviet Power, 1917-1932*, pp. 128-131
Charles Maynes, "Symphony of Sirens, Revisited" (podcast episode):
<http://99percentinvisible.org/episode/episode-79-symphony-of-sirens-revisited/>
Aleksandr Mosolov, *Symphony: The Iron Foundry*

Day 2: Revolutionizing the Arts: Socialist Realism

Katerina Clark, *The Soviet Novel*, pp. 27-45, 255-260
Andrei Zhdanov, "Soviet Literature—The Richest in Ideas"
Valentin Kataev, "Time, Forward!"

Week 12 (Apr 20-24)

Rough Drafts Due Sunday, April 19 at 5pm!

Day 1: Revolutionary Collapse

Alexei Yurchak, *Everything Was Forever, Until It Was No More*, pp. 282-298
"Gorbachev Challenges the Party (Glasnost)"
Tatyana Tolstaya, "The Price of Eggs," *Pushkin's Children*, pp. 206-215

Unit IV: Putin's Revolution

Day 2: Putin's Political Revolution: Great Power Plays

Tony Wood, "The Man and the System," *Russia Without Putin*, chapters 1 + 5
Vladimir Putin, "Address by the President of the Russian Federation (March 18, 2014)"

Week 13 (Apr 27-May 1)

Day 1: Putin's Social Revolution: Repression, Resistance, Survival

Ann Garrels, *Putin Country: A Journey Into the Real Russia*, chapters 3, 10, 15, 18
Jeff Sharlet, "Inside the Iron Closet: What It's Like to Be Gay in Putin's Russia," *GQ*,
(Feb 4, 2014)
Julia Ioffe, "Net Impact: One Man's Cyber-Crusade Against Russian Corruption," *The New Yorker* (April 4, 2011), pp. 26-32

Day 2: Putin's Cultural Revolution: Art For and Against

Arkady Ostrovsky, "Rocking the Kremlin," *The Economist* (August/September 2017)

Music Videos:

Mashani, "My Putin!"
Sasha Chest feat. Timati, "My Best Friend is President Putin"
Voina (War), "Artists Flip Off the FSB"
Pussy Riot, "Punk Prayer," "Putin Will Teach You How to Love," "Chaika"
Robbie Williams, "Party Like a Russian"

All Timeline Posts Due Sunday, May 3 at 5pm!

Week 14 (May 4-5)

Day 1: Discuss the Revolutions Timeline

Final Papers due at 10pm, Sunday, May 10
Good luck!!!