

Seth Bernstein
Keene-Flint 105
MWF: 10:40-11:30
Course Site: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/470710>
Grader: Zachary Young (young.zachary@ufl.edu)

sethbernstein@ufl.edu
Office Hours (KF 209)
M: 12-1, Th: 2-4
(and by appointment)

EUH 3576: Twentieth Century Russia to 1991

Course Description: Revolution transformed the Russian Empire into the world's first socialist state. This course examines the paradoxes of the Soviet experiment. How did revolutionary dreams turn into Stalinism? In what ways did the USSR mark a radical break with the past and in what ways was it a continuation of the Russian Empire? How can we untangle Cold War narratives about the USSR from the realities of life under socialism? Students will consider the Soviet experience through a variety of sources, but especially through film. Course meetings will take the form of lectures and discussions.

Course Assignments:

Participation (15%): Engagement in discussions that demonstrate a student's having read and understood assigned materials. Attendance is not a guarantor of a good participation grade but a good participation grade is not possible without attendance.

Weekly Responses (15%): Each week students should write a question and respond to a question. By **Thursday at 3pm**, write a question on Canvas about one or more of the readings or one that was raised the class lecture during the week. The question should be one that does not have a straightforward answer. Respond to at least one of the questions of a classmate by **Friday 10am**. The grade will in part be based on completion. In other words, if you write a question and answer one for each week, you will receive a passing grade. A superior grade will result from deeper engagement with the materials and questions in the course, demonstrating having read the work or thought about the problems the course raises with non-superficial questions and answer.

Purge Biography (15%): There will be a two-day activity in the middle of the semester involving a purge at a party factory during the Great Terror. Each of you will receive the basic outline of an identity. You will be responsible for writing a four-page (1000 word) biography that fleshes out your person: For instance, what was your experience of the revolution and early Soviet power? Who were your relatives? What were your political views? Additionally, you should discuss what you think would have happened to your person during the Great Terror, why it would have happened like that, and how this outcome differed from what happened in class.

Soviet Fan Fiction (30%, including 10% for article review and 5% for proposal): Take a non-historical personage (e.g., not Stalin or Lenin) from *Sofia Petrovna* or one of the longer films we have watched. We will have a vote to decide the options. In approximately 1,500 words, explore what happened in their life either before or after the events of the fictional story. For instance, what was the background of Vasili from *Lenin in October*? Or how would his life have played out in the 1920s? The project should involve research. I will suggest articles for each film on

Canvas. The project will be on the platform ArcGIS Storymaps and should involve at least one map.

Quizzes (10%): When the mood strikes me, I will give everyone a short quiz. These will correspond to the kind of questions you should expect to write in the final exam.

Final Exam (15%): The exam will have three parts: multiple choice; short answer based on course materials; essay (option of two questions).

Extra Credit: Trivial Pursuit Questions (up to 2%): Students can submit up to ten (10) review questions suitable for a game of trivial pursuit in the following categories: Politics; Science and Technology; Society; Culture; Economics. Students can submit one question per week and can submit no more than two questions per category.

Required Text:

Chukovskaya, Lydia. *Sofia Petrovna*. Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 1994.

Recommended:

Edele, Mark. *The Soviet Union: A Short History*. Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, 2019. (textbook, should be available online at UF Libraries)

The Edele textbook is what I recommend since we have an electronic version at the library. I have included pages that roughly correspond to the week. Other texts (e.g., Suny, *Soviet Experiment*) are fine. If you use another text, you will be responsible for figuring out the corresponding sections. Other readings will be posted on Canvas or are available online. If you prefer a hard copy of the readings, please look at the syllabus and order books accordingly.

Many of the readings come from the excellent website *Seventeen Moments of Soviet History* (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/>). I recommend exploring that site, which contains a wealth of primary sources (text and visual) and explanatory introductions by reputable historians, all in English.

Academic Integrity: The University of Florida holds its students to the highest standards, and we encourage students to read the University of Florida Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code (Regulation 4.040), so they are aware of our standards. Any violation of the Student Honor Code will result in a referral the Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution and may result in academic sanctions and further student conduct action. The two greatest threats to the academic integrity of the University of Florida are cheating and plagiarism. Students should be aware of their faculty's policy on collaboration, should understand how to properly cite sources, and should not give nor receive an improper academic advantage in any manner through any medium.

Lateness Policy: An important part of students' work is meeting deadlines. Late assignments will be docked three percentage points per day overdue. Under extraordinary circumstances

extensions will be granted but every effort should be made to avoid the need to take an extension.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Evaluations: Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluera.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <http://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Grading Policy:

You can find University of Florida's grading policies here:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-gradingpolicies/>

Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62

Attendance and Makeup Policy

Attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at Attendance Policies <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/> (Links to an external site.)>.

Course Schedule:

Jan. 9: Introductions

Reading:

Edele, *Soviet Union*, ix-xv (Preface)

Week 1: Russia before the Revolution (Jan. 11, 13)

Society and Politics to 1900

Revolution of 1905

(Textbook: Edele, *Soviet Union*, 3-29)

Chekhov, "The Peasants"

(https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Witch_and_Other_Stories/Peasants)

Nechaev, "The Revolutionary Catechism"

Geiling, "Color Photographs of Imperial Russia"

(<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/old-russian-empire-color-photos-180950229/>, view all photographs at <http://www.loc.gov/pictures/search/?st=grid&co=prok> and come with one or two to discuss)

Romance with a Double Bass (1911,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wq315KTOfDY>)

Week 2: War and Revolution I (Jan. 18, 20)

World War I

The February Revolution

(Edele, *Soviet Union*, 29-69)

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

"February Revolution" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/february-revolution/>)

"Revolution in the Army" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/revolution-in-the-army/>)

"Formation of the Provisional Government" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/february-revolution/february-revolution-texts/formation-of-the-provisional-government/>)

"Order No. 1" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/revolution-in-the-army/revolution-in-the-army-texts/order-no-i/>)

"Order No. 2" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/revolution-in-the-army/revolution-in-the-army-texts/order-no-ii/>)

"Breakdown of Discipline on the Front" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1917-2/revolution-in-the-army/revolution-in-the-army-texts/breakdown-of-discipline-on-the-front/>)

Kolonitskii, "Antibourgeois Propaganda and Anti-'Burzhui' Consciousness in 1917"

(<https://www.jstor.org/stable/130822>)

The Revolutionary (Bauer, April 1917)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOUk7YbVxVI>)

Week 3: War and Revolution II

Experiencing the Revolution

Civil War

Litveiko, “In 1917” in *In the Shadow of Revolution* (Canvas)

Reed, *Ten Days that Shook the World*, “On the Eve”

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/reed/1919/10days/10days/ch3.htm>)

Holquist, “‘Information is the Alpha and Omega of Our Work’: Bolshevik Surveillance in Its Pan-European Context” (<https://www.jstor.org/stable/2953592>)

Chapaev (1934) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NRfGXBK7ulg>)

Week 4: The 1920s, Economics and Society (Jan. 30, Feb. 1, Feb. 3)

New Economic Policy

Gender and Society

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History:

“The New Economic Policy” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1921-2/the-new-economic-policy/>)

“NEP in the Countryside”

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1921-2/the-new-economic-policy/the-new-economic-policy-texts/nep-in-the-countryside/>)

“The Moscow Soviet Reports”

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1921-2/the-new-economic-policy/the-new-economic-policy-video/>)

“NEPmen” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/nepmen/>)

Excerpt from Gladkov, *Cement* (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/nepmen/cement/>)

Images of NEPmen and “Bourgeois” Women (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/nepmen/nepmen-images/>)

Bed and Sofa (Room, 1927, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INipP_F4MxI)

Week 5: The 1920s, Politics (Feb. 6, 8, 10)

Lenin’s Succession and Stalin

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History:

“Lenin’s Succession”

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/lenins-succession/>)

“Lenin’s Testament” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/lenins-succession/lenins-succession-texts/lenins-testament/>)

Kamenev on Stalin (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/lenins-succession/lenins-succession-texts/kamenev-on-stalin/>)

Video of Lenin’s Funeral (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/lenins-succession/lenins-succession-video/>)

Stalin, "Socialism in One Country versus Permanent Revolution"
(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1924-2/industrialization-debate/industrialization-debate-texts/socialism-in-one-country-versus-permanent-revolution/>)

Lenin in October

([https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lenin_in_October_\(film\)_1937.webm](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lenin_in_October_(film)_1937.webm))

Week 6: The Great Turn (Feb. 13, 15, 17)

Collectivization and Industrialization

The Conservative Turn

(Edele, *Soviet Union*, 97-122)

Scott, *Behind the Urals*, part II (A Day in Magnitogorsk) (<https://babel-hathitrust-org.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/cgi/pt?id=uc1.b4451225&view=1up&seq=23>)

Viola, "Bab'i Bunty and Peasant Women's Protest during Collectivization"

(<https://www.jstor.org/stable/129400>)

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

"Conference of the Wives of the Engineers in Heavy Industry"

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1936-2/abolition-of-legal-abortion/abolition-of-legal-abortion-texts/conference-of-the-wives-of-the-engineers-in-heavy-industry/>)

"Decree on the Prohibition of Abortions, June 27, 1936"

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1936-2/abolition-of-legal-abortion/abolition-of-legal-abortion-texts/protection-of-motherhood/>)

"Stalin's Report to the Seventeenth Party Congress" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1934-2/seventeenth-party-congress/seventeenth-party-congress-texts/stalins-report-to-the-seventeenth-congress/>)

Volga, Volga (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BfUu9wMvypo>)

Week 7: Empire and Terror (Feb. 20, 22, 24)

National in Form, Socialist in Content

Terror

Three Songs about Lenin (Vertov, 1934)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeWK5iRp0BE>)

Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*

Week 8: Party Purge Week (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3)

Mar. 3: StoryMaps Tutorial

Week 9: Internationalism and the Gulag (Mar. 6, 8)

Forced Labor

Soviet Internationalism

Mochulsky, *Gulag Boss* (excerpts)

Duranty, “Russians Jubilant over Big Harvest” (<https://search-proquest-com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/docview/100879605/AAAB3056FDD24860PQ/311?accountid=10920>)

Duranty, “Many Foreigners Visit Soviet Union” (<https://search-proquest-com.lp.hscl.ufl.edu/docview/101388344/AAAB3056FDD24860PQ/63?accountid=10920>)

“The Reddest of the Blacks” (<https://srbpodcast.org/2019/05/21/the-reddest-of-the-blacks/>)

NO CLASS MARCH 10

***Purge Biography Due

SPRING BREAK Mar. 13-17

Week 10: Great Patriotic War and Its Aftermath (Mar. 20, 22, 24)

March 22: Guest Speaker

(Edele, *Soviet Union*, 123-158)

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

“Molotov on the Meaning of the Soviet-German Pact”

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1939-2/soviet-territorial-annexations/soviet-territorial-annexations-texts/molotov-on-the-meaning-of-the-soviet-german-pact/>)

Kochina, “Blockade Diary” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1943-2/900-days/900-days-texts/blockade-diary/>)

Order 227 (“Not One Step Back”) (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1943-2/the-nazi-tide-stops/no-one-steps-back/>)

Zhdanov, “New Aspects of World Conflict” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1947-2/cold-war/cold-war-texts/zhdanov-on-the-international-situation/>)

Grossman, *War Diaries* (excerpts, on Canvas)

Young Guard (part 1, 1948 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iMKarOA0q-s>)

***Fan Fiction Proposal due March 24

Week 11: Post Stalin (Mar. 27, 29, 31)

Succession

Cold War

(Edele, *Soviet Union*, 158-177)

Evtushenko, *Precious Autobiography* (on Stalin’s funeral)

(<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1954-2/succession-to-stalin/succession-to-stalin-texts/mourners-crushed-at-stalins-funeral/>)

Khrushchev, “Speech to the 20th Congress of the CPSU”

(<https://www.marxists.org/archive/khrushchev/1956/02/24.htm>)

Nixon and Khrushchev's Kitchen Debate

(<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/1959-07-24.pdf>)

Kitchen Debate (<https://www.c-span.org/video/?110721-1/nixon-khrushchev-kitchen-debate>)

A. Adzhubei's Account of His Visit to Washington" from GWU's *National Security Archive*

(https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/nsa/cuba_mis_cri/620312%20Adzhubei%27s%20Account.pdf)

"From the Diary of Anastas Mikoyan: Telegram about Mikoyan Conversation with Jawaharlal Nehru" from GWU's *National Security Archive*

(<https://nsarchive.gwu.edu/dc.html?doc=7338779-National-Security-Archive-Doc-03-From-the-Diary>)

***Fan Fiction Article Review due March 31

Week 12: Life after Stalin (Apr. 3, 5, 7)

Soviet Idealism

Gender Roles

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

"International Youth Festival" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1956-2/international-youth-festival/>)

"Festival on the Streets" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1956-2/international-youth-festival/international-youth-festival-video/festival-on-the-streets-1957/>)

"Carnival Night" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1956-2/international-youth-festival/international-youth-festival-video/eidar-riazanov-carnival-night-1957/>)

Baranovskaia, "A Week Like Any Other"

I Walk Around Moscow (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbjs5zfxDMs>)

Week 13: Mature Socialism and Beyond (Apr. 10, 12, 14)

Stability, Stagnation, Dissidents

Afghanistan

(Edele, *Soviet Union*, 177-220)

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

Article:

"Invasion of Afghanistan" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1980-2/invasion-of-afghanistan/>)

Text:

"Politburo Report on Afghanistan" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1980-2/invasion-of-afghanistan/invasion-of-afghanistan-texts/politbiuro-report-on-afghanistan/>)

Alexievich, *Zinky Boys* (excerpt)

Prisoner of the Caucasus (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmaZ0SlyZ9E>)

***Soviet Fan Fiction Due on Apr. 14

Week 14: Glasnost (Apr. 17, 19, 21)

Reform and Disaster

Fall of the USSR

CIA Translation of Soviet Jokes (<https://www.cia.gov/library/readingroom/docs/CIA-RDP89G00720R000800040003-6.pdf>)

Andreeva, "I Cannot Forsake My Principles"

(<https://web.archive.org/web/20120216082258/http://www.sadcom.com/pins/about/andreeva.htm>)

Alexievich, *Chernobyl Diaries* (excerpts on Canvas)

Seventeen Moments of Soviet History

Article:

"The 500 Days" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1991-2/500-days/>)

Sources:

"The Gorbachev Plan" (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1991-2/500-days/500-days-texts/the-gorbachev-plan/>)

CNN News Coverage of the August Coup Attempt

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsF4c06txHM>)

Little Vera (<https://sovietmoviesonline.com/melodrama/malenkaya-vera>)

Week 15: 1990s and Beyond (Apr. 24, 26)

Alexievich, *Secondhand Time* (excerpts)

TBD (Depending on the latest news)

***Final Exam on May 2, 3pm