

**Seth Bernstein**  
**Keene-Flint 111**  
**MWF: 10:40-11:30**  
**Course Site: <https://ufl.instructure.com/courses/525778/>**

**[sethbernstein@ufl.edu](mailto:sethbernstein@ufl.edu)**  
**Office Hours (KF 209)**  
**T: 11AM-1PM; W: Noon-1PM**  
**(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* (10%): 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.

*Talk Attendance* (5%: 2.5% x 2 pass/fail): During the semester, there will be a series of talks in Soviet history by at least four visiting scholars. Attendance of two talks and a short writeup (1 page) of each of the two is required. Attendance of more than two plus a writeup is possible for extra credit (.5% each).

*Purge Biography* (15%): There will be an 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), research-based 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 Fiction: The Video Game Adaptation* (30%, 5% for proposal [pass/fail], 5% for first draft [pass/fail], and 5% for reflection paper [pass/fail]):

In this course, we will use a platform called Twine (<http://www.twinery.org>) to create game adaptations of Soviet films and fiction from the class. Twine is a point-and-click web application to make nonlinear stories that can embed multimedia elements like images and video, can store variables like health, and can handle random numbers. At its core, it is a choose-your-own-adventure assignment. Didn't like the way that *Sofia Petrovna* ended (no spoilers!)? You can give her different outcomes. The game adaptation can also focus on different characters or be a prequel/sequel. The limitation: The game needs to be historically plausible and based on research.

The project will come in stages:

1. **A proposal** that gives the shape of the paths in the game. There should be at least three branches of the story. The proposal should be a minimum of one page. It should include a bibliography of at least five research works such as full length articles (not reviews) from academic journals or books. (5% pass/fail)
2. **A draft** that gives the main script of the game. Although the script can have gaps, it should flesh out the proposal in a way that will make it easy to transform into the game. There should be at least a sentence per passage (the unit of a Twine story). (5% pass/fail)
3. **A final submission** of the game. The grade for the game is primarily based on its basis in research. Creative use of the platform will also count. Passages should include citations from the literature as a parenthetical at the end of the passage. The final passage should be a bibliography.
4. **A reflection paper** that analyzes the historical argument in the game.

*Quizzes* (10%, including 5% map quiz): 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, available online at UF Libraries: [https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC\\_UFL/175ga98/alma99383331589406597](https://ufl-flvc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01FALSC_UFL/175ga98/alma99383331589406597) )

The Edle 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 to 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. (<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>)

**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/](http://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
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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. 13: Introductions

Reading:

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

### **Week 1: Russia before the Revolution (Jan. 15, 17)**

Society and Politics to 1900

Revolution of 1905

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

Chekhov, "The Peasants"

([https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The\\_Witch\\_and\\_Other\\_Stories/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. 22, 24)**

World War I

The February Revolution

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

*Seventeen Moments of Soviet History*

"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 (Jan. 27, 29)**

Experiencing the Revolution

Civil War

(Discussion on January 29 of both weeks)

Litveiko, "In 1917" in *In the Shadow of Revolution* (Canvas)  
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>)

\*\*\*NO CLASS ON JANUARY 31?

#### **Week 4: The 1920s, Economics and Society (Feb. 3, 5, 7)**

New Economic Policy

Gender and Society

*Seventeen Moments of Soviet History:*

"The Moscow Soviet Reports"

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

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=INipP_F4MxI))

#### **Week 5: The 1920s, Politics (Feb. 10, 12, 14)**

Lenin's Succession and Stalin

*Seventeen Moments of Soviet History:*

"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. 17, 19, 21)**

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>)

*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. 24, 26, 28)**

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: Purges, Internationalism, Twine (Mar. 3, 5, 7)**

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>)

Guillory, Sean. “The Reddest of the Blacks.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOkMSn4tQrE>.

Mar. 3: Party Purge

Mar. 5: Internationalism

Mar. 7: Twine Tutorial

\*\*\*Purge Biography Due

**Week 9: The Gulag and WWII (Mar. 10, 12, 14)**

Forced Labor

(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/>)

Mochulsky, *Gulag Boss* (excerpts)

*The Thief*, directed by Pavel Chukrai. 1997; Moscow: NTVProfit.

<https://youtu.be/TkjhQIn-Gfo>.

\*\*\*Game Proposal due March 12

## **SPRING BREAK Mar. 17-21**

### **Week 10: Post-War, Post-Stalin (Mar. 24, 26, 28)**

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](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>)

### **Week 11: Life after Stalin (Mar. 31, Apr. 2, 4)**

Soviet Idealism

Gender Roles

*Seventeen Moments of Soviet History*



“Festival on the Streets” (<http://soviethistory.msu.edu/1956-2/international-youth-festival/international-youth-festival-video/festival-on-the-streets-1957/>)  
Baranovskaia, “A Week Like Any Other”  
*I Walk Around Moscow* (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbjs5zfxDMs>)

\*\*\*Draft Due April 2

### **Week 12: Mature Socialism and Beyond (Apr. 7, 9, 11)**

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>)

### **Week 13: Glasnost (Apr. 14, 16, 18)**

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*

“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>)

\*\*\*Game Due April 18

### **Week 14: 1990s and Beyond (Apr. 21, 23)**

Alexievich, *Secondhand Time* (excerpts)

TBD (Depending on the latest news)

\*\*\*Reflection Due April 23

\*\*\*Final Exam on May 1, 2025