

Films: We will see three films that are an important part of the course. The showings are set for Thursdays at 7:30 in Jarrell Hall (032 Jackson Library) on the dates designated below. I will put the films on reserve at the Teaching & Learning Center (McIver Building) for those who cannot make the out-of-class showings (they are also available at some local video stores and on Netflix). The titles are: “Burnt by the Sun;” “Thief”; and “Prisoner of the Mountains.”

Course Web Page: The course web page, which includes readings, class notes, maps, links to Internet Resources, and other features, is at www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia

Course Activities:

Participation	25%
Written Assignment	25%
Midterm Exam	25%
Final Exam	25%

Participation: The 25% class participation grade consists of Worksheets and Reaction Pieces (1-2 pages, double-spaced) to the readings designated below. These are intended to be your reaction to or opinion of the readings, not a summary. The total sum of these assignments is 50 points, which will be divided by two for the final participation grade. You can keep up with your participation grade on Blackboard.

Written Assignment: Students have a choice of several paper topics or a book/film review for this assignment (worth 25%). All papers should be 3-5 pages, double-spaced, with 12-point font. You can turn your paper in at any time over the course of the semester since the topics correspond to different issues dealt with in the course. However, **the final due date by which all papers must be turned in is Wednesday, November 29.** See the Topics & Guidelines to the Written Assignment for the choice of topics and further information.

Exams: There is one midterm exam (worth 25%) and a final exam (worth 25%). The exams cover *only* the part of the course for which they are designated, so they are *not cumulative*. Both exams include Take Home Essay Questions (each worth 10% of the overall course grade) to be turned in on the day of the exam.

Grading: Grades are compiled on a point system. For example, if you make an 80 on the Midterm Exam (12/15) + 88 on the Midterm Take Home Essay (8.8/10) + an 85 on the Final Exam (12.8/15) + 93 on the Final Take Home Essay (9.3/10) + 85 on your Written Assignment (21.3/25) + 90 on Participation (22.5/25), your final grade = **86.7** or **87 B+**

CLASS SCHEDULE

Monday, August 14. Introduction: Themes in Russian History

- Optional Reading: “The Russian God: Vodka Celebrates its 500th Anniversary” by Victor Erofejev in *The New Yorker*

BEGIN READING: *And Quiet Flows the Don*, Parts I & II (“Peace” & “War”); Worksheet 1 due in class Monday, September 11

Part I: From Traditional Russia to the Stalinist Terror

Wednesday, August 16. Traditional Russian Society

- Reading for August 21: “Prisoner of the Caucasus” by Lev Tolstoy

Monday, August 21. Russia in the Caucasus: Discussion of the Reading

- Optional Reading: “A Little Jewish Girl in the Russian *Pale*, 1890”

- Reading for August 23: excerpts from “What is to be Done?” by V. I. Lenin

Wednesday, August 23. The Origins of Russian Marxism & Lenin’s “What is to be done?”

- Reading for August 28: “October Manifesto”

Monday, August 28. The Russian Revolution of 1905

- Optional Reading: “1905 Pogroms in Russia” by Mazelev

- Reading for August 30: “‘Potemkin’ Restored to Uncensored Glory”

Wednesday, August 30. The 1905 Revolution (cont’d): Battleship Potemkin

- Reading for September 6: “The Story of an Assassination” by Marie Sukloff; “*Krylov vs. Krylova*: ‘Sexual Incapacity’ and Divorce in Tsarist Russia” by Gregory Freeze; “An Epidemic of Possession in a Moscow Rural Parish in 1909” by Christine Worobec; ****Reaction Piece** to these readings due in class

Wednesday, September 6. Between the Revolutions: Russia in Transition

Monday, September 11. Calm Before the Storm: Discussion of *Quiet Flows the Don*

BEGIN READING: *And Quiet Flows the Don*, Parts III & IV (“Revolution” & “Civil War”); **Worksheet 2** due Monday, September 25

Wednesday, September 13. 1917: Revolutionary Turmoil in Russia

- Optional Reading: “Nicholas in Hell” by Elizabeth Jones Hemenway

Monday, September 18. Revolutionary Turmoil in Russia (cont’d)

- Optional Reading: “Rasputin and the Empress Alexandra” by Bernard Pares; “Lenin Gambled Wildly and Won” by Robert V. Daniels; and “The Bolshevik Party Led the Masses” by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

- Reading for September 20: “Declaration of the Rights of the Toiling and Exploited Peoples”; excerpts from “The Proletarian Revolution and The Renegade Kautsky” by V. I. Lenin; and “Theses on Communist Morality in the Sphere of Marital Relations” by Alexandra Kollontai; ****Reaction Piece** due in class

Wednesday, September 20. The Bolsheviks Come to Power

Monday, September 25. The Cossacks & the Civil War: Discussion of *And Quiet Flows the Don*

- Optional Reading: “Anti-Soviet *Svodki* from the Civil War: Surveillance as a Shared Feature of Russian Political Culture” by Peter Holquist

BEGIN READING: *Journey Into the Whirlwind* by Eugenia Ginzburg; ****Reaction Piece** due Monday, October 16

Wednesday, September 27. The New Economic Policy & Stalin's Rise to Power

- Reading for October 2: "Stalinism as Revolution from Above" by Robert Tucker
Monday, October 2. The Stalin Revolution & Stalin as a Historical Personality
- Optional Reading: "Stalin, Man of the Borderlands" by Alfred Rieber
- Reading for October 4: "Should This Pulitzer be Pulled?" by Douglas McCollam
Wednesday, October 4. The Stalinist Terror of the 1930s

Thursday, October 5: "Burnt by the Sun" at 7:30 in Jarrell Hall (032 Jackson Library)

- Reading for October 11: "Fear and Belief in the USSR's 'Great Terror'" by Thurston
Wednesday, October 11. The Stalinist Terror of the 1930s (cont'd)
- Optional Reading: "What is Terror?" by Robert Conquest & Thurston's "Reply"

Monday, October 16. Discussion of *Journey into the Whirlwind* & "Burnt by the Sun"

Wednesday, October 18. **MIDTERM EXAM**

Part II: From World War II to post-Soviet Russia

- Reading for October 23: Stalin as *Time*'s "Man of the Year" 1939 & 1942
Monday, October 23. "And Tomorrow there was War": Discussion of the Reading
- Optional Reading: excerpt from *Through the Burning Steppe*

Wednesday, October 25. WWII in the USSR (cont'd)

Thursday, October 26: "Thief" at 7:30 in Jarrell Hall (032 Jackson Library)

- Reading for October 30: excerpts from *A Revolution of Their Own: Voices of Women in Soviet History*; ****Reaction Piece** due in class
Monday, October 30. Russia After the War: Discussion of the Reading & "Thief"

- Reading for November 1: excerpts from the 1947 speeches of Andrei Zhdanov and President Harry Truman; **Worksheet 3** due in class
Wednesday, November 1. Origins of the Cold War: Discussion of the Reading

- Reading for November 6: Khrushchev as *Time*'s "Man of the Year" 1957
Monday, November 6. Khrushchev & de-Stalinization: the "Thaw"
- Optional Reading: excerpts from *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch* by Alexander Solzhenitsyn and *Not By Bread Alone* by Vladimir Dudintsev

- Reading for November 8: “Fiasco in Riazan Oblast” from *Khrushchev: The Years in Power* by Roy & Zhores Medvedev; and “Bloody Saturday: Novocherkassk, 1962”; ****Reaction Piece** due in class

Wednesday, November 8. Crisis in the Early 1960s & the Rise of Brezhnev

BEGIN READING *Russia’s Sputnik Generation*; ****Reaction Piece** due Monday, November 27

Monday, November 13. The Brezhnev Era: Stability, Neo-Stalinism, & Stagnation

- Reading for November 15: “Gorbachev: From High Hopes to the Bitter End,” by Theodore von Laue; and Gorbachev as *Time*’s “Man of the Year” 1987 & 1989

Wednesday, November 15. The Passing of A Generation & Gorbachev’s Rise to Power

Thursday, November 16: “Prisoner of the Mountains” at 7:30 in Jarrell Hall (032 Jackson Library)

Monday, November 20. The Gorbachev Phenomenon: *Perestroika & Glasnost*

- Optional Reading: “Whither Human Rights in Russia?”: Statement of Ludmilla Alexeyeva, Chair, Moscow Helsinki Group

Monday, November 27. The Collapse of the USSR: Discussion of *Russia’s Sputnik Generation*

Wednesday, November 29. Russia in the 1990s: the War in Chechnya; ****WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT DUE IN CLASS**

Monday, December 4. Russia Today

- Optional Reading: “Russia is Finished” by Jeffrey Tayler and “Don’t Count Russia Out: A Reply to Jeffrey Tayler” by W. George Krasnow

Final Exam: Monday, December 11 Noon-3:00