

The course includes graduate and undergraduate students, and while a great deal will be expected out of everyone, the final projects of the graduate students will be evaluated more stringently. All drafts and final papers should be double-spaced with 12-point font; the length of the final papers for undergraduate students should be between 18-22 pages, while the length of the final papers for graduate students should be between 22-26 pages.

Objectives

A research project on this scale is very challenging, and my goal as instructor is to help you not only understand the complexities of Stalinist Russia, but also to help you develop skills that will serve you well at this University and beyond. By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- ?? Understand Stalinism in the evolution of Russian and world history;
- ?? Formulate a viable research topic that uses primary sources;
- ?? Conduct independent research and critically evaluate various types of sources;
- ?? Formulate an historical argument and support it with evidence;
- ?? Present the findings of their research orally as well as in written form;
- ?? Edit and evaluate the work of your peers in the class;
- ?? Revise and polish your own papers on the basis of input from class members.

Readings:

- ?? *Stalin and Stalinism*, 2nd ed., Martin McCauley
- ?? Reserve material identified below
- ?? On reserve at Jackson Library: *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, Kate Turabian

Course Web Page: There is a web page for the course at www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia

CLASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 15. Introduction to the Course

- ?? Reading for next class: *Stalin and Stalinism*, McCauley

Wednesday, January 22. Themes and Topics in the Study of Stalinism

- ?? Reading for next class: Discussion in the *Russian Review* (October 1986): “From the Editor: Controversy”; “New Perspectives on Stalinism,” by Sheila Fitzpatrick; “Stalin’s Terror as Social History,” by Stephen Cohen; “History with the Politics Let Out—Again?” by Geoff Eley; “Stalinism as Humdrum Politics,” by Peter Kenez; “Coming to Terms with the Past . . . and with One’s Older Colleagues,” by Alfred Meyer; “Afterword: Revisionism Revisited,” by Sheila Fitzpatrick

Wednesday, January 29. Themes and Topics in the Study of Stalinism (cont’d)

****Between January 30-February 5** students in **GROUP 1** must finalize their paper topics in one-on-one consultations with the instructor. All topics for students in GROUP 1 must be approved by the instructor and by the February 5 class meeting.

Wednesday, February 5. **GROUP 1:** Student Reports on Paper Topics

?? Students will give brief (5-minute) oral reports on their finalized paper topics. You should be prepared to say how and why you chose this particular topic, why you find it interesting and challenging, and what you expect to find out about it on a preliminary basis.

****Between February 6-12** students in **GROUP 2** must finalize their paper topics in one-on-one consultations with the instructor. All topics for students in GROUP 2 must be approved by the instructor and by the February 12 class meeting. Students in **GROUP 1** should choose a book and/or journal article(s) relevant to their topic for the oral reports on February 19.

Wednesday, February 12. **GROUP 2: Student Reports on Paper Topics**

****Students in GROUP 2 should choose a book and/or journal article(s) relevant to their topic for the oral reports on February 26.**

Wednesday, February 19. **GROUP 1: Oral Reports**

?? Students in **GROUP 1** will give brief (5-minute) oral reports on works relevant to their topics: concisely summarize the main argument or thesis of the chosen work, evaluate the author's source base, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the work(s).

Wednesday, February 26. **GROUP 2: Oral Reports**

?? Students in **GROUP 2** will give brief (5-minute) oral reports on works relevant to their topics. Be prepared to concisely summarize the main argument or thesis of the chosen work, evaluate the author's source base, and assess the strengths and weaknesses of the work(s).

Monday, March 17-Friday, March 28. One-on-one Consultations with the instructor to discuss problems/issues related to the projects underway.

Wednesday, April 9. **GROUP 1: First Drafts Due**; provide copies to the students in your subgroup and the instructor

****Between April 10-16** students in **GROUP 1** are responsible for reading and critically evaluating the papers of the other students in their subgroup. Be prepared to make comments with constructive criticism that will help your classmate improve on his or her first draft.

Wednesday, April 16. **GROUP 1: Discussion of the first drafts; GROUP 2: First Drafts Due**; provide copies to the students in your subgroup and the instructor

****Between April 17-23** students in **GROUP 2** are responsible for reading and critically evaluating the papers of the other students in their subgroup. Be prepared to make comments with constructive criticism that will help your classmate improve on his or her first draft.

Wednesday, April 23. **GROUP 2: Discussion of the first drafts**

Wednesday, April 30. Make up day: Discussion of the first drafts of students not already covered in the previous two class meetings.

FINAL PAPERS DUE: No later than Thursday, May 8.

List of Possible Topics & Sources:

- ?? A comparative analysis of some of the biographies of Stalin;
- ?? An analysis of Stalinist/Soviet-era film (i.e. films by Sergei Eisenstein);
- ?? Anti-Semitism in Stalinist Russia based on autobiographical accounts;
- ?? An analysis of Stalinist/Soviet-era literature, either dissident or official;
- ?? Diplomatic issues, ranging from US/British relations with the USSR to Soviet-Chinese or Soviet-East European relations;
- ?? Life under Stalin based on autobiographical accounts (i.e. during the purges or during/after World War II);
- ?? Stalinism outside the USSR, i.e. in China, Eastern Europe, or elsewhere (North Korea);
- ?? Soviet foreign relations through the Soviet press (i.e. the portrayal of Tito or of the Chinese Revolution in the Soviet press, etc.);
- ?? The origins of the Cold War, as depicted in either the Soviet press or the US media or both;
- ?? Theory, i.e. Stalin's writings, Mao's writings, Trotsky's writings, Bukharin, etc.;
- ?? View of Stalin (Stalin cult) in the Soviet press (either during or after his rule);
- ?? View of Stalinist society in the Soviet press at some point during or after his rule;
- ?? View of Stalin in the US/Western media (i.e. *Time*, *New York Times*, etc.).