

**History 344**  
**Revolutionary Russia**  
**Spring 2008**

FSK 0103, Tues/Thurs. 11-12:15 pm.  
Prof. M. David-Fox  
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Spring office hours: Tues/Thurs. 10:00-11:00 pm.

**Course Description.** Welcome to the fascinating world of the Russian Revolution! This course provides an in-depth exploration of the roots, dynamics, and consequences of one of the great revolutionary upheavals in world history, one that had a profound impact on Russia and the twentieth century. We will examine the revolutionary period from many points of view, from the late 19th century to the consolidation of a new Soviet order in the 1920s.

We begin with a consideration of the nature of modern revolutions—from the recent definitions and insights of comparative social science to the insights of the contemporary Russian symbolist poet Alexander Blok. The course examines the roots and unfolding of the cataclysm that brought down the tsarist autocracy in Russia in an age of industrialization and modernization, war and civil war, revolutions and mass movements. It critically examines explanations for the origins and outcomes of 1917. Emphasis is placed on such topics as the ideologies of socialism and the revolutionary movement; the consequences of “total war” after 1914; non-Russian national movements and regions in the collapse of the multinational tsarist empire; the programs and mentalities of individual revolutionary actors; political violence and terror in the midst of and in the wake of revolution; and, last but not least, the experiences of “ordinary people” who lived through the unprecedented upheaval of revolutionary times. Finally, the course ends with reflections on the emergence of Soviet communism, Leninism, and Stalinism from the long-term perspectives of the entire revolutionary period.

**Course Requirements and Format.** Attendance in both sessions, careful reading of weekly assignments, and participation in the discussion session are crucial for success in the course. **Grading** will be based on one 6-8 page paper on a topic to be announced in class (20 percent of grade); a midterm examination (20 percent); quizzes (20 percent); and final examination (40 percent). Superior class participation can also change your grade positively and can bring up borderline grades. **Quizzes and discussions:** While Tuesday will be devoted to a lecture, *Thursday's* class (after the first week) will be devoted to discussion. Thursday sessions sometimes start with a 10-15 minute quiz on the weekly reading—please make sure to arrive on time. The Thursday group discussions will be based on a set of discussion questions handed out a week in advance. These questions should also serve you well as a study guide for the quizzes and, in modified form, they will become the basis for most essay questions on the midterm and final. The quizzes are generally made up of three general questions on the reading, which you should be able to answer well if you have conscientiously done the weekly assignment. The discussion is your time to raise any questions you may have about the lecture, the course

material, or any aspect of the Russian Revolution—please use it! The quiz with the lowest grade will automatically be dropped; you can be excused from quizzes only with a valid, written excuse. **Paper:** A separate handout on the paper will be discussed in class several weeks before it is due. NB: Late papers cannot be accepted without a valid, written excuse. **Final Exam:** The last class will be devoted to a review session; information on the time and place of the final is at the end of this syllabus.

### Required Texts

1. Orlando Figes, *A People's Tragedy: The Russian Revolution, 1891-1924* (Penguin Books) [DK260 .F54 1996]
2. Michael D. Richards, *Revolutions in World History* (Routledge, 2004) [JC491 .R497 2004]
3. Isaac Babel, *Red Cavalry* (W. W. Norton edition, 2002) [PG3476.B2 K613 2003]
4. Materials placed on *electronic reserves*. Here are instructions for E-reserve reading:

- 1) Go to the University of Maryland Libraries web site (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/>)
- 2) Click on Catalog
- 3) Click on COURSE RESERVES (at the top of the screen)
- 4) Select “course number” from the pull-down menu
- 5) Enter the search term “**hist344**” without the quotation marks
- 6) Click on the internet link provided
- 7) Click on the Continue button
- 8) If asked for a **password**, enter “**hist344dav**” when prompted, again without the quotation marks. Remember to use all lower-case letters!
- 9) You should now be able to view the course packet. Click on “Rotate View Clockwise,” which is the second to last button on the top right of the screen, to view the documents normally. You can also print out the course packet.

For purposes of discussion, you should make an effort to produce a hard copy of the e-reserve items and bring it to class.

The following materials are being placed on e-reserve (you can ignore the call numbers, which are for my records if I ever need to place the items on e-reserve again):

(in order of assignment)

1. Jack Goldstone, “Revolutions,” in Adam and Jessica Kuper, eds., *Social Science Encyclopedia* (London: Routledge, 1996), 705-707. [McK H41 .S63 1996]
2. Aleksandr Blok, “The Twelve,” from Sergei Hackel, *The Poet and the Revolution: Aleksandr Blok's The Twelve* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1975), 207-229 [odd pages].
3. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, “Manifesto of the Communist Party,” in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd ed. (NY: W. W. Norton, 1978) [HX39.5 .M374 1978]
4. V. I. Lenin, selection from “The State and Revolution,” in Robert C. Tucker, ed. *The Lenin Anthology* (NY: W. W. Norton, 1975): 311-350.

5. Robert Weinberg, "Workers, Pogroms, and the 1905 Revolution in Odessa," *Russian Review*, 46: 1 (July 1987): 53-75. [DK1 .R82]
6. Eric Lohr, "The Russian Army and the Jews: Mass Deportations, Hostages, and Violence during World War I," *Russian Review* 60 (July 2001): 404-19.
7. Eric Lohr, "Patriotic Violence and the State: The Moscow Riots of May 1915," *Kritika* 4, 3 (2003): 607-26. [DK1 .K74]
8. Boris Kolonitskii, "Kerensky," and Robert Service, "Lenin," in Edward Acton, Vladimir Iu. Cherniaev, and William G. Rosenberg, eds. *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution 1914-1921* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997), 138-141 and 150-160. [DK265 .C68 1997]
10. Theodore Weeks, "National Minorities in the Russian Empire, 1897-1917," in Anna Geifman, ed. *Russia under the Last Tsar: Opposition and Subversion, 1894-1917* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1999): 111-134. [DK262 .R87 1999]
11. Ronald Grigor Suny, "Nationalism and Revolution," chap. 4 of Suny, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, The USSR, and the Successor States* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1998), 96-120. [DK266 .S94 1998]
12. Sheila Fitzpatrick, "The Bolsheviks' Dilemma: Class, Culture and Politics in the Early Soviet Years," *Slavic Review*, 47 (1988): 599-613. [D377.A1 A52]
13. Elizabeth Waters, "Family, Marriage, and Relations Between the Sexes," in Acton et al., eds. *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution, 1914-1921* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1997), 359-369.
14. Richard Stites, "Godless Religion," and "Man the Machine," in *Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1989): 101-124, 145-164. [DK266.4 .S75 1989]
15. Peter Holquist, "Violent Russia, Deadly Marxism? Russia in the Epoch of Violence, 1905-21," *Kritika* 4,3 (Summer 2003): 627-52
16. Steven G. Marks, "The Dream of Communism," and "New Forms of Dictatorship," chaps. 8 and 9 of Marks, *How Russia Shaped the Modern World: From Art to Anti-Semitism, Ballet to Bolshevism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003): 275-332. [DK32 .M274 2003]

NB: The three required books are available at both university bookstores and have also been placed on reserve in the library reserve room.

### **University Honor Code**

The University has an Honor Code, administered by the Student Honor Council. The Student Honor Council proposed and the University Senate approved an Honor Pledge. The University of Maryland Honor Pledge reads, "I pledge on my honor that I have not given or received any unauthorized assistance on this assignment/examination."

Unless you are specifically advised to the contrary, the Pledge statement should be handwritten and signed on the front cover of all papers, projects, or other academic assignments submitted for evaluation in this course.

For University guidelines on academic dishonesty, see <http://www.testudo.umd.edu/soc/dishonesty.html>. See in particular the section on plagiarism, defined as intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise. Academic dishonesty is a serious offense that may result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

**Week 1. Jan. 29 and 31. Introduction: Russia and Revolution**

Two lectures this week. Introduction to the course; the comparative context. Please start next week's reading as soon as possible.

**Week 2. Feb. 5 and 7. Russia's Place among Major Revolutions and Russia's 'Revolutionary Situation'**

Readings:

- a. Michael D. Richards, *Revolutions in World History*
- b. Jack Goldstone, "Revolutions" in *International Social Science Encyclopedia* [e-reserve]
- c. Alexander Blok, "The Twelve" [e-reserve]
- d. Figs, pp. 3-83.

**Week 3. Feb. 12 and 14. Revolutionary Movements and Ideologies**

Readings:

- a. Figs, pp. 84-154.
- b. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party," in Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd ed. (NY: W. W. Norton, 1978) [e-reserve]
- c. V. I. Lenin, selection from "The State and Revolution," in Robert C. Tucker, ed. *The Lenin Anthology* (NY: W. W. Norton, 1975): 311-350. [e-reserve]

**Week 4. Feb. 19 and 21. Russia's 'First' and Failed Revolution (1905)**

Readings:

- a. Figs, pp. 157-212.
- b. Robert Weinberg, "Workers, Pogroms, and the 1905 Revolution in Odessa," *Russian Review*, 46, no. 1 (July 1987): 53-75. [e-reserve]

**Week 5. Feb. 26 and 28. Could Revolution Have Been Avoided or Altered? The Inter-Revolutionary Interlude, 1907-1914**

Readings:

- a. Figs, pp. 213-252.

**Week 6. March 4 and 6. Total War**

Readings:

- a. Figs, pp. 253-303.
- b. Eric Lohr, "The Russian Army and the Jews: Mass Deportations, Hostages, and Violence during World War I," *Russian Review* 60 (July 2001): 404-19 [e-reserve]
- c. Eric Lohr, "Patriotic Violence and the State: The Moscow Riots of May 1915," *Kritika* 4, 3 (2003): 607-26 [e-reserve]

**Week 7. March 11 and 13. The February Revolution: Collapse of the Autocracy and the Crises of the Provisional Government**

Readings:

- a. Figs, 307-405, 421-473

**Spring Break: Week of March 17-21**

**Week 8. March 25 and 27. Bolshevism and the 'Art of Insurrection': The October Revolution**

Readings:

- a. Figes, 474-551.
- b. Boris Kolonitskii, "Kerensky," and Robert Service, "Lenin," in Edward Acton et al., eds. *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution* (Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1997), pp. 138-141, 150-160. [e-reserve]

**Thurs., March 27. Midterm Examination on all materials through Week 8.**

**Week 9. April 1 and 3. Non-Russians and the Collapse of Empire**

Readings:

- a. Theodore Weeks, "National Minorities in the Russian Empire, 1897-1917," in Anna Geifman, ed. *Russia under the Last Tsar: Opposition and Subversion, 1894-1917* (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1999): 111-134. [e-reserve]
- b. Ronald Grigor Suny, "Nationalism and Revolution," chap. 4 of Suny, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, The USSR, and the Successor States* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1998), 96-120 [e-reserve]

**Week 10. April 8 and 10. Whites vs. Reds: Movements, Regimes, and Populations in the Russian Civil War**

Readings:

- a. Figes, 555-649.
- b. Babel, *Red Cavalry* (Norton edition), pp. 9-97.

**Week 11. April 15 and 17. Soviet Power and 'War Communism'**

Readings:

- a. Figes, 650-720.
- b. Babel, *Red Cavalry* (Norton edition), pp. 98-169, 307-13.

**Week 12. April 22 and 24. Utopian Dreams in Theory and Practice: The New Regime Takes Shape**

Readings:

- a. Sheila Fitzpatrick, "The Bolsheviks' Dilemma: Class, Culture and Politics in the Early Soviet Years," *Slavic Review*, 47 (1988): 599-613. [e-reserve]
- b. Elizabeth Waters, "Family, Marriage, and Relations Between the Sexes," in Acton et al., eds. *Critical Companion to the Russian Revolution*, 359-369. [e-reserve]
- c. Richard Stites, "Godless Religion," and "Man the Machine," in *Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1984): 101-124, 145-164 [e-reserve]

**Paper due in class on Thurs. April 24.**

**Week 13. April 29 and May 1. Ends and Beginnings: The Emergence of Soviet Communism**

Readings:

- a. Figes, 721-807.
- b. Peter Holquist, "Violent Russia, Deadly Marxism? Russia in the Epoch of Violence, 1905-21," *Kritika* 4,3 (Summer 2003): 627-52. [e-reserve]

**Week 14. May 6 and 8. From the Other Shore: Consequences of the Bolshevik Revolution**

Readings:

- a. Figes, Conclusion, 808-824.

c. Moshe Lewin, "Grappling with Stalinism," in Lewin, *The Making of the Soviet System* (NY: Pantheon Books, 1985): 286-314 [e-reserve]

d. Steven G. Marks, "The Dream of Communism," and "New Forms of Dictatorship," chaps. 8 and 9 of Marks, *How Russia Shaped the Modern World: From Art to Anti-Semitism, Ballet to Bolshevism* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003): 275-332 [e-reserve]

**Week 15. Review and Final.**

Tuesday, May 13. Discussion and **Review Session**

Thursday, May 15. **Final Examination** 8-10 am, FSK 0103 (same room).