

History 385.01 The Russian Revolution  
Fall 2006, Mr. D'Agostino  
T-Th 1410-1525, HSS 153  
Office: Th 1530-1730, SCI 267a (87535)

[Fulfills GE segment 3, cat B: Revolution in Comparative Perspective; requires upper division status, 10 pp. written work. See class schedule and bulletin.]

This is a course designed to explore problems and controversies about the revolutionary events in Soviet Russia, 1917-1945, and their global impact.

Assigned texts:

Suny, The Soviet Experiment  
Carr, Russian Revolution from Lenin to Stalin  
Deutscher, The Prophet Armed  
Zizek (ed.) Revolution at the Gates

Recommended:

D'Agostino, Soviet Succession Struggles  
Gorbachev's Revolution, 1985-1991

Lecture topics include:

Unique and Familiar Features of Imperial Russia  
(Suny, 3-17)

Russia and the Western Revolutionary Tradition  
(Suny, 17-33; Trotsky, "1789-1848-1905," Wikipedia, Trotsky, Selected Works, Permanent Revolution and Results and Prospects, 3)

Discussion: Russia and revolution

Russia the Modernizing Old Regime  
(Deutscher, ch. 6)  
film: Potemkin (7065)

1917

(Suny, ch. 2; Carr, chs. 1-2; Lenin, "Letters from Afar," "Tasks of the Revolution," in Zizek)

Allied Intervention and Civil War  
(Carr, ch. 3; Suny, ch. 3)

Discussion: Allied Intervention

Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin  
(Carr, chs. 6-8; Suny ch. 6; Deutscher, ch. 4)

film: Ten Days That Shook the World

MIDTERM DUE, 3 October

The British Empire vs. The Russian Revolution  
(Carr, chs. 9-10)

The Five Year Plan and Collectivization of Agriculture  
(Suny, chs. 9, 10; Carr, chs. 12-15; D'Agostino, "Ambiguities  
of Trotsky's Leninism," e-reserve, password: russrev )

Discussion: Stalin and Trotsky

The Popular Front and Spanish Civil War

Discussion: Fascism, Communism, Appeasement

Stalin's Purges  
(Suny, ch. 11)

Collective Security Against Nazi Germany  
(Stalin, "Report to the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress"; D'Agostino, "Trotsky  
on Stalin's Foreign Policy," e-reserve, password: russrev)

Discussion: The International Civil War

Hitler and Stalin, 1939-1941  
(Suny, ch. 13)

THANKSGIVING BREAK, 20-25 NOVEMBER

The Great Patriotic War  
(Suny, ch. 14)

The Stalin Question in World History  
(Zizek, "Afterword: Lenin's Choice")

Discussion: Communism and World War Two

The Russian Revolution in World History

Grades will be determined on the basis of a midterm paper, 5 pp.  
in length (30%), due 3 October, a take-home final exam (60%)--  
distributed 12 December-- and imponderables such as contribution  
in discussion to the thinking of the class (10%).

Please do not rely on email or voicemail to conduct routine class  
business.

