

# HISTORY MATTERS

## THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION OF 1917

HIST:1010:0005  
University of Iowa – Spring 2019

Class Times: 5:00 – 6:15 PM Tuesday & Thursday

Classroom: 27 Macbride Hall

Lecturer: [Michael Andrew Žmolek](#)

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Office Hours: 3:20-4:50 PM Tuesday & Thursday  
(or by appointment)

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION

2017 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the October Revolution of 1917 which brought the Bolshevik Party to power and led to the first attempt at building a communist society in the form of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) in 1922. What did the leaders of the communist revolution and their supporters hope to achieve? What *was* achieved and at what cost? Why was communism popular in Western Europe and much of the world in the early twentieth century? How does social democracy differ from communism? Was the USSR defeated in the Cold War or did its fall come about primarily as a result of internal collapse? These are some of the questions which will guide us as we explore the ideas and events which shaped this world-transforming event, the struggles which followed, the influence of the USSR around the world and the legacy it left upon its collapse.

### GRADING

Participation		10%	Quizzes		10%
Attendance	5%		Online Quizzes	10%	
In-Class Participation	5%		IU Plagiarism Detection Test	Pass/Fail	
Writing Projects		40%	Exams		40%
Special Project	20%		Midterm Exam	20%	
Written Essay	20%		Final Exam	20%	

### READING MATERIALS

Textbook: Steinberg, Mark D. *The Russian Revolution, 2015-1921*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Additional Readings will be posted on ICON/Canvas.

<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>	
<p><b>Attendance</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>5%</b></span></p> <p>Attendance will be taken at the outset of each session and your attendance score will be based on your physically attending each session. You are expected to arrive at class having completed the readings and assignments and be prepared to discuss the content.</p>	<p><b>In-Class Participation</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>5%</b></span></p> <p>Your participation in this class—by way of questions, comments and shared insights—are a vital part of the learning experience for all present. This portion of your final grade will be based upon how well you made substantive and positive contributions to classroom discussions and completed any in-class exercises or homework assigned.</p>
<p><b>Online Quizzes (weekly)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>10%</b></span></p> <p>These quizzes are intended to stimulate your thinking so that you come to class prepared to contribute to the classroom discussion. You will log into ICON/Canvas and take a short quiz on the readings for the week.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Due:</b> Tuesdays by class time (most weeks)</p>	<p><b>Special Project</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>20%</b></span></p> <p>Individually or as part of a group, you will work on a special project. It can be a book review, a biography, a website or another form of creative involvement with the history of the Russian Revolution.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Presentations:</b> April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 4<sup>th</sup></p>
<p><b>Essay Proposal (5%) and Written Essay (20%)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>25%</b></span></p> <p>You will be invited to submit a brief essay proposal, prior to submitting your essay. The essay proposal should include a clear thesis, an outline and a bibliography. You will be provided with a list of possible topics. You may also select a topic of your own choosing, so long as it fits with the theme of the course. You will be expected to produce a written essay of between 3 and 7 pages. An 'A' essay will be at least 4 pages in length, not including the bibliography.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Due:</b> Essay Proposal: Thu Apr 11 <b>Due:</b> Completed Essay: Tue Apr 23</p>	<p><b>IU Plagiarism Detection Test</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>(Pass/Fail)</b></span></p> <p>Before passing this course, you are required to visit Indiana University's tutorial on How to Recognize Plagiarism at: <a href="http://www.indiana.edu/~istd/">www.indiana.edu/~istd/</a> for a tutorial on plagiarism detection. After you pass the online Plagiarism Certification Test, you will be given a certificate with your name on it, which you will need to present a copy of your certificate with your unique ID number to your instructor. Completion of this test is required to pass the course.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Due:</b> Thu Feb 7</p>
<p><b>Midterm Exam (20%) and Final Exam (20%)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>40%</b></span></p> <p>The Midterm Exam will deal with the material covered during the first half of the course. The Final Exam will deal with material covered in the second half of the course and will not be cumulative. The format of these exams will be multiple choice, matching, true or false and short answer or definition questions. There will not be an essay.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Midterm:</b> Thu Mar 7   <b>Final:</b> TBA</p>	<p><b>Make-Up Journal Entries</b></p> <p>Students who miss Quizzes for legitimate, documented reasons may be given the opportunity to recover lost points by submitting a journal entry on one of the readings for the session to be missed. You will be asked to analyse the reading by identifying the thesis and by offering your own reflections on its meaning. Journal Entries must be submitted via the Discussion section on ICON/Canvas.</p>

## EVALUATION

GRADING SCALE									
<b>59 or below</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>67-69</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>98-100</b>	<b>A+</b>
		<b>63-66</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>73-76</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>93-97</b>	<b>A</b>
		<b>60-62</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>70-72</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>90-92</b>	<b>A-</b>

## COURSE SCHEDULE

## PART ONE: CONTEXT

### WEEK 1 Introductions

Reading: Steinberg, 'Introduction: Experiencing the Russian Revolution', pages 1-8 [8 pages]

Tue Jan 15 Introduction to the Course  
Thu Jan 17 The Russian Empire

### WEEK 2 The Intellectual Climate

Readings: Excerpt from 'The Communist Manifesto' by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels [14 pages]  
'The Grand Inquisitor', excerpt from *The Brothers Karamazov* by Feodor Dostoevsky [22 pages]

Tue Jan 22 Theories of Revolution  
Thu Jan 24 Ilya Repin and the 19th Century Roots of the 1917 Catastrophe - Dostoevsky's Grand Inquisitors and Demons

Lecturer: **Dr. Anna Barker**, Department of Asian & Slavic Languages and Literatures  
**Note:** Meet in Room 40 Schaeffer Hall

### WEEK 3 Paris 1871 and St. Petersburg 1905

Readings: 'The Commune's Achievements' by Donny Gluckstein [42 pages]  
Steinberg, chapter 1: 'Springtime of Freedom' pages 13-41 [29 pages]  
Supplemental: 'The Paris Commune of 1871, the Russian Revolution of 1905' by Casey Harison [32 pages]

Tue Jan 29 The Paris Commune of 1871  
Thu Jan 31 Bloody Sunday and the 'Dress Rehearsal'

### WEEK 4 Russia in the First World War

Readings: 'Russia on the Eve of World War I' by Alexander Kerensky [21 pages]  
Steinberg, chapter 5: 'The Politics of the Street' pages 123-159 [37 pages]

Tue Feb 5 Russia on the eve of World War I  
Thu Feb 7 The Politics of the Street | IU Plagiarism Exam Due

## COURSE SCHEDULE

## PART TWO: DUAL POWER

### WEEK 5 The February Revolution and After

Readings: Steinberg, chapter 2: 'Revolution, Uncertainty and War' pages 47-63 [17 pages]  
'The Problem of Power in the February Revolution of 1917 in Russia' by Tsuyoshi Hasegawa [23 pages]  
Supplemental: 'The Kerensky Government and its Fate' by Boris Elkin [20 pages]

Tue Feb 12 The February Revolution  
Thu Feb 14 'Dual Power' and the Kerensky Regime

### WEEK 6 Women and the Revolution

Reading: Steinberg, chapter 6: 'Women and Revolution in the Village' pages 170-215 [46 pages]  
'Women in Revolution' by Janet Weitzner Salaff and Judith Merkle [12 pages]

Tue Feb 19 Women and the Revolution  
Thu Feb 21 Women's Liberation?

**WEEK 7** 'Utopians'

Readings: Steinberg, chapter 8: 'Utopians' pages 289-338 [50 pages]

Tue Feb 26 Utopians: Kollontai  
Thu Feb 28 Utopians: Trotsky and Mayakovsky

**WEEK 8** Midterm

Tue Mar 5 Review  
Thu Mar 7 **MIDTERM EXAM**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PART THREE: THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION**

**WEEK 9** 'All Power to the Soviets'

Readings: 'The Syntax of Soviet Power' by Michael Melancon [20 pages]  
'April Theses' by V.I. Lenin [6 pages]

Tue Mar 12 The Soviets: Council Democracy?  
Thu Mar 14 The Petrograd Soviet and the Return of Lenin

**WEEK 10** SPRING BREAK: No Classes March 19<sup>th</sup> or March 21<sup>st</sup>

**WEEK 11** The October Revolution

Readings: Steinberg, chapter 3: '1917' pages 68-88 [21 pages]  
'The Officers and the October Revolution' by David R. Jones [17 pages]

Tue Mar 26 Overthrow of the Kerensky Regime  
Thu Mar 28 Bolsheviks Come to Power

**WEEK 12** Presentations

Tue Apr 2 **Presentations**  
Thu Apr 4 **Presentations** | **Special Project Due**

**WEEK 13** Consolidation of the Bolshevik Regime

Reading: 'Decree on Peace' by V.I. Lenin [5 pages]  
'Workers' Unrest and the Bolsheviks' Response in 1919' by Vladimir Brovkin

Tue Apr 9 Withdrawal from the War  
Thu Apr 11 The *Cheka* | **Essay Proposal Due**

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**PART FOUR: CIVIL WAR & AFTERMATH**

**WEEK 14** The Civil War

Readings: Steinberg, chapter 4: 'Civil War' pages 92-113 [22 pages]

Tue Apr 16 Civil War I  
Thu Apr 18 Civil War II

**WEEK 15** Overcoming Empire

Readings: Steinberg, chapter 7: 'Overcoming Empire' pages 223-278 [56 pages]

Tue Apr 23 Overcoming Empire I: Ukraine | **Written Essay Due**  
Thu Apr 25 Overcoming Empire I: Behbudi and Babel

**WEEK 16** Summary: What Have We Learned?

Tue Apr 3 Reflecting on the Meaning of the Soviet Revolution of 1917  
Thu May 2 **Evaluations** (bring your electronic devices) | Review for Final Exam

**FINALS WEEK** **FINAL EXAM** - Date, Time and Location of Final Exam TBA

## POLICIES: ATTENDANCE AND QUIZZES

1. **Attendance:** for each session is mandatory and will be recorded at the beginning of each session. Notify your instructor beforehand if you know you will be unable to physically attend a session. A request for an excused absence should be accompanied by documentation of an emergency or a legitimate scheduling conflict. If extreme circumstances are preventing you from attending or completing assignments, please inform your instructors to discuss how to accommodate your situation.
2. **Online Quizzes:** cannot be re-taken except in cases involving legitimate, documented reasons. An assignment sheet with Instructions may be found under the Course Materials module on Icon/Canvas.
3. **Electronic Devices:** The **ONLY** permissible use of laptop computers or hand-held devices in the classroom is for taking notes or accessing course materials online. If you need to send an email, a text or shop for shoes, please do so outside of the classroom.

## POLICIES: WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Plagiarism:** You are expected to submit original work. Do not cut and paste material from your sources as you write, as this greatly increases the likelihood of plagiarism. Any string of text longer than seven (7) words that is lifted directly from a source that is not attributed to the original by adding "quote marks" and a citation constitutes plagiarism. Paraphrasing without including a citation is also plagiarism. Plagiarism is a form of cheating because it involves falsely indicating to the reader that you wrote something which you did not write. All written assignments are checked electronically for instances of plagiarism. Blatant cheating will result in a 0 for the assignment and will be reported to the University authorities.
2. **Both Hard Copy and Online Submissions Required:** All written assignments must be submitted in **both** hard copy in class **and** via the ICON/Canvas Dropbox so that the text of your writing assignments may be compared against the web and other student papers to ensure academic honesty.
3. **Late Penalties:** Assignments handed in by the on time will receive priority in terms of comments. A half a letter grade (5%) deduction will be assessed on any written assignment turned in after the deadline, increasing to a full letter grade (10%) after 7 days. Papers will not be accepted after 14 days past the due date.
4. **Formatting:** Written assignments will be typed on plain white 8.5" x 11" paper using 12 point font (Times New Roman is preferred), using 1" margins. 1.5 line spacing is preferred; 2.0 is acceptable. *Chicago Manual of Style* formatting is preferred but you may use any style manual you choose, or follow your own formatting style, so long as you are consistent.
5. **Do Not Cite Reference Works:** Reference works such as *Encyclopedia Britannica* or *Wikipedia.org* provide general knowledge. You may take it for granted that your reader has access to information found here and therefore you do not need to include such reference works in your citations and bibliography; they will not count toward your minimum number of citations.

## POLICIES: COLLABORATION

You are encouraged to collaborate with your classmates in reviewing the reading material and discussing the course content. Exams and assignments, however, are an evaluation of how well you have comprehended and synthesized the course content as an individual. While you may discuss the essay questions you are given for assignments with your colleagues, you are expected to do the writing on all written assignments, quizzes and exams by yourself.

## UNIVERSITY POLICIES & PROCEDURES

### **Administrative Home**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS) is the administrative home of this course and governs its add/drop deadlines, the second-grade-only option, and other policies. These policies vary by college (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook>).

### **Electronic Communication**

Students are responsible for official correspondences sent to their UI email address (uiowa.edu) and must use this address for all communication within UI ([Operations Manual, III.15.2](#)).

### **Accommodations for Disabilities**

UI is committed to an educational experience that is accessible to all students. A student may request academic accommodations for a disability (such as mental health, attention, learning, vision, and physical or health-related condition) by registering with Student Disability Services (SDS). The student should then discuss accommodations with the course instructor (<https://sds.studentlife.uiowa.edu/>).

### **Nondiscrimination in the Classroom**

UI is committed to making the classroom a respectful and inclusive space for all people irrespective of their gender, sexual, racial, religious or other identities. Toward this goal, students are invited to optionally share their preferred names and pronouns with their instructors and classmates. The University of Iowa prohibits discrimination and harassment against individuals on the basis of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, and other identity categories set forth in the University's Human Rights policy. For more information, contact the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity ([diversity.uiowa.edu](http://diversity.uiowa.edu)).

### **Academic Integrity**

All undergraduates enrolled in courses offered by CLAS have, in essence, agreed to the College's Code of Academic Honesty. Misconduct is reported to the College, resulting in suspension or other sanctions, with sanctions communicated with the student through the UI email address (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/academic-fraud-honor-code>).

### **CLAS Final Examination Policies**

The final exam schedule for each semester is announced around the fifth week of classes; students are responsible for knowing the date, time, and place of a final exam. Students should not make travel plans until knowing this final exam information. No exams of any kind are allowed the week before finals (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/faculty/teaching-policies-resources-examination-policies>).

### **Making a Complaint**

Students with a complaint should first visit with the instructor or course supervisor and then with the departmental executive officer (DEO), also known as the Chair. Students may then bring the concern to CLAS (<https://clas.uiowa.edu/students/handbook/student-rights-responsibilities>).

### **Understanding Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment subverts the mission of the University and threatens the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. All members of the UI community must uphold the UI mission and contribute to a safe environment that enhances learning. Incidents of sexual harassment must be reported immediately. For assistance, definitions, and the full University policy, see <https://osmrc.uiowa.edu/>.

## STUDENT RESOURCES

- **The History Teaching and Writing Center:** <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/teaching-and-writing-center> is a resource for students writing history papers. Staffed by graduate students, this is a great place to turn for help as you begin brainstorming ideas for your history paper.
- **The Writing Center:** [www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/](http://www.uiowa.edu/~writingc/) helps all in the University community improve their writing, including attitudes and self-confidence about writing. We also assist with reading.
- **The Speaking Center:** [clas.uiowa.edu/rhetoric/for-students/speaking-center](http://clas.uiowa.edu/rhetoric/for-students/speaking-center) is available to help students who would like to work on any aspect of oral communication, including: effective classroom participation, delivering oral presentations, speech anxiety and much more.
- **Tutor Iowa:** [tutor.uiowa.edu/](http://tutor.uiowa.edu/) is an excellent resource to find academic assistance and mentoring for your University of Iowa courses.
- **UI Libraries:** have librarians on hand to help you succeed with your projects, while the website: <http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/> is your gateway to finding resources. The new International Studies Librarian here at Iowa is Tim Arnold; he is ready to assist you with your work.
- **JSTOR:** Guidelines for your written assignments may require a minimum number of scholarly sources. JSTOR is the world's largest repository of scholarly articles and the first place to look for scholarly articles on your topic. From the University Libraries website, click 'Databases', select the letter 'J' and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on 'JSTOR (Journal Storage)'. Log in using your hawkid at the prompt and click 'Advanced Search'. Type in your key terms and check the 'Articles' checkbox to begin searching.



## A Few Words from the Department of History....



Would you like information about the **History major and minor**? See <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/undergraduate>

To learn what innovative teaching and research projects our terrific **faculty** members are doing, see <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/people>

Thinking about majoring in history but not sure what **jobs** it might lead to? Many fields seek the skills that analyzing and writing about history builds. History majors' mid-career salaries are on par with those holding undergraduate business degrees, and history majors earn more than other humanities majors. See here for more info: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/undergraduate/resources/careers>



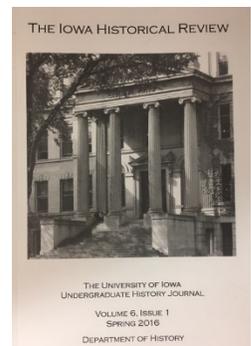
Majors and non-majors, join our **history club** for social events and info sessions on internships and careers: <https://www.facebook.com/hawkeyehistorycorps/>

History majors, see **History's undergraduate advisor** before you register for next semester: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/undergraduate/advising-information>.

History majors, remember to save your graded history papers for possible inclusion in your senior year **Portfolio** (HIST 3193).

Interested in doing original historical research, and have a decent GPA? Check out the [History Honors thesis](#) option.

Interested in publishing your honors thesis or other history research paper, or in working on our undergraduate history journal? See [Iowa Historical Review](#)



### We want to hear from you!

- Please complete your online course evaluations at the end of the semester.
- If you've done a history-related internship, please tell the [Director of Undergrad Studies](#)
- Visit the [History Advisor or Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) with any questions.

Get news from the History Department by following us on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/history.uiowa>