



Graduate Course Syllabus

HIS 630: Russian Revolutions

Center: Online

Course Prerequisites

HIS 501 and HIS 502

Course Description

The Russian revolutions of 1917 rank among the most monumental events of the modern era. The collapse of the tsarist regime and the triumph of communism placed Russia on a tumultuous and often painful path toward modernization and forever changed the course of world history. Beginning with the 1890s and continuing until the early 1920s, this course will analyze the background, the unfolding, and the aftermath of the twin upheavals of 1917: the February Revolution that destroyed the Russian monarchy and the October Revolution that brought the Soviet government to power. Students will investigate the political, socio-economic, cultural, and ideological factors that shaped this transformation, and will also explore the interactions among revolutionary processes and military events such as World War I and the Russian Civil War. They will utilize recent scholarship on these topics to develop their own understanding of the historiography of the subject.

Course Outcomes

- Assess methodological or ideological differences among Western and Russian scholars' interpretations of Russia's revolutions for their political and methodological foundations
- Critique historical interpretations of Russia's revolutions for their credibility, methodologies, and biases
- Draw connections between Russia's decision making during armed conflicts and the steady weakening of the tsarist regime
- Assess the reciprocal nature of ideological, socioeconomic, and cultural factors as they affected Russia's revolutionary process
- Create original interpretations substantiated by secondary sources that contribute to an ongoing scholarly historical dialogue on the nature of Russia's revolutionary era

Required Materials

Using your learning resources is critical to your success in this course. Please purchase directly through the [SNHU Online Bookstore](#) rather than any other vendor. Purchasing directly from the bookstore ensures that you will obtain the correct materials and that the IT Service Desk, your advisor, and the instructor can provide you with support if you have problems.

Revolutionary Russia, 1917

John Thompson

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

As indicated in our core values, SNHU is committed to “embrace diversity where we encourage and respect diverse identities, ideas, and perspectives by honoring difference, amplifying belonging, engaging civilly, and breaking down barriers to bring our mission to life.”

This may or will be reflected in SNHU’s curriculum as we embrace and practice diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) to provide the most transformative experience for our students, faculty, and staff. Because topics pertaining to DEI can be sensitive, please remember that embodying and practicing diversity, equity, and inclusion is one of our core values that you will encounter throughout the academic experience. In higher education, we are expected to think and engage critically. Use a growth mindset to embrace the diverse readings, course assignments, and experiences of your peers and faculty.

For more information about DEI at SNHU, please visit our website at the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#).

Instructor Availability and Response Time

Your class interaction with the instructor and your classmates will take place on a regular, ongoing basis. Your instructor will be actively engaged within the course throughout the week. You will normally communicate with your instructor in the weekly discussions or the General Questions discussion topic so that your questions and the instructor’s answers benefit the entire class. You should feel free, however, to communicate with your instructor via SNHU email at any time, particularly when you want to discuss something of a personal or sensitive nature. Your instructor will generally provide a response within 24 hours. Instructors will post grades and feedback (as applicable) within seven days of an assignment’s due date, or within seven days of a late submission.

Grade Distribution

Assignment Category	Number of Graded Items	Point Value per Item	Total Points
Discussions	9	15	135
Short Papers	3	25	75
Final Project			
Milestone One	1	50	50
Milestone Two	1	70	70
Milestone Three	1	100	100
Milestone Four	1	200	200
Milestone Five	1	50	50
Historiographical Essay	1	320	320
			Total Course Points: 1,000

This course may also contain practice activities. The purpose of these non-graded activities is to assist you in mastering the learning outcomes in the graded activity items listed above.

University Grading System: Graduate

Grade	Numerical Equivalent	Points
A	93–100	4.00
A-	90–92	3.67
B+	87–89	3.33
B	83–86	3.00
B-	80–82	2.67
C+	77–79	2.33
C	73–76	2.00
F	0–72	0.00
I	Incomplete	
IF	Incomplete/Failure *	
W	Withdrawn	

* Please refer to the [policy page](#) for information on the incomplete grade process.

Grading Guides

Specific activity directions, grading guides, posting requirements, and additional deadlines can be found in the Assignment Guidelines and Rubrics section of the course.

Weekly Assignment Schedule

All reading and assignment information can be found within each module of the course. Assignments and discussion posts during the first week of each term are due by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. Assignments and discussion posts for the remainder of the term are due by 11:59 p.m. of the student's local time zone.

In addition to the textbook readings that are listed, there may be additional required resources within each module.

Module	Topics and Assignments
1	Introduction to Russian History <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1 1-1 Discussion: Assessing Bias in Historiography 1-2 Final Project Review: Historiographical Essay 1-3 Final Project Milestone One: Paper Topic
2	State, Society, and Culture During the 1905 Revolution 2-1 Discussion: Before and After the Fall of Communism 2-2 Short Paper: Reforming the Imperial Government

Module	Topics and Assignments
3	Prologue to 1917: Reform and War 3-1 Discussion: Liberal vs. Revisionist History 3-2 Final Project Milestone Two: Research Outline
4	February 1917: The Democratic Revolution? <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Chapter 2 4-1 Discussion: Causes of the February Revolution 4-2 Short Paper: The Military's Role in February 1917
5	Provisional Government: Challenges and Opportunities <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Chapters 4, 5, and 6 5-1 Discussion: The Provisional Government and World War I 5-2 Final Project Milestone Three: Bibliography
6	October Revolution: Prelude and Coup <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Chapter 7 6-1 Discussion: Historians' Influence on Public Policy 6-2 Short Paper: Was the Russian Revolution Inevitable?
7	The Birth of the Communist Party and the End of the War for Russia <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Chapter 8 7-1 Discussion: Peace Demands and Consequences to Russia 7-2 Final Project Milestone Four: Rough Draft 7-3 Discussion: Peer Review of Rough Drafts
8	Testing the Red Army: The Russian Civil War 8-1 Discussion: Society in Revolutionary Russia 8-2 Final Project Milestone Five: Peer Reviews
9	War With Poland, and Rebellion Within <i>Revolutionary Russia, 1917</i> , Chapter 9 9-1 Final Project Submission: Historiographical Essay
10	Reflecting on Bias in Historiography 10-1 Discussion: What Historians Add to History

Attendance Policy

Online students are required to submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class. If a student does not submit a graded assignment/discussion during the first week of class, the student is automatically dropped from the course for non-participation. Review the [full attendance policy](#).

Late Assignments Policy

Meeting assigned due dates is critical for demonstrating progress and ensuring appropriate time for instructor feedback on assignments. Students are expected to submit their assignments on or before the due date. Review the [full late assignment policy](#).

SNHU Student Handbook

Review the [student handbook](#).

ADA/504 Compliance Statement

Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) is dedicated to providing equal access to individuals with disabilities in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990, as amended by the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008.

SNHU prohibits unlawful discrimination on the basis of disability and takes action to prevent such discrimination by providing reasonable accommodations to eligible individuals with disabilities. The university has adopted this policy to provide for prompt and equitable resolution of complaints regarding any action prohibited by Section 504, the ADA, or the ADAAA.

For questions about **support services, documentation guidelines, general disability issues, or pregnancy accommodations**, please visit the [Online Accessibility Center](#) (OAC).

As a student, you must complete an interactive intake process, with supporting documentation, in order to be granted accommodations. Once reasonable accommodations are approved by the OAC, you will receive an accommodations letter. You are then responsible for sharing the letter with your instructor. Accommodations are not retroactive.

If you feel you've been subject to discrimination on the basis of disability, by any party, you may file a complaint or grievance. For more information on the ADA/504 Grievance Policy, go to the [Disability and Accessibility Services](#) website.

Academic Integrity Policy

Southern New Hampshire University requires all students to adhere to high standards of integrity in their academic work. Activities such as plagiarism and cheating are not condoned by the university. Review the [full academic integrity policy](#).

Copyright Policy

Southern New Hampshire University abides by the provisions of United States Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). Any person who infringes the copyright law is liable. Review the [full copyright policy](#).

SNHU Withdrawal Policy

Review the [full withdrawal policy](#).

Southern New Hampshire University Policies

More information about SNHU policies can be found on the [policy page](#).