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HIST 316: Russian Revolution(s) From Peter to Putin **Final Paper Assignment**

This paper is the culminating assignment of this class, and more importantly, an opportunity for you to research, consider, and draw conclusions about a subject you find interesting and significant in relation to the broad question of revolutionary change in Imperial Russian, Soviet, and Post-Soviet history. This assignment has four steps.

1) Choosing a Topic

For this paper, you get to choose your own topic. Hurray! You will do so in consultation with me. That means you must meet with me first, present your idea, and **get my approval!** This is an essential step in the process; you may not proceed with your paper until you have my approval. I will give you as much freedom as possible. The purpose of this step is to get you started in a viable direction, so you won't hit any major roadblocks further on.

In preparation for this meeting, please do the following:

- a) Develop a coherent research question
- b) Do a preliminary library search, to make sure you have access to both primary and secondary sources. **We will get an introduction to the library in Week 8.*

2) Proposal. Your proposal should include the following elements:

- a) A statement of your **research question**.
- b) A draft of your **thesis statement** (your answer to your research question).
Remember a thesis statement must make an argument and be supported by evidence drawn from your sources. Given that research projects evolve, I won't hold you to this particular thesis statement as you move forward, but it's important to practice drafting a thesis statement early in the process.
- c) A brief **abstract**. The abstract only needs to be 2-3 paragraphs long. It should summarize the stakes of your argument (in answer to the "so what?" question) and give an overview of your sources.
- d) An **annotated bibliography**. This should include at least five sources. You may use sources we've read together, but it must also include at least three external sources. Include **primary** and **secondary** sources in this list. Give full bibliographic information for each source and write a couple sentences explaining what the source is and how it will help you make your argument.

Proposals will be due **Sunday, April 2 at 5:00pm**, submitted through Moodle. I'll meet with you individually to discuss yours on Wednesday, April 5 and Thursday, April 6.

3) Rough Draft. The rough draft should consist of three pages from the **body** of your paper. Do not include your introduction. Our goal here is to practice working with the sources to build an argument. We will workshop our rough drafts together in class on Monday, April 17 and Tuesday, April 18. To make that work, you must email your draft to me and everyone in your timeline group by **Sunday, April 16 at 5:00pm**.

You must also read everyone else's drafts before we meet on Monday/Tuesday. As you read, consider the following questions: Is the argument clear? Does the evidence support the argument? Has the author demonstrated *how* the evidence supports the argument? What do you think works well in this draft? What could the author do to improve it?

Since we're workshopping our drafts in class, I am not requiring you to meet with me individually to discuss them. However, I would be glad to meet with you, if you'd like. Just let me know!

4) Final Draft. You must submit your essay via **Moodle** no later than **TUESDAY, May 9 at 10pm**. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day. If you'd like to include any media (beyond links provided in your bibliography), you can email those to me separately.

Boring But Essential Details

Your paper must be **2500 words long**, *not including* your bibliography. Remember to put your name and title on the first page and number your pages. You must use 12-point font, and double-spacing. You must attach a properly formatted Bibliography as a separate page at the end of your text. Both your bibliography and your footnotes should be formatted using the Chicago Manual of Style (available online for free through the Library's website).

Here is my policy on **plagiarism**: Don't do it! Plagiarism is a very serious offence, which can destroy your academic career and professional prospects. Plagiarism is **directly opposed to Reed's Honor Principle**, and if you plagiarize, **you will automatically fail my class**. I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I *will* figure it out if you plagiarize. Please, save us both a lot of time and worry: don't even try it. If at any time you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, feel free to ask me.

If you'd like help with your writing, I encourage you to consult the Writing Center: <http://www.reed.edu/writing/>

I will do my best to be available to meet with you as often as you like. I will read partial drafts up until May 5.

Good luck!!!! Please let me know if you have any questions!