

Stalinism Seminar / History 332W  
Spring 2021  
University of Rochester  
LeChase 181  
Mondays, 14:00-16:40

Matthew Lenoe

[matthew.lenoe@rochester.edu](mailto:matthew.lenoe@rochester.edu)

Office Hours (all by Zoom): M 11:30-13:30. T 15:00 – 16:00 or by appointment.

Feb. 1, 2021 ... Read Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*. Introduction to Soviet History.  
Introduction to Marxism.

## **PART I ... PRIMARY SOURCES.**

Feb. 8, 2021 ... Valentin Kataev, *Time, Forward!*. Documents 3, 6, 9 in Siegelbaum. John Scott, „Behind the Urals,“ on e-reserve. Stalin, “[Tasks of Economic Managers](#).”

Feb. 15, 2021 ... Lev Kopelev, “The Last Grain Collections” on e-reserve. [Letter from Feigin to Ordzhonikidze](#). Siegelbaum, 43-70 (on rural situation and collectivization). Selected documents from Getty, *Road to Terror* and Siegelbaum on the Great Terror.

Feb. 22, 2021 ... View *Volga, Volga!* before class. Discuss. Lecture on Great Patriotic War. **Five page paper due.**

March 1, 2021 ... All on e-reserve: Red Army soldiers’ documents; Vasily Tyorkin; Stilyaga; To Stalin from the Peoples of the World; Aviation; Holloway, “The Premises of Policy”.

## **PART II ... HISTORIOGRAPHY**

March 8, 2021 ... Leon Trotsky, [The Revolution Betrayed](#) + excerpts from Timasheff, *The Great Retreat* on e-reserve.

March 15, 2021 ... Brzezinski on e-reserve. In Tucker – Cohen, Rigby, Tucker, Kolakowski, Markovic.

March 22, 2021 ... Moshe Lewin, *Making of the Soviet System*. **Book review due.**

March 29, 2021 ... Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain*.

### **PART III ... RECENT HISTORIOGRAPHY / RESEARCH PAPERS**

April 5, 2021 ... Jochen Hellbeck, “Fashioning the Stalinist Soul” on e-reserve. **Bibliography due.**

April 12, 2021 ... Terry Martin, “Modernization or Neotraditionalism?”; Martin, “Origins of Soviet Ethnic Cleansing”; Sheila Fitzpatrick, “Ascribing Class”;

April 19, 2021 ... Juliane Furst, “Prisoners of the Soviet Self? Political Youth Opposition in Late Stalinism”, *East-Asia Studies* 54, no. 3 (May2002): 353-375. Find in RR Library catalogue or in JSTOR.

April 26, 2021 ... **Work in progress presentations.**

May 3, 2021 ... **Work in progress presentations.**

May 13, 2021, 5 pm. **Final papers due.**

### **ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:**

The course culminates in a research paper of 20-25 pages. I will provide you with a list of possible topics and related books for your book review. You may discuss alternative topics with me, but you need my approval to move ahead with these.

There are five graded written assignments for the course –

1. A 5 page essay with a prompt, so that I can provide feedback to you about writing and my expectations.
2. Review of a book on your chosen research topic that you will read. Will run 750-1000 words.
3. A bibliography for your chosen research topic. At least 20 titles.
4. An oral presentation on your work in progress.
5. A major research paper (20-25 pages) on your research topic.

Grades are weighted as follows:

Five page paper	10%
Book review	10%
Bibliography	10%

Presentation on work in progress	5%
Final paper	50%
Class participation	15%

## Required Books

Sheila Fitzpatrick, *The Russian Revolution*. **Available as e-book in Rush Rhees Library**

Valentin Katev, *Time, Forward!*. **Purchase.**

Robert Tucker, *Stalinism: Essays in Historical Interpretation*. **Best option ... rent or purchase Kindle edition on Amazon.**

Moshe Lewin, *Making of the Soviet System*. **Best option: Purchase on Amazon.**

Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*. **E-book at Rush Rhees or other options**

Lewis Siegelbaum, et al, editors. *Stalinism as a Way of Life: A Narrative in Documents*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000. **No need to purchase. We will make only limited use of book. In RR library catalogue as e-book.**

You will also be reading extensively in Lewis Siegelbaum, et al, eds., *Stalinism as a Way of Life*, which is available as an e-book on the library website. Other items will be articles, etc. that will be on e-reserve or available online through the library website.

Most of class time will be devoted to discussion of the readings. Therefore it is imperative that you do the readings and come to class prepared to discuss. Total reading length per week varies, but tails off towards the end of the course so you have time to work on your research papers. The last two weeks of class will be devoted to student work-in-progress presentations, so there are no readings assigned for them.

**TURN OFF IPHONES, ANDROIDS AND OTHER MOBILE DEVICES BEFORE CLASS. YOU'RE WELCOME TO BRING A LAPTOP TO IN-PERSON CLASSES. HOWEVER, DO NOT USE SOCIAL MEDIA, CHECK EMAIL OR BROWSE THE WEB WHILE CLASS IS IN SESSION.**

**NOTE ON ZOOM SESSION, ATTENDANCE AND RECORDING:** Some students will be online for every class. These Zoom sessions will be recorded and uploaded to course website. There will be some class discussion in many lecture classes, so you should attend lectures remotely or in person synchronously if at all possible. As we are close to classroom capacity I

ask that you follow your semester plan for attendance *always*, whether it is to attend in person or by Zoom. If you need to change attendance mode (for example if you are in-person and get COVID) please let me know.

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:** All assignments and activities associated with this course must be performed in accordance with the University of Rochester's Academic Honesty Policy. *I will not accept Paper One from students who have not signed the "Acceptance of Academic Honesty Policy" on the course Blackboard site.*

I DO NOT TOLERATE CHEATING OR PLAGIARISM (PRESENTING SOMEONE ELSE'S SCHOLARLY WORK AS YOUR OWN). I WILL PURSUE THE UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY PROCESS AGAINST STUDENTS WHO PLAGIARIZE OTHERS' WORK. AT A MINIMUM, STUDENTS WHO PLAGIARIZE WILL RECEIVE A "0" ON THE ASSIGNMENT IN QUESTION.

You are required to read the American Historical Association's "Defining Plagiarism" at <https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/plagiarism-curricular-materials-for-history-instructors/defining-plagiarism-before-the-second-class-meeting>.

**CREDIT HOURS:** The College's credit hour policy on undergraduate courses is to award 4 credit hours for courses that meet for the equivalent of 3 periods of 50 minutes each week. Students enrolled in History 208/208W are expected to devote at least several hours each week outside of class to reading, identifying the main lines of argument in readings, preparing for class discussion, writing papers, etc.

**INCLUSION STATEMENT:** The University of Rochester, this course, and I are committed to inclusion, and welcome students of all backgrounds and abilities. Services and reasonable accommodations are available to students with temporary and permanent disabilities, to students with DACA or undocumented status, to students facing mental health issues, other personal situations, and to students with other kinds of learning needs. Please feel free to let me know if there are circumstances affecting your ability to participate in class or your full participation in this course. Some resources that might be of use include:

- Office of Disability Resources. (disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall)
- Undocumented/DACA Student Support Contacts  
<https://www.rochester.edu/college/ccas/undergraduate/daca/index.html>
- University of Rochester CARE Network <https://www.rochester.edu/care/>

**COVID:** The University is committed to protecting the health and safety of the entire community – students, faculty and staff. For this reason, it is mandatory that everyone wear a mask in University buildings and observe appropriate social distancing, including classrooms. Masks have been provided to students, faculty and staff and classrooms have been specifically assigned to allow for social distancing to support these requirements. You must wear a mask appropriately (e.g. over nose and mouth) if you are attending class in person, and you must do this for every class session and for the entire duration of each class session. If you fail to do this, you will be politely reminded of the requirement and then asked to leave if you do not comply.

If you do not want to wear a mask, you may consider taking the course remotely (online). This may require you to complete a set of online requirements different from the in-person requirements, although these will be equivalent in their learning objectives.

Students who refuse to adhere to requirement for mask wearing or social distancing the course will be in violation of the [COVID-19 Community Commitment](#) and will be referred to the Student Conduct system through a [COVID-19 Concern Report](#). Such referrals will lead to student conduct hearings and may result in disciplinary action.

Students who feel unable to wear a mask may contact the [Office of Disability Resources](#) to explore options for accommodations. Students requiring accommodations may be asked to participate in the course through synchronous or asynchronous learning as part of this accommodation.

### **SOME COURSE GOALS:**

- Increase fluency in expository writing, including style and presentation of rigorous argument.
- Increase skill at close reading of texts, placing them in historical context and analysing their argument and rhetoric
- Develop ability to handle deep bibliographical research in the humanities and social sciences.
- Write a major research paper of publishable quality (though the topic may not be original enough for publication) built around a cohesive argument.
- Use primary source documents to understand the dynamics of Stalinist society, including such phenomena as the hierarchy of consumption, the nexus of purges, denunciation and terror, and differing attitudes towards the regime. Understand the reasons why there were many true believers in the Stalinist version of socialism.
- Grasp the development of the historiography of Stalinism, including Trotsky's critique of the regime, the totalitarian model, social history approaches, the discursive turn and "speaking Bolshevik," debates about "Soviet selves", nationalities policy and the debate between supporters of the "neotraditionalist" (neo-Weberian) image of Stalinist society and the "modernization" school.
- Be able to place Stalinism, Soviet history and even Russian history in the context of modern global history.
- Understand the unexpected consequences of the attempt in the USSR to implement Marxist theory.

**TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENT FOR COURSE:** A laptop with webcam, 8 GB of memory and 256 GB of local storage.