

**RUT 3503** (sections 19985 [1853], 19986 [1858]): **Violence and Terror in the Russian Experience**  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2018

Time:           **MWF 5** (11:45–12:35)  
Place:           **TURL 2349**  
Instructor:     **Dr. James Goodwin**

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Office phone:   **252c Dauer; (352) 273-3790**  
Office hours:   **MW 11:15-11:30, 2:00-2:45**

COURSE CONTENT:

Examines important episodes in Russia's cultural and historical development through well-known works of Russian literature (fiction, essays, documentary narratives), as well as in visual art (images and films). Our readings, viewings, lectures and class discussions will focus, above all, on ideas, events and/or movements that either generated or opposed manifestation of violent conflict, including:

- the drive to build and secure a strong Russian state;
- popular resistance to autocracy and tyranny;
- the Bolshevik (Communist) revolution and Russian civil war, 1917-1921;
- Stalin's Great Terror of the late 1930s;
- World War II and Soviet Russia's "Cold War" with the west;
- nationalism in post-Communist Russia and former Soviet republics.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- to increase your knowledge of Russia, its culture and history;
- to enhance your understanding of Russian literature, particularly how it has responded to social and political conflicts;
- to strengthen your critical reading and thinking skills, esp. when considering the historical, social, political (etc.) *contexts* from which well-known artistic/creative works evolved;
- [*writing section:*] to improve your academic writing skills, esp. your ability to explicate and support an expository *argument*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Regular class attendance (see "Attendance Policy," below), regular class engagement (see "Cell phone policy," below), and assimilation of class lectures and discussions;
- Punctual, close and **thorough** reading of all assigned texts, *which you should bring with you to class*;
- Completion of three scheduled written exams in class (see also "Exam format," below);
- [*Writing section only:*] A 2000-word expository essay on a pre-assigned topic (details forthcoming after first exam on 26 Sept.).

COURSE MATERIALS:

The four required books for the course are listed on UF's "Textbook Adoption" website and should be available at the UF bookstore. If you choose to obtain the books elsewhere, *be sure to purchase the editions/translations listed here*. If you cannot purchase the books, then you can find them on the two-hour reserve shelf at the Library West circulation desk:

- 1) Dostoevsky, Fyodor. ***Demons***. Translated by Robert Maguire. Edited by Ronald Meyer. Introduction by Robert Belknap (N.Y.: "Penguin Classics," 2008) [ISBN # 0141441410; *Lib West Rsv:* **PG3326 .B6 2008**]. An alternate edition, with same title, but translated by Pevear/Volokhonsky, is also on reserve at *Lib West:* **PG3326 .B6 1994**].
  - 2) Chukovskaya, Lydia. ***Sofia Petrovna***. Translated by Aline Werth (Northwestern U Pr., 1994) [ISBN # 0810111500; *Lib West Rsv:* **PG3476 .C485 O671x 1988**].
  - 3) Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr. ***In the First Circle: The First Uncensored Edition*** (the Restored Text). Translated by Harry T. Willetts. N.Y.: Harper Perennial, 2009 [ISBN # 0061479012; *Lib West Rsv:* **PG3488 .O4 V23 2009**].
  - 4) Tolstoy, Leo. ***Hadji Murat***. Translated by Pevear and Volokhonsky. Intro. by R. Pevear. N.Y.: Vintage, 2012. [ISBN # 0307951340; alternate edition at *Lib West Rsv:* **PG3366 .K5 2003**]. An alternate edition, with same title, but translated by *Aylmer Maude* (N.Y.: Mod. Library, 2003) is on reserve at *Lib West:* **PG3366.K5 2003**].
  - 5) [**recommended, but NOT required:**] Babel, Isaac. ***Red Cavalry***. Ed. N. Babel. Tr. P. Constantine. Intro. M. Dirda (N.Y.: Norton, 2003) [ISBN # 0393324230; *Lib West Rsv:* **PG3476 .B2 K613 2003**].
- Also required for this course are a number of shorter readings, which will be made available in PDF format either through our course "E-learning (Canvas)" site (<https://ufl.instructure.com/>), or the UF library's online electronic course reserve system, "ARES" (<https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu>). Images and visual art will be available in class only. One required film is on reserve at Library West.

EXAM FORMAT: This course requires three written exams of 50 minutes each. The three exams will gauge your knowledge and assimilation of material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. The exams typically include:

- [1] a brief factual component (identify important names, events, dates, etc.), based mainly on material covered in class;
- [2] a longer text recognition section (identify an excerpt from our readings and answer brief questions about it);
- [3] short definitions or explanations of important literary characters, terms, events, institutions, ideas, etc.;
- [4] a 200-300 word essay in which you respond in detail to a broader question on assigned readings and course content.

The second and third exams will cover *mainly* material introduced *since* the preceding exam. The third exam will take place *during finals week at our designated final exam time* (Wed., Dec. 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon).

**Term paper:** Those enrolled for **writing credit (“Gordon Rule” section 1853)** are required to write a 2000-word essay on one of several possible topics which I will give you *after* our first exam (on Wed. Sept. 26), together with specific instructions, technical requirements and grading criteria. Regardless of your selected topic, the assignment will ask you to present a thoughtful argument based on your original analysis of your chosen topic and text(s). It will *not* require additional research, but only your own interpretive “reading” of the selected text(s). The writing will be evaluated on content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style and mechanics. In order to receive the writing credit, the essay must receive a grade of “C” or higher. For more information, see UF’s rules for fulfilling the Writing Requirement: <http://undergrad.aa.ufl.edu/general-education/gen-ed-program/writing-requirement/>

**Make-up policy:** Except in the case of a certified illness or other officially approved reason (e.g. U.F.-assigned travel), there will be no make-up option for missed exams or term paper deadlines. Please do **NOT** request an individual assignment for extra credit in place of a missed exam or missed classes! If/when unavoidable, a make-up exam should be arranged in person with me *prior* to an anticipated excused absence. In case of certified illness, please contact me immediately following your return to classes.

**Attendance Policy:** Requirements for class attendance, make-up exams and other work are consistent with UF policies (see catalog: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Although there is no penalty for *officially* excusable absences (as defined by university policy), please **NOTE** that ***the number of attended class meetings counts for 10%*** of the course grade. Thus if a class is missed, even for officially acceptable reasons, then an attendance point will **not** be gained for that day. The attendance score will equal the percentage of meetings actually attended, so *be sure to sign the attendance list daily*. A second attendance percentage, which ignores *officially excused* absences, will factor into the “Course participation” portion of the final grade.

**Final course grades** will be assigned according to the following scale: **A** = a final course percentage of 93-100; **A-** = 90-92; **B+** = 87-89; **B** = 83-86; **B-** = 80-82; **C+** = 77-79; **C** = 73-76; **C-** = 70-72; **D+** = 67-69; **D** = 63-66; **D-** = 60-62; **E** = less than 60. U.F.’s “grade point” scale can be accessed at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Final course grades **for section “1858” (NO term paper)** will be based on the following percentages:

1. Attendance (number of class meetings attended) [see “Attendance policy,” above]. . . . . **10%**
2. Course participation (regular engagement in class, punctual & thorough completion of assigned readings & exams). . . . . **10%**
3. Three in-class exams.. . . . . **80%** (26.66% each)

Final course grades **for section “1853” (term paper required)** will be based on the following percentages:

1. Attendance (number of class meetings attended) [see “Attendance policy,” above]. . . . . **10%**
2. Course participation (daily involvement in class, punctual and thorough completion of assigned readings & exams). . . . . **10%**
3. 2000-word term paper (expository/interpretive essay), *due in class Mon., Dec. 3*. . . . . **10%**
4. Three in-class exams.. . . . . **70%** (23.33% each)

**Important dates and deadlines:**

- Exam № 1 (50 min., in-class).. . . . . **Wed., Sept. 26**  
Exam № 2 (50 min., in-class).. . . . . **Wed., Oct. 31**  
Exam № 3 (50 min., in-class, during our Final Exam slot: 10:00 a.m. — 12 noon).. . . . . **Wed., Dec. 12**  
[Writing section only:] Last day to submit *rough draft* of term paper to me. . . . . **Mon., Nov. 19**  
[Writing section only:] *Final draft* of term paper due in class. . . . . **Mon., Dec. 3**

**Cell phone / electronics policy:**

- Keep all cell phones **silent** (on “vibrate” mode, or off) for the duration of each class meeting. In the event of an emergency that requires your immediate use of a device, please *exit the classroom quietly before using your device*.
- Laptops or other electronic reading devices (tablets, e-book readers, etc.) should be used in class **ONLY** for the purpose of viewing one of our texts and/or taking notes. *Please do NOT use the internet OR read / write electronic messages during class*. Failure to respect this rule will result in a lower “Course Participation” component of the final grade.
- Once our class meeting is underway, please do **NOT** distract others in class by eating/drinking conspicuously or socializing audibly.

All are required to adhere to U.F.’s **Student Honor and Conduct Codes:** <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

**Classroom accommodation:** Students requesting classroom or test accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student who must then provide it to me for accommodation. Students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities will be accommodated according to UF policies.

**Course evaluation policy:** Students are expected to provide online feedback on the quality of instruction in this course at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Results of the assessments are available at: <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

## Weekly Topics, Readings & Exams

\*\*\*Our schedule of daily reading assignments will be posted on our [course elearning/Canvas site](#).\*\*\*

- Week 01 topics (for Aug. 22, 24): Introduction to the course. Survey of violence and terror in Russia history. The rise of a strong Russian state and its consequences, from Ivan the Terrible to Peter the Great. **Readings:** Essay on St. Basil's Cathedral.
- Week 02 (Aug. 27, 29, 31): Conflicts between state and intelligentsia under Nicholas I (ruled 1825-55). Revolutionary thought and practice from Nicholas I through the first years of Alexander II's reign (ruled 1855-1881). **Readings:** Pushkin; Belinsky; Turgenev; Dostoevsky.
- Week 03 (Sept. 5, 7): Nihilism. **Readings:** Bakunin; Nechaev; Dostoevsky.
- Week 04 (Sept. 10, 12, 14): "The Nechaev affair". **Readings:** Dostoevsky.
- Week 05 (Sept. 17, 19, 21): Political violence and the assassination of Alexander II. War and the end of imperial Russia, 1914–1917. **Readings:** Dostoevsky; Kropotkin; Lenin.
- Week 06 (Sept. 24, 26, 28): The "October" Revolution and Civil War (1917–1921). EXAM 1. **Readings:** Babel.
- Week 07 (Oct. 1, 3, 5): Civil War (continued) and its costs. The Death of Lenin and Rise of Stalin. **Readings:** Pilnyak; Chukovskaia.
- Week 08 (Oct. 8, 10, 12): Stalinism and the Great Terror (1937–38). World War II in Soviet Russia (1941-45). **Readings:** Chukovskaia; Soviet authors on World War II.
- Week 09 (Oct. 15, 17, 19): The GULAG experience. Stalin's final years and the beginnings of "cold war." **Readings:** Solzhenitsyn.
- Week 10 (Oct. 22, 24, 26): The GULAG experience. Stalin's final years (continued). **Readings:** Solzhenitsyn.
- Week 11 (Oct. 29, 31): The GULAG experience. Stalin's final years (continued). EXAM 2. **Readings:** Solzhenitsyn.
- Week 12 (Nov. 5, 7, 9): The GULAG experience. Stalin's final years (conclusion) **Readings:** Solzhenitsyn.
- Week 13 (Nov. 14, 16): Twilight of the U.S.S.R. *Demons* and nationalism in a late-Soviet context. **Reading:** Pushkin; Mamin (film).
- Week 14 (Nov. 19): Tolstoi on corporal punishment. **Readings:** Tolstoi.
- Week 15 (Nov. 26, 28, 30): Tolstoi's critique of war, church and state. Ethnic separatism in the Caucasus. **Readings:** Tolstoi.
- Week 16 (Dec. 3, 5): Final remarks. [writing section:] *Printed copy of term papers due in class!*
- Week 17 (Dec. 10): FINAL EXAM, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.