

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

# The Soviet Experiment His 3420G

**SYLLABUS  
Winter 2012**

Time: Thursday 12:30 – 2:30  
Classroom: TBA  
Office Hours: Wed 2:30 – 4:00

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## **Course Description**

The rise and fall of the Soviet Union had a profound impact on European and global affairs. Yet for many, Russia remains an enigma. This course examines the USSR from a variety of perspectives. It looks at the diverse peoples who lived in the USSR, the politics, ideology, economic and social issues, and foreign dimensions that shaped their lives. Drawing on the rich primary and secondary sources available, including statements of key actors, diary accounts, documents, as well as literary and cinematographic depictions, it explores the controversies that continue to shape this historical phenomenon.

## **Regulations**

Anti-requisite: the former History 439E  
Prerequisite: 1.0 history course at the 2200 level or above.

**Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites** *Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.*

## Course Requirements

This course is conducted in seminar format. Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in the discussion based on the weekly readings. Once during the semester each student will be asked to make a seminar presentation and lead the class in discussion. The presentations should not be summaries of the week's readings or book reports. Rather they ought to bring out the main points, issues and problems of each subject and wherever possible, should be linked to other weeks' themes and readings. Oral presentations should be no more than 30 minutes in length. Students will be asked to write one book review due in **week 5**, and one analytical **essay**, 4,000 - 4,500 words in length, due in class on **week 11**. A brief topic proposal for the research paper (including some indication of sources) should be submitted by **week 6**. A film will be screened during the course, attendance is mandatory.

## Grades

Grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown:

| <u>Assignment</u>     | <u>Grade</u> | <u>Due Date</u>  |
|-----------------------|--------------|--|
| seminar               | 20%          | selected topic   |
| book review           | 10%          | <b>week 5</b>  |
| class participation   | 20%          | weekly   |
| essay                 | 25%          | proposal due <b>week 6</b><br>essay due <b>week 11</b> |
| Take Home examination | 25%          | April 2012   |

## Readings

### *Required:*

- Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006)
- Remnick, David, *Lenin's Tomb: The Last Days of the Soviet Empire* (Random House, paperback, 1993, 1994)
- His 3420F Course Packet of Primary Documents (2010)

Required readings will be available electronically and on reserve at Weldon Library. A course packet of primary sources will be prepared and will be available for purchase at the bookstore. Additional readings may be suggested during the course.

### *Primary Sources:*

- Acton, Edward and Tom Stableford (eds.) *The Soviet Union. A Documentary History* (Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2007)
- Carynyk, Marco et al (eds.) *The Foreign Office and the Famine* (Kingston: Limestone, 1988)
- Fitzpatrick, Shiela, (ed.) *Stalinism. New Directions* (London and New York: Routledge, 2000)
- Havel, Vaclav, *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens Against the State in East Central Europe* (Cambridge: Granta in Association with Penguin, 1989)
- Hogan, Ed (ed.) *From three worlds: new Ukrainian writing* (Zephyr Press, 1996)
- Kollontai, Alexandra *Selected writings of Alexandra Kollontai* (translated [from the Russian] with an introduction and commentaries by Alix Holt) (London: Allison and Busby, 1977)
- Luckyj, George S. N., (ed.) *Modern Ukrainian Short Stories* Rev. ed. (Englewood, Colo: Ukrainian Academic Press, 1995)
- Sakwa, Richard, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union 1917-1991* (London and New York: Routledge, 1999)
- Stokes, Gale, *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996)
- Suny, Ronald Grigor, *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003)
- Tucker, Robert C., (ed.) *The Lenin Anthology* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1975)

### *Recommended:*

- Alexeyeva, Ludmilla and Paul Goldberg, *The Thaw Generation: Coming of Age in the Post-Stalin Era* (University of Pittsburgh Press, paperback, 1990, 1993)
- Daniels, Robert V. *The Rise and Fall of Communism in Russia* (Yale, 2007)
- Kuromiya, Hiroaki. *Stalin* (Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Longman, 2005)
- Hosking, Geoffrey. *The first socialist society: a history of the Soviet Union from within* (Cambridge. MA: Harvard University Press, 1993)
- Malia, Martin E. *The Soviet tragedy: a history of socialism in Russia, 1917-1991* (New York: Free Press; Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada; New York: Maxwell Macmillan International, 1994)
- McCauley, Martin, *The Soviet Union 1917-1991.* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed (London and New York: Longman, 1993)

- Service, Robert, *Comrades! A History of World Communism* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007)
- Simon, Gerhard. *Nationalism and Policy Towards the Nationalities in the Soviet Union. From Totalitarian Dictatorship to Post-Stalinist Society* Translated by Karen Forster and Oswald Forster. (Boulder, San Francisco, Oxford: Westview Press, 1991)
- Suny, Ronald Grigor, *Revenge of the Past. Nationalism, Revolution and the Collapse of the Soviet Union* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1993)
- Suny, Ronald G. *The Soviet Experiment* (Oxford University Press, paperback, 1998)
- Suny, Ronald Grigor (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Russia. Vol. 3. The Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006)
- Suny, Ronald Grigor, *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003)
- Sheila Fitzpatrick and Yuri Slezkine, eds., *In the Shadow of the Revolution: Life Stories of Russian Women: From 1917 to the Second World War* (Princeton University Press, paperback, 2000)

### ***Selected Journals***

- Canadian Slavonic Papers  
 Central Asian Survey  
 Communist and Post-Communist Studies (formerly Studies in Comparative Communism)  
 Communist Economies and Economic Transformation  
 Demokratizatsiia  
 East European Constitutional Review  
 East European Politics and Societies  
 Europe-Asia Studies (formerly Soviet Studies)  
 Journal of Communist Studies  
 Journal of Democracy  
 Nationalities Papers  
 Post-Soviet Affairs (formerly Soviet Economy)  
 Problems of Post-Communism  
 Russian History  
 Russian Review  
 Slavic Review

### **Selected Electronic Resources**

The American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies (AAASS)  
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~aaass/>

Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham,  
<http://www.crees.bham.ac.uk/>

Russian and East European Studies, University of Oxford,  
<http://www.rees.ox.ac.uk/>

Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at Stanford University  
<http://crees.stanford.edu/>

Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies (CERES) at Georgetown University

<http://ceres.georgetown.edu/>

Herbert J. Ellison Center for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies,  
University of Washington  
<http://jsis.washington.edu/ellison/>

Russian and East European Studies, Yale University  
[http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/ycps/chapter\\_iv/russian.html](http://www.yale.edu/yalecollege/publications/ycps/chapter_iv/russian.html)

The Centre for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (CERES) at the University of  
Toronto  
<http://www.utoronto.ca/ceres/>

Russian, Eurasian & East European Studies, Columbia University,  
<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/slavic/index.html>

University of Pittsburg Russian and East European Studies  
<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/crees/>

RFE/RL NEWSLINE. A daily report of developments in Eastern and Southeastern  
Europe, Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia prepared by the staff of Radio Free  
Europe/Radio Liberty.

Web-site: <http://www.rferl.org/newsline/search/>

Institute for the Study of Conflict, Ideology and Policy, Boston University  
<http://www.bu.edu/iscip/index.html>

Johnson's Russia List - provides twice daily transmissions of articles on Russia from the  
press worldwide. To subscribe send a message to davidjohnson@erols.com informing  
him that you are a student and would like to subscribe free of charge

The CDI Russia Weekly an e-mail newsletter that carries news and analysis on all  
aspects of today's Russia. With funding from the Carnegie Corporation of New York,  
CDI Russia Weekly is a project of the Washington-based Center for Defense Information  
(CDI), a nonprofit research and education organization.

Central Europe Review. A weekly on-line journal of Central and East European politics,  
society and culture.  
[http://www.ce-review.org/\\_about.html](http://www.ce-review.org/_about.html)

bibliography compiled by Andrea Graziosi  
[www.fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/biblioguide.htm](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~hpcws/biblioguide.htm)

## **Week 1. Introduction to the Study of Soviet History**

(12 January 2012)

### Secondary Sources

- Carr, E. H., *What Is History?* 2nd. ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1986) Chapter 1
- Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 1
- Motyl, Alexander J. "Sovietology in One Country or Comparative Nationality Studies?" in *Slavic Review* Vol. 48, No. 1 (Spring 1989)
- Remnick, David. *Lenin's Tomb. The Last Days of the Soviet Empire* (New York: Random House, 1993), Chapter 1

### Primary Sources

See discussion in *Slavic Review*, April 1993

## **Week 2. The Russian Empire on the Eve of Revolution and the 1917 Revolutions**

(19 January 2012)

### Secondary Sources

- Smith, S. A., "The Revolutions of 1917-1918," in Ronald Grigor Suny, (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Russia*. Vol. 3. The Twentieth Century (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 4.
- Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 2.

### Primary Sources

- "The Emergence of Bolshevism," "Early Critics of Lenin," "1905 and Beyond," "The Intelligentsia and Revolution," in Richard Sakwa, *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union 1917-1991* (London and New York: Routledge, 1999):  
pp. 5-22
- Lenin, V. I., "What Is To Be Done?" (excerpt) in Sakwa, pp. 6-8, full text in Robert C. Tucker, (ed.) *The Lenin Anthology* (New York: W. W. Norton, 1975), pp. 12 – 114)
- Lenin, V. I., "One Step Forward, Two Steps Backwards," (excerpt) in Sakwa, pp. 8-9
- Lenin, V. I., "On Democratic Centralism," in Sakwa, pp. 16-17
- Lenin, V. I., "On Party Mindedness," in Sakwa, pp. 135-16
- Luxemburg, Rosa, "Leninism or Marxism?" in Sakwa, pp. 10-11
- "Order No. 1," in Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003) pp. 32-35
- Trotsky, Leon, "Our Political Tasks," in Sakwa, pp. 11-12
- Trotsky, Leon, "Permanent Revolution," in Sakwa, pp. 14-15
- Tsereteli at the First Congress of Soviets, in Sakwa, pp. 38-39

### **Week 3. Civil War and War Communism**

(26 January 2012)

#### Secondary Sources

Evtukhov, Catherine, David Goldfrank, Lindsey Hughes and Richard Stites, *A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces* (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company: 2004), Chapter 31

Malia, Martin E. *The Soviet tragedy: a history of socialism in Russia, 1917-1991* (New York: Free Press; Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada; New York: Maxwell Macmillan International, 1994), Chapters 3 and 4.

#### Primary Sources

“Dissolution of the Constituent Assembly,” in Suny, pp. 67-73

Establishment of the Secret Police, in Sakwa, pp. 74-75

Trotsky and the Red Army, in Sakwa, p. 81

Kautsky on the Russian Revolution, in Sakwa, pp. 91-94

Khvylovy, Mykola, "My Being," in George S. N. Luckyj (ed.) *Modern Ukrainian Short Stories* Rev. ed. (Englewood, Colo: Ukrainian Academic Press, 1995)

### **Week 4. The Non-Russians**

(2 February 2012)

#### Secondary Sources

Suny, Ronald G. *The Soviet Experiment* (Oxford University Press, paperback, 1998), Chapter 4

Martin, Terry, “An Affirmative Action Empire: The Soviet Union as the Highest Form of Imperialism,” in Ronald Grigor Suny and Terry Martin (eds.), *A State of Nations. Empire and Nation – Making in the Age of Lenin and Stalin* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001), Part I, p. 67

Smith, Jeremy, “The Non-Russians in the Soviet Union and After,” in Ronald Grigor Suny, (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Russia. Vol. 3. The Twentieth Century* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 18

#### Primary Sources

Lenin, V. I., "Communism and the East: Theses on the National and Colonial Questions;" "Against Great Russian Chauvinism," in Tucker, pp. 619-625

Lenin, V. I., "Against Great Russian Chauvinism," in Tucker, pp. 659-660

“Nationalism, Imperialism and the Great War,” in Sakwa, pp. 23-31

### **Week 5. The Crisis of War Communism and NEP**

(9 February 2012)

## **BOOK REVIEW DUE IN CLASS**

### Secondary Sources

Ball, Alan, "Building a New State and Society: NEP 1921-1928," in in Ronald Grigor Suny, (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Russia*. Vol. 3. The Twentieth Century (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 6.

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 3.

### Primary Sources

Lenin, "Communism and the New Economic Policy," in Tucker, pp. 518-533  
"On the Replacement of Requisitioning by a Tax in Kind," Lenin on the "Tax in Kind,"  
"Lenin puts NEP in Perspective," in Sakwa, pp. 127-131  
Lenin, V. I., "Letter to the Congress, 23-31 December 1922," (Lenin's Testament), in Suny, pp. 118-123 (Not in course reader)

## **6. Revolution from Above**

(16 February 2012)

## **ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS**

### Secondary Sources

Kuromiya, Hiroaki. *Stalin* (Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Longman, 2005), Chapter 3, Battle Royale, pp. 58-73, Chapter 4, Revolution from Above

Malia, Martin, "The Soviet Tragedy: A History of Socialism in Russia. The Stalin Question," in Hoffmann, David L. (ed.) *Stalinism: the essential readings* (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003)

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 4.

Suny, Ronald Grigor, *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), pp. 151-164 (not in course reader)

### Primary Sources

Stalin, "On Leninism, the Party and Dictatorship," in Sakwa, pp, 164-166  
Correspondence between Kamenev and Bukharin, 11 July 1928, Voroshilov and Orjonikidze 8 Jun 1929, Stalin to V and O on 30 Sept 1929, in Suny, pp. 137-141  
Stalin, "On the Tasks of Workers in the Economy," 4 Feb 1931, in Suny, pp. 294-295 (not in course reader)



## 20 – 24 February 2012 Family Week – No Class

### 7. Famine and Terror

(1 March 2012)

#### Secondary Sources

Kuromiya, Hiroaki. *Stalin* (Harlow, England; New York: Pearson/Longman, 2005), Chapter 5

Lemkin, Rafael, "Soviet Genocide in Ukraine," *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 2009 7(1):123-130, also introduction by Roman Serbyn, "Lemkin on the Ukrainian Genocide,"

Remnick, 62-69, 105-115, 127-140

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 5

#### Primary Sources

Pashkovskyi, Yevhen, Short Story, in Ed Hogan (ed.) *From three worlds: new Ukrainian writing* (Zephyr Press, 1996)

Tour by Mr. W. Duranty in North Caucuses and the Ukraine: William Strang (Moscow) to Sir John Simon, 26 September 1933, in Marco Carynnyk et al (eds.) *The Foreign Office and the Famine* (Kingston: Limestone, 1988), Document 50, pp. 309-313

The Great Terror in Sakwa, pp. 211- 214

Kravchenko, Victor, "Horror in the Village," from *I Chose Freedom*, in Suny  
Mandelstam, Nadezhda, "A May Night," in Suny, pp. 232-240

### 8. FILM: Harvest of Despair (1985, Canada)

(8 March 2012)

This film documents the Ukrainian terror famine of 1932--33, which caused the deaths of 7,000,000 people. Using interviews with survivors and scholars to supplement rare photographic evidence, it established that the terror famine was deliberately created by the Soviet Government as part of Stalin's decades-long effort to destroy the Ukrainian peasantry, who resisted the forced collectivization of their lands. Since its original release, it has received many international awards (including an Academy Award nomination) and has been featured on William F. Buckley's Firing Line program on the PBS television network. A powerful film, Harvest of Despair provides rare insight into one of this century's least-known but most vicious genocides.

## **9. Women, Family, Culture, Class, Education and Everyday Life**

(15 March 2012)

### Secondary Sources

Engel, Barbara Alpern, *Women in Russia, 1700-2000* (Cambridge, U.K.; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2004), Chapters 7, 8

McCauley, Martin, *The Soviet Union 1917-1991*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (London and New York: Longman, 1993), pp. 127-131

Fitzpatrick, Sheila, "The Bolshevik Invention of Class: Marxist Theory and the Making of 'Class Consciousness' in Soviet Society," in Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2003), p. 164.

Von Geldern, James, "The Politics of Culture, 1900 – 1945," in Ronald Grigor Suny, (ed.) *The Cambridge History of Russia*. Vol. 3. The Twentieth Century (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 21

### Primary Sources

"The Code of Laws on Marriage, Divorce and the Family and Guardianship, 19 November 1926," in Suny, pp. 130-137 (not in course reader)

"Cultural Transformation," in Sakwa, pp. 191-198

Hellbeck, Jochen, "Fashioning the Stalinist Soul. The Diary of Stepan Podlubnyi, 1931-1939," in Shiela Fitzpatrick (ed.) *Stalinism. New Directions* (London and New York: Routledge, 2000), pp. 77-116

Lenin, "On the Emancipation of Women," in Tucker, pp. 679-799

*Selected writings of Alexandra Kollontai* (translated [from the Russian] with an introduction and commentaries by Alix Holt) (London : Allison and Busby, 1977)

"On Teaching of Civic History in the Schools of the USSR," Decree of the Council of People's Commissars of the USSR, 16 May 1934, in Suny, pp. 228-229

## **10. The Outside World, War, Expansion, Reconstruction and The Cold War**

(22 March 2012)

### Secondary Sources

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapters 6, 7

Kennan, George, "X" Article, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct," *Foreign Affairs* (July 1947)

Marples, David R. *Motherland: Russia in the 20th century* (Harlow: Longman, 2002), Chapter 6.

Remnick, pp. 3-23, 86-100, 389-411

## 10. The Outside World, War, Expansion, Reconstruction and The Cold War

(22 March 2012) (con't)

### Primary Sources

Churchill, Excerpts from the Iron Curtain Speech, Stalin Interview in Pravda, Acton, pp. 199-205

Churchill, "The Percentages Agreement," in Gale Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 31-32

"Order No. 270," in Edward Acton and Tom Stableford (eds.) *The Soviet Union. A Documentary History* (Exeter: University of Exeter Press, 2007), pp. 76-79

Stalin's Interview with Roy Howard in the Scripps-Howard Publication, 1936, Suny, pp. 295-297 (not in course reader)

Stalin's Radio Broadcast of 3 July 1941 in Sakwa, pp. 254-255

"The Truman Doctrine and the Two Camp Policy," in Stokes, pp. 33-42

"What is the Ukrainian Insurgent Army Fighting For?" in Acton, pp. 189-190

## 11. Revisionism and Decline: Khrushchev and Brezhnev

(29 March 2012)

### **ESSAY DUE IN CLASS**

### Secondary Sources

Dziuba, Ivan, *Internationalism of Russification. A Study in the Soviet Nationalities Problem* 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. in English: Pref. by Peter Archer. Edited by M. Davies. (London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1970), Letter to P. Yu. Shelest and V. V. Shcherbyts'kyi and Introduction

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed. (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapters 8, 9.

Remnick, pp. 270-276

### Primary Sources

"The Brezhnev Doctrine," in Stokes, pp. 131-134

Burlatskii, Fedor, "Brezhnev and the End of the Thaw," in Suny, pp. 379-385

Decline in Economic growth, the Novosibirsk Report, in Acton, pp. 285-290

Djilas, Milovan, "The New Class," in Stokes, pp. 100-106 (not in course reader)

Excerpts from Khrushchev's Secret Speech, in Acton pp. 308-310,

The Fall of Khrushchev, in Acton, pp. 319-320

"From a KGB report on Dissidents, 21 December 1970," in Acton, pp. 358-359

Havel, Vaclav, *The Power of the Powerless: Citizens Against the State in East Central Europe* (Cambridge: Granta in Association with Penguin, 1989), Ch 1

## 12. The Gorbachev Factor and Collapse

(5 April 2012)

### Secondary Sources

Kenez, Peter. *A history of the Soviet Union from the beginning to the end* 2nd ed.

(Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Chapter 10

Malia, Martin (Z) "To the Stalin Mausoleum," in *Daedalus*, Vol. 119, No. 1 (1990); also in Alexander Dallin and Gail W. Lapidus (eds.) *The Soviet System. From Crisis to Collapse* 2nd. rev. ed. (Boulder, Colo., San Francisco and Oxford: Westview Press, 1995) – available on-line

Remnick, 216-233, 234-247, 342-340, 451-474

### Primary Sources

"The August Coup," and "The End of the USSR," in Suny, pp. 456-475 (not in course reader)

Gorbachev's Speech to the United Nations, 1988, Perestroika, Glasnost, in Acton, pp. 378-381, 386-399

Havel, Vaclav, New Year's Day Speech 1990 in Stokes, pp. 249-253

Soviet Moves to Thwart Lithuania, The August Putsch, Emergency Committee Appeal, Yeltsin's Appeal, Joint Declaration, Gorbachev's 25 December 1991 Broadcast, in Acton, 426-428, 444-445, 447-449, 450-452, 456, 460

## THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

### PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate

reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)

