Gender and the Soviet Experiment
HIST 743

Wednesdays 9:30-12:30 in CNH 614
Dr. T. McDonald
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Course Aims

The course would look at what the Revolution of 1917 promised women and men in terms of general emancipation, sexual emancipation, work, and identity. The course will consider the relationship between Marxism and feminism in the Soviet context and the impact of Stalinism on women and men. The course focuses on major historical works and primary sources from the Revolution of 1917 to the end of World War II. The course emphasizes group discussion and participation.

Term Work and Percentage Value of Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>rolling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historiographical Review</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>28 Oct or 4 Nov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historiography Paper (25 pages)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>11 Dec</td>
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</tbody>
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Late Penalty

There is a late penalty of 3% per day for all late assignments

The Nature of the Assignments

Participation

This portion of your grade is based on attendance and participation in discussion. Just being present will get you 50% of the participation grade. The rest is based on your contribution to discussion. If you are having difficulty participating please speak with me in the first two weeks of class. Students, while they are encouraged to challenge one another, must be professional and respectful to their colleagues.
**Facilitation**

Depending on the number of students in the class, each student will be responsible for leading one or more class discussions along with me. Students will be asked to raise discussion questions and facilitate the discussion for the class itself. Students will be assessed on the quality of questions raised and their ability to facilitate discussion.

**Historiographical Assessment / Review**

Students will be asked to write an historiographical review/assessment of the articles for either (it is your choice) Week 8 (on Central Asia) or Week 9 (on Gender and War). Your review should be approximately 8 pages long and should develop an argument about how historians have approached, conceptualized, researched, argued, and presented the issues surrounding either gender in Central Asia in the early Soviet period, or gender and war. The assignment is due to me in class **BEFORE** our discussion so that no one has the unfair advantage of writing after the discussion. **PLEASE START THIS ASSIGNMENT EARLY. IT IS MORE CHALLENGING THAN IT FIRST APPEARS.**

**Research Paper**

Your paper topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor. The paper is an historiographic paper of approximately 20 to 25 pages in length.

**Books Available for Purchase**

**Required:**

- Fitzpatrick and Slezkine, *In the Shadow of Revolution*
- Garros et. al., *Intimacy and Terror*
- Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia*
- Naiman, *Sex in Public*
- Olesha, *Envy*

**Optional:**

- Suny, *The Soviet Experiment: Russia, the USSR, and the Successor States*

**Note on Readings**

Most articles are available online through the Mills library catalog. I will place a copy of articles or excerpts that are not available online in the department mail slot for our course. Those readings will be marked with an *. Please cooperate with one another and share access to readings. I expect all readings to be done by every student each week.
Academic Integrity

“Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, specifically Appendix 3, located at http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrate only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism or the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. Failure to adequately reference material that you use in an essay is plagiarism.
2. Improper collaboration in group work
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Email Policy

It is the policy of the McMaster History Department that all email communication between students and instructors (including TAs) must originate from the student’s own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identities of both the student and instructor. History department instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Course Modifications

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.
Course Outline

Week 1 – 16 September
Introductions
Organization of presentations

Week 2 – 23 September
Theory and Methodology - General


Bock, “Women’s History and Gender History: Aspects of an International Debate,” *Gender and History* 1 No. 1, Spring, 1989: 7-30

Bennett, “Feminism and History,” *Gender and History* vol. 1, No. 3, Autumn 1989: 251-272


Facilitator:

Week 3 - 30 September
The Soviet context


Facilitator:

**Week 4 – 7 October**

**Masculinities**

Olesha, *Envy*

*Borenstein – chapter 3 on Envy in Men Without Women* (in the department mail slot)


Facilitator:

**Week 5 – 14 October**

**Revolutionary Love (I)**


Donald, “‘What did you do in the Revolution, Mother?’ Image, Myth and Prejudice in Western Writing on the Russian Revolution,” *Gender and History* 7, No. 1, April 1995: 85-99

Facilitator:
Week 6 – 21 October

Revolutionary Love (II)

Naiman, *Sex in Public*

Facilitator:

Week 7 – 28 October

Alternate Revolutionary Love (III)

Dan Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia* (Chicago: 2001)


Facilitator:

Week 8 – 28 October

The Central Asian Debate

*Massell, The Surrogate Proletariat, excerpts*


Possible Articles for Written Historiographic Assessment / Review due today in class.

Week 9 – 4 November

Gender and War


Plus Krylova from week 3 above.

**Possible Articles for Historiographic Assessment / Review due today in class.**

**Week 10 – 11 November**

**Personal Accounts**

Garros, et al., *Intimacy and Terror* I

**Week 11 – 18 November**

**Personal Accounts**

Garros et al., *Intimacy and Terror* II

**Week 12 – 25 November**

**Personal Accounts**

Fitzpatrick and Slezkine, *In the Shadows* I

**Week 13 – 2 December**

**Personal Accounts**

Fitzpatrick and Slezkine, *In the Shadows* II

**Final Paper Due 11 December 2009**
Soviet Gender Bibliography

Disclaimers:

1. This is not an exhaustive bibliography but merely a starting point for research and ideas.
2. I cannot guarantee the excellence of all of the works on the list.
3. Vast amounts of the writings of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, et. al. can be found and searched online.

Reference Guides

Nemec Ignashev, *Women and writing in Russia and the USSR: a bibliography of English-language sources*
Ruthchild, *Women in Russia and the Soviet Union: an annotated bibliography*
Zirin, *Women, gender, and family in the Soviet Union and Central/East Europe: preliminary bibliography*

Books

Aminova, *The October Revolution and women's liberation in Uzbekistan*
Anderson, *The life course of Soviet women born 1905-1960*
Atkinson, *Women in Russia*
Attwood, *Creating the new Soviet Woman: women's magazines as engineers of female identity, 1922-1999*
Attwood, *Red women on the silver screen: Soviet women and cinema from the beginning to the end of the communist era*
Attwood, *The new Soviet man and woman: sex-role socialization in the USSR*
Berry, *Postcommunism and the body politic*
Borenstein, *Men without Women*
Bowlt and Drutt, *Amazons of the Avant-Garde* (Guggenheim, 2000)
Bridger, *Women in the Soviet countryside: women's roles in rural development in the Soviet Union*
Browning, *Women and politics in the USSR: consciousness raising and Soviet women's groups*
Buckley, *Post-Soviet women: from the Baltic to Central Asia*
Buckley, *Perestroika and Soviet women*
Buckley, *Women and ideology in the Soviet Union*
Buckley, *Soviet social scientists talking: an official debate about women*
Celmina, *Women in Soviet prisons*
Chatterjee, *Celebrating Women: gender, festival culture and Bolshevik Ideology, 1910-1939*
Chatterjee, *Soviet heroines and public identity, 1930-1939*
Clayton, *Education, job experience and the gap between male and female wages in the Soviet Union*
Clements et al., *Russian Masculinities* (Palgrave, 2002)
Clements, *Bolshevik Feminist: The Life of Aleksandra Kollontai*
Clements, *Bolshevik Women*
Clements, *Daughters of Revolution*
Clements et. al., *Russia's women: accommodation, resistance, transformation*
Costlow (ed.), *Sexuality and the Body in Russian Culture*, 1993
Corrin, *Superwomen and the double burden: women's experience of change in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union*
Cottam, *V nebe frontovom. English*
Cottam, *Soviet airwomen in combat in World War II*
Cottam, *Women in war and resistance: selected biographies of Soviet women soldiers*
Cottam, *Women in air war: the eastern front of World War II*
Edmondson, *Gender in Russian History and Culture*
Edmondson, *Women and society in Russia and the Soviet Union*
Elwood, *Inessa Armand: revolutionary and feminist*
Engel, *Women in Russia, 1700-2000*
Farnsworth, *Russian peasant women*
Farnsworth, *Aleksandra Kollontai: socialism, feminism, and the Bolshevik Revolution*
Farnsworth, *Bolshevism, The Woman Question, And Aleksandra Kollontai*
Funk, *Gender politics and post-communism: reflections from eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union*
Fuqua, *The politics of the domestic sphere: the zhenotdel, women's liberation and the search for a novyi byt in early Soviet Russia*
Giles, *Feminists under fire: exchanges across war zones*
Goscilo, *Dehexing sex: Russian womanhood during and after glasnost*
Goscilo, *Russia--women--culture*
Goscilo (ed.), *Fruits of Her Plume. Essays on Contemporary Russian women's culture*,
Halle, *Woman in Soviet Russia*
Healey, *Homosexual Desire in Revolutionary Russia*
Heldt, *Terrible Perfection*
Heyat, *Azeri women in transition: women in Soviet and post-Soviet Azerbaijan*
Holland, *Soviet sisterhood*
Katz, *Gender, work and wages in the Soviet Union: a legacy of discrimination*
Kuehnast, *Post-Soviet women encountering transition: nation building, economic survival, and civic activism*
Ilic, *Women in the Khrushchev Era*
Ilic, *Women in the Stalin Era*
Ilic, *Women workers in the Soviet interwar economy*
Jolluck, *Exile and Identity, Polish Women in the Soviet Union during WWII*
Lapidus, *Women, work, and family in the Soviet Union*
Liljestrom, *Models of self: Russian women's autobiographical texts*
Mandel, *Markets and moralities: ethnographies of postsocialism*
Mamonova, *Russian women's studies: essays on sexism in Soviet culture*
Massell, *The surrogate proletariat: Moslem women and revolutionary strategies in Soviet Central Asia, 1919-1929*
Mayne, *Kino and the woman question: feminism and Soviet silent film*
McAndrew, *The new Soviet woman - model or myth*
McAuley, *Women's work and wages in the Soviet Union*
McDermid, *Midwives of the Revolution: female Bolsheviks and women workers in 1917*
McDermid, *Women and Work in Russia, 18880-1930: a study in continuity through change*
McLaughlin, *The Image of women in contemporary Soviet fiction: selected short stories from the USSR*
Moskoff, *Labour and leisure in the Soviet Union: the conflict between public and private decision-making in a planned economy*
Moghadam, *Democratic reform and the position of women in transitional economies*
Mullaney, *Revolutionary Women: Gender and the Socialist Revolutionary Role*
Myles, *Night witches, the untold story of Soviet women in combat*
Naiman, *Sex in Public*
Noggle, *A dance with death: Soviet airwomen in World War II*
Oja, *From Krestianka to Udarnitsa: rural women and the vydvyzhenie campaign*
Page, *Moscow Yankee*
Patnaik, *Perestroika and women labour force in Soviet central Asia*
Pennington, *Wings, Women and War: Soviet airwomen in WWII*
Rosenberg, *Women and perestroika*
Rzhani’t’syna, *Female labour under socialism: the socio-economic aspects*
Samiuddin, *Muslim feminism and the feminust movement in Central Asia*
Shapolvalov, *Remembering the darkness: women in Soviet prisons*
Shlapentokh, *Love, marriage, and friendship in the Soviet Union: ideals and practice*
Stites, *The women's liberation movement in Russia: feminism, nihilism, and bolshevism, 1860-1930*
Tirado, *The village voice: women's views of themselves and their world in Russian chastushki of the 1920's*
Wood, *The Baba and the Comrade* (Indiana, 1997)

**Articles**


Attwood, “*"Hearing a woman's voice": female perspectives on change in Russia and the former Soviet Union,” Journal of Women's History* v 8 Summer 1996. p. 181-90


Clements, “The Effects of the Civil War on Women and Family Relations,” in Koenker et. al. (eds), Party, State and Society in the Russian Civil War (Indiana, 1989): 105-122


Farnsworth, “The rural batrachka (hired agricultural laborer) and the Soviet campaign to unionize her,” *Journal of Women's History* v 14 no1 Spring 2002. p. 64-93


Gorsuch, “"A woman is not a man": the culture of gender and generation in Soviet Russia, 1921-1928,” *Slavic Review* v 55 Fall 1996. p. 636-60


Mally, “Performing the new woman: the Komsomolka as actress and image in Soviet youth theater,” *Journal of Social History* v 30 Fall 1996. p. 79-95


Primary Sources

Aleksievich, War's unwomanly face
Bobrovskaya, Twenty years in underground Russia : memoirs of a rank-and-file Bolshevik
Broido, Daughter of revolution : a Russian girlhood remembered
Carnaghan, Political attitudes and the gender gap in the USSR : evidence from former Soviet citizens
Engel, A Revolution of their Own: voices of women in Soviet History
Engels, The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State
Figner, Vera, 1852-1942. Memoirs of a revolutionist
Fitzpatrick, Women and Russia : feminist writings from the Soviet Union
Fitzpatrick and Slezkine, In the Shadow of Revolution
Friesen, Daydreams & nightmares : life on the Wintergruen estate
Garros, et. al. Intimacy and Terror
Garbštienė, Hell in ice
Ginzburg, Into the whirlwind
Grekov, Soviet women writing : fifteen short stories
Horsbrugh Porter, Memories of revolution : Russian women remember
Joffe, Back in time : my life, my fate, my epoch : the memoirs of Nadezhda A. Joffe
Lehtmets, Sentence: Siberia
Kollontai, The autobiography of a sexually emancipated Communist woman
Lenin, On the emancipation of women
Lenin, Women and society
Lothian, Valentina : first woman in space : conversations with A. Lothian
Mandelstam, Hope Against Hope
Ratushinskaia, Grey is the color of hope
Romine, The intimate diary of a Russian woman : my search for meaning in the midst of my country's upheaval
Rosenberg, A Soviet odyssey
Tchernavin, We Soviet women
Trotsky, Women and the family
USSR : conditions for women prisoners of conscience in the "small zone" (of Mordovian corrective labour colony No. 3) - Amnesty International.
Vitzthum, *Torn out by the roots: the recollections of a former Communist*  
Wettlin, *Fifty Russian winters: an American woman's life in the Soviet Union*  
*Women in the Soviet Union: two impressions of the All-Russian Congress of Worker & Peasant Women* with an account of the conference of women members of the delegations to Russia at the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the revolution, All-Russian Congress of Worker & Peasant Women  
Yedlin, *Women in Russia and the Soviet Union: December 1984*