HISTORY 743
ARREST AND INCARCERATION: RUSSIA - USSR – RUSSIA
Winter 2019

Dr. McDonald
Office: CNH 627
Office Hours: tba (or by appointment)
Phone: 905 525 9140 ext. 24148
Email: tmcdon@mcmaster.ca

Course and Aims

This course examines incarceration in Russia from the late Tsarist period, through the Soviet Period, and finishes with the arrest and incarceration of members of Pussy Riot. You do not need a background in Russian or Soviet History to take this course. The course focuses on: continuities and discontinuities over time (but you will have the material you need to make these connections); the experience of arrest and incarceration; and issues of gender, violence, and culture as embodied in the history of arrest and incarceration.

Email Policy

It is the policy of the Faculty of Humanities that all email communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University email account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. Instructors will delete emails that do not originate from a McMaster email account.

Support Services

The University provides a variety of support services to help students manage their many demands. Reference librarians can provide invaluable research assistance. The Centre for Student Development (CSD) provides assistance with personal as well as academic matters. MUSC B107 and http://csd.mcmaster.ca

Late Penalty and Absences

There is a late penalty of 3% per day for all late assignments. Extensions or other accommodations will be determined by the instructor and will only be considered if supported by appropriate documentation. Absences of less than 5 days may be reported using the McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) at www.mcmaster.ca/msaf/. If you are unable to use the MSAF, you should document the absence with your faculty office. In all cases, it is YOUR responsibility to follow up with the instructor immediately to see if an extension or other accommodation will be granted, and what form it will take. There are NO automatic extensions or accommodations.
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. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at: http://www.mcmaster.ca/univsec/policy/AcademicIntegrity.pdf

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is Not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. Failure to adequately acknowledge the sources used in essays is plagiarism
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

Changes to the syllabus

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.

Useful Resource

http://sarahjyoung.com/site/gulag-bibliography/

Required Books

Gessen, Masha. Words Can Break Cement. Riverhead, 2014
Term Work and Percentage Value of Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facilitation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>rolling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historiographical Review (10-12 pages)</td>
<td>25% (MA)</td>
<td>25 February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(PhDs integrate more sources 15-20 pages)</td>
<td>35% (Ph.D)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay MA (25 pages)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>No later than 18 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam (PhDs only)</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Tba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Late Penalty

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Participation and Attendance

This course is a seminar and will be more interesting for you and for all of your colleagues only if you do the readings closely each week and come prepared to debate and discuss them.

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. You should also be the most active participant in the week that you facilitate.

Historiographical Assessment / Review

Choose a certain aspect of gulag history: arrest, the “numbers debate,” everyday life, life after prison, gulag legacy. Find five relevant articles and write an historiographical overview/assessment of the chosen works.
Final Essay (MAs)

Your paper can either be an historiographical paper or a research paper and should be developed in consultation with the instructor.

Final Exam (PhDs)

As courses can function as minor fields, it is typical to have an exam for PhD students enrolled.

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week of 14 January - Introductions

Introductions
Discussion of syllabus
Organization of facilitations

Week of 21 January – Arrest and Incarceration in Tsarist Russia I


Week of 28 January – Arrest and Incarceration in Tsarist Russia II


Week of 4 February – A Revolution?


Week of 11 February

Reading Week 18-24 February

Historiography paper due Monday 25 February 2019
**Week of 25 February – Arrest, Prison, Interrogation**


**Week of 4 March – Perpetrator and Victim I**


**Week of 11 March – Perpetrator and Victim II**

Chistyakov, *Diary of a Gulag Prison Guard*

**Week of 18 March – Gulag Legacies**


**Week of 25 March – A Different Kind of Prison**

Chapter from Todes

Abadzis, *Laika*

Week of 1 April - Prison and the Body

We will watch *Mark of Cain* in class and discuss it.


Week of 8 April – Pussy Riot

Zizek and Tolokonnikova, *Comradely Greetings*
Gessen, *Words Can Break Cement*

**FINAL PAPERS DUE NO LATER THAN 26 APRIL**