

Dr. Leah Goldman
Office: Old Main 204C
Office Hours: Weds 10-12, Thurs 2:45-3:45
All office hours meetings take place on Zoom
lgoldman@washjeff.edu

HIS 315: Cultural Construction in the Soviet Empire Final Paper Assignment

Overview

This paper is the culminating assignment of this class and an opportunity for you to research, analyze, and make a historical argument about a significant subject that illuminates the intersection of culture and empire in the Soviet Union. The topic of your paper is up to you, but you must discuss it with me before you begin. The purpose of this meeting is to get you started in a viable direction, so you will not hit any major roadblocks further on. We will be working on this project for the rest of the semester, so be sure to choose a topic that will hold your interest. I encourage you to be bold, be creative, and have fun!

Requirements

- Length: Your paper must be **3000 words long**, *not including* your bibliography. I will allow a maximum of 200 words deviation.
- Formatting: Put your **name** and a **title** on the first page. **Number** your pages. You must use **12-point font, double spacing** and **1-inch margins**
- Citations and Bibliography: In the body of your paper, you must use **footnotes**. You must also attach a **Bibliography** as a separate page at the end of your text. Both your bibliography and your footnotes should be formatted using the *Chicago Manual of Style* (available online through the Library's website).
If you do not have the complete bibliographic information for a source, you can find it on **WorldCat**, which is also available on the Library website.
- Sources: You must use a **minimum of seven sources**, including at least two **primary sources** and at least five sources located through your own research (i.e., not something we read together in class.)

Instructions

This assignment is scaffolded into four steps:

1) Research Question Meeting. You should come to this meeting prepared to articulate the subject of your paper in the form of a *research question* and to explain why you think this question is worthy of scholarly exploration. I recommend that you write your question out, to help you organize your thoughts. You should also make a preliminary search of **Library resources**, to confirm that there are enough resources available for your topic.

I will meet with each of you individually on Oct. 14-15. We will discuss your research question and the results of your library search. If you need help with your library search, please reach out to our librarian, **Kelly Helm** (khelm@washjeff.edu). She will be happy to help you!

2) Paper Proposal. This document includes:

- A statement of your research question
- A draft of your thesis statement (your answer to your research question)
- A 2-3 paragraph abstract that presents your topic, explains the stakes of your argument (answers the “so what?” question), and gives an overview of your sources
- An annotated bibliography. This should include at least seven sources. You may use sources we have read together, but you must also include at least five external sources. Both **primary** and **secondary** sources should be included on this list. Give full bibliographic information for each source and write 3-5 sentences explaining what information the source contains and how it will help you make your argument.

Due Sunday, October 25 at 10pm. I will meet with each of you individually on October 28 to go over your proposal with you.

3) Rough Draft. The rough draft should consist of three pages from the **body** of your paper. Do not include your introduction. Our goal is to practice working with the sources to build an argument. We will workshop our rough drafts together in class on Monday, November 9. To make that possible, you must email your draft to me and everyone in your group. **Due: Sunday, November 8 at 5:00pm.**

You must also read everyone else’s drafts before we meet on Monday! You will not be able to give your colleagues useful advice if you have not read their work carefully. I will hand out further instructions before our peer critique day.

After we workshop our rough drafts, you will revise your draft based on your colleagues’ critiques. **Revised rough draft are due Sunday, November 15 at 10pm.**

4) Final Draft. This is the last step! Your completed paper will be due **Thursday, December 3 at 10pm**, submitted via Sakai. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day. I will not accept late papers after December 9. If you would like to include any media (beyond links you may provide in your bibliography), you can email it to me separately.

*****In case you missed it before, here is my policy on **plagiarism**: Don’t do it! Plagiarism is a very serious offence, which can destroy your academic career and professional prospects. If you plagiarize, **you will automatically fail my class.** I am all-seeing and all-knowing, and I *will* catch you. Please, save us both a lot of time and worry: don’t even try it. If at any time you have questions about how to avoid plagiarism, feel free to ask me.

I will do my best to be available to meet with you as often as you like. I will read partial drafts up until December 1.

Good luck!!!! Please let me know if you have any questions!