Course Goals
The Russian Revolution of 1917 was unquestionably one of the most significant events of the twentieth century and indeed world history. This course explores the sources, nature, and consequences of the revolution by intensively analyzing politics, society, and culture in late imperial and early Soviet Russia from 1905 to 1921. The course proceeds from the proposition that the revolutionary process may not be reduced to the events of 1917, but should instead be understood in terms of larger changes in political practices extending from the late tsarist period until the end of the civil war. The course also encourages active consideration of different historical interpretations of the Russian revolution.

Disabilities and Religious Holidays
If you have a documented disability that may condition your performance in this course, you should contact me as soon as possible to make special arrangements. You should also contact the Learning Enhancement Center, which is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex room 137 (phone = 895-0866). As regards religious holidays, I am sympathetic to students' religious needs and will make every effort to accommodate them. Students MUST, however, inform me of such needs at the beginning of the term so that we can work our way around them judiciously.

Attendance and Participation
This course makes the brash assumption that you want to learn and want to discuss the material we will be reading. I therefore put a premium on your attendance and active participation. Absences will be detrimental to your final grade. Nasty and oppressive mechanisms to ensure compliance with the reading assignments may be introduced at any time.

Written Assignments
There is essentially only one written assignment for this course. At some point fairly early on in the semester, you will be required to affiliate with one or another social group, political party or individual that was prominent in the revolutionary period (a list will be provided subsequently). Representing that group or individual at a class conference on November 2, you will submit a final paper (12-15 pages) at the end of the term analyzing the experience of that individual/group and its significance for the larger revolutionary process. Details will follow.

Quizzes and Exams
There will be two geography quizzes, designed to test your basic knowledge of the Eurasian landmass. I will allow you take each quiz twice and will take the average of your two scores for the purposes of computing your grade. To take advantage of this offer, however, you MUST take
the quiz a second time within one week of its first offering. Details on the geography quizzes will follow. There will be two exams: a mid-term and a final.

Films
Over the course of the semester, we may avail ourselves of some films not now listed in the syllabus. Depending on the schedules of those in the class, we may set up one or two extra sessions during which we may view the films in full. Such films may also be put on reserve for individual viewing. Details will follow.

Your final grade will be determined as follows:
- Attendance + participation: 10%
- Geography quizzes: 10%
- Paper: 25%
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 30%

Readings for this course
5. Course pack [CP] of xeroxed articles (soon available at bookstore)
6. Web readings, to be accessed via website (http://www.unlv.edu/faculty2/pwerth/447.htm)

Books for 647 (graduate level) are listed separately

INTRODUCTIONS & INTERPRETATIONS
1. AUGUST 29. Introduction: The Course & the Cast
   What are the requirements for this course and why is it structured as it is?

2. AUGUST 31. Towards a Definition of "Revolution"
   What are the principal characteristics of a revolution?
   Reading: None. But you should come to class with a succinct and clear definition of what a revolution is and be prepared to defend that definition.

NO CLASS 5 SEPTEMBER (LABOR DAY)
3. SEPTEMBER 7. Interpreting the Russian Revolution
How have different historians interpreted the Russian revolution?
What are the implications of these different interpretations?
Reading: Christopher Read, From Tsar to Soviets, pp. 1-8

4. SEPTEMBER 12. Beginnings & Ends
When did the Russian revolution begin and end?

THE TWILIGHT OF IMPERIAL RUSSIA

5. SEPTEMBER 14. Historical Antecedents (to 1905)
What elements of the Russian past were most relevant to the revolution?
Reading: Read, From Tsars to Soviets, pp. 11-28.
Konstantin Pobedonostsev, Reflections of a Russian Statesman [WEB]
Anna Geifman, chap. 1 of Thou Shalt Kill: Revolutionary Terrorism in Russia, 1894-1917 (Princeton, 1993), pp. 11-44 [CP].

6. SEPTEMBER 19. Marxism in Russia
What are the central tenets of Marxism and what did Russian Marxists add?
Reading: Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto (selections) [WEB]
V. I. Lenin, What is to be Done? (selections) [WEB]

7. SEPTEMBER 21. The Revolution of 1905-07
What events & processes caused the crisis of 1905-07?
How close was the tsarist regime to collapse at that time?
Reading: Read, pp. 29-35
Bloody Sunday petition [WEB]
October Manifesto [WEB]

8. SEPTEMBER 26. Parliament & Autocracy
Was the order in Russia after 1906 "constitutional"?
Reading: Fundamental Law of 1906 [to be distributed]

9. SEPTEMBER 28. Stolypin's Program for Russia's Renewal
How did Stolypin seek to combine reform & repression for Russia's renewal?
What factors explain the failure of his program?
10. OCTOBER 3. The Crucible of War
How successfully did Russia deal with the demands of "total war"?

11. OCTOBER 5. The Autocracy's Collapse
What were the autocracy's decisive weaknesses, and was collapse inevitable?
Reading: Richard Pipes, Three "Whys" of the Russian Revolution, pp. 1-30

12. OCTOBER 10. EXAMINATION

1917 AND THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION

13. OCTOBER 12. 1917: An Overview
What were the principal highlights of 1917?

14. OCTOBER 17. February and its Aftermath
Steinberg, Voices of Revolution, 1917, pp. 1-35

15. OCTOBER 19. National Revolutions
Reading: Steinberg, Voices, pp. 37-79

16. OCTOBER 24. The Urban Experience
Reading: Steinberg, pp. 79-106

17. OCTOBER 26. The Countryside
Reading: Steinberg, Voices, pp. 128-147, 234-250

18. OCTOBER 31. The Front
Reading: Steinberg, pp. 106-128, 199-234

19. NOVEMBER 2. CLASS CONFERENCE on the dynamics of 1917
Reading: Steinberg, pp. 149-182
Be prepared to engage in vigorous discussion!
20. NOVEMBER 7. Explaining the Bolshevik victory
   How and why were the Bolsheviks able to seize power?
   Reading: Read, 146-176
   Pipes, Three Whys, pp. 31-62

   BOLSHEVIK DICTATORSHIP & CIVIL WAR

21. NOVEMBER 9. Revolutionary Culture, 1900-20
   Reading: Steinberg, pp. 251-308

21. NOVEMBER 14. Asserting the Bolshevik Dictatorship
   Reading: Read, pp. 177-223
   Isaac Babel, Red Cavalry, begin.

23. NOVEMBER 16. The Problem of Revolutionary Legitimacy
   Reading: Read, pp. 224-257
   Babel, Red Cavalry, continue
   Frederick Corney, "Narratives of October and the Issue of Legitimacy," in
   Russian Modernity, pp. 185-203 [CP]

   NO CLASS NOVEMBER 21 (CONFERENCE FOR THE INSTRUCTOR)

24. NOVEMBER 23. The Civil War & Bolshevik Victory
   Reading: Read, pp. 258-277
   Babel, Red Cavalry, continue

25. NOVEMBER 28. National and International Dimensions
   Reading: Babel, Red Cavalry, continue
   Terry Martin on AAE [distribute].
   GEOGRAPHY QUIZ #2

26. NOVEMBER 30. Revolutionary Endings?
   Reading: Pipes, Three Whys, pp. 63-84
   Read, pp. 278-294

27. DECEMBER 5. Review session. FINAL PAPER DUE.

28. DECEMBER 7. More review (by class consensus).

   FINAL EXAMINATION: MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 1.00 PM