

History 572,
Spring, 1991.

D. McDonald.

State, Society, and Revolutions in Russia, 1905-1917.

This undergraduate seminar will examine the years between 1905 and 1917, through ongoing analysis of the social and political breakdown of the Empire, as these occurred in the years linking the revolutions of 1905 and February, 1917. The two "big questions" shaping investigation will be: a) why did the revolutions take place; and b) might the tsarist order have survived were it not for World War I? Readings will be drawn from English-language primary sources, memoirs, and the abundant secondary literature on this period. Topics of interest will include the success of the Duma as a legislative forum, the success and/or failure of the other reforms following the revolutions of 1905-1907, the effects of World War I on Russian society and politics, the rise of the workers' movement, and attempts by various political actors to fashion a new order based on or rejecting autocracy.

The requirements for the seminar include two brief (5pp.) written presentations, which will serve to introduce discussion of a given topic, and a longer (15-20pp.) research paper on a topic to be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. Each of the brief papers will account for 15% of the final grade. The term paper will count for 40%--the remaining 30% will be based on participation in discussion.

Ideally, the prerequisites for this course would be either History 418 or 420. In exceptional circumstances, and space permitting, other students may be admitted with the instructor's consent. The maximum enrollment in the seminar will be fifteen students.