

**LAW AND POLITICS IN THE SOVIET UNION AND RUSSIAN FEDERATION: FINAL
TAKE-HOME TEST**

You have to answer any **FIVE** questions. This take-home test evaluates your ability to apply the theories, methods, and principles that we discussed in class. Clarity and precision are essential. Please follow the required format. Make sure that you **precede every argument or idea by its corresponding heading**. In all your answers, you must refer only to sources (topics, theories, elements, examples, readings, cases, etc.) that we discussed in class. Unless otherwise instructed, **no outside sources may be referred to or included in your answers**. You are not permitted to consult with anyone about this test. Please do not ask me questions about the test once this test is posted online. As a matter of fairness, I do not want to give answers to some students that others do not have the benefit (or detriment) of hearing. You will simply have to use your own judgment about how to handle any possible difficulties, including the interpretation of the questions and tasks. **Submission:** You need to submit this evaluation to the Algoma University Moodle platform for this course by the deadline, i.e., **December 1, 2022 by 10 pm.**

Format and organization of your answers (short essays)

Purpose

The purpose of your essay is to state and prove your thesis. In general, this is the answer to the question or task from the test, e.g., explain and illustrate a quote, analyze a text, etc.

Introduction

The introduction acquaints the reader with the topic. You will need to resume in your own words the quote or text you need to explain and analyze and place it into a larger context. The introduction should be short, simple, and clear. The most important aspect of your introduction is your thesis. You also need to place your thesis into some larger context.

Thesis development.

You need to divide your short essay into sections. Each section should include only one idea, major point, or argument. Generally speaking, each section should have only one paragraph. The section must be preceded by a heading, which must capture the main idea of the section. Also, each paragraph must contain a topic sentence, which must be similar to the heading. The rest of the section must provide examples, explanations, and evidence to prove the topic sentence.

Please address the opposing arguments that others could have about your own arguments.

Conclusion

The purpose of the conclusion is to bring the essay to a satisfying close. You should avoid bringing up a new point in your conclusion. You should avoid a lengthy and excessive summary. Simply, summarize your thesis and main arguments. The most successful conclusions are thoughtful and reflective. Go back to the context. After having presented your topic and proven your thesis, you want to be able to make an overarching statement based on that information. Just as the introduction sought to place the essay in the larger context about the topic, so should the conclusion insist on returning the reader to that ongoing conversation.

Citation Format

The *Chicago Manual of Style* (author-date) or the Canadian Guide to Uniform Legal Citation (aka The McGill Guide).

Example of format and organization

Please have a look at Tetley's article on Mixed Jurisdictions Part 2, widely available online, for an example of the required format.

Questions

1. Explain and analyze Putin's "At the Turn of the Millennium" document of December 30, 1999.
2. Explain and analyze the first 12 articles of the 1936 Constitution of the Soviet Union.
3. Read Lenin's speech at the First All-Russia Congress on Education available in the class activities section of the course site. What does Lenin mean by bourgeois democracy? What is Lenin's conception of the role of education in socialist Russia? What does Lenin think about schools in bourgeois countries?
4. Explain articles 5 (The Principle of Guilt) and 8 (Grounds for Criminal Responsibility) of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. Illustrate your explanation with, at least, two examples. Also, critically analyze the articles and compare them with Canadian Criminal Law.

5. Discuss the second Chechnya war. What did it mean for Putin? What was his strategy? Was he successful? Why or why not? What were the implications of this war for the US, France, UK, Spain, and other Western states?
6. What is Putin's legal and political approach to LGBT? Why? Discuss anti-LGBT laws in Russia.
7. How has the Cold War impacted upon the negotiation of Space Law Treaties in the 1960's and 1970's? What role did the Soviet Union play? What was the Soviet position about the exploration of outer space?
8. Discuss Putin's judicial approach to Russian oligarchs.
9. Discuss the major developments in Ukraine since the collapse of the Soviet Union, including: (i) foreign debt; (ii) the 1996 Constitution; (iii) the overthrow of Viktor Yanukovich. What is the connection between the first Trump impeachment and the war in Ukraine? What is Joe and Hunter Biden's involvement in Ukraine?
10. Read Aurel Braun's NATO and Russia: Post-Georgia Threat Perceptions, published on *Russie.Nei.Visions*, No. 40, May 2009. Summarize the main ideas and critically analyze them.
11. Discuss the following Soviet and Russian architectural styles and their legal and political meaning and context: Stalinka (Сталинка), Khrushchyovka (Хрущёвка), Brezhnevka (Брежневка), and Putinka (Путинка).
12. Select one of the following films. What is the plot of the film? When was the film made? What was the government's policy about films in that period? How does the film reflect that period? What is the significance of the film in the Soviet Union or Russian Federation? What kind of society does the film depict?
 - Sergei Eisenstein's *Battleship Potemkin* (1925).
 - *October: Ten Days That Shook the World* (1927).
 - *Ballad of a Soldier* (1959).
 - *The Diamond Arm* (1969).
 - *The Irony of Fate* (1976)
 - *Moscow Does Not Believe in Tears* (1980)
 - *Little Vera* (1988).
 - *Paradise* (2016).