

The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry

Emory University

2016-2017 Great Works Seminar



Solzhenitsyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* -- Intimacy and Terror

(begins March 2, 2017)

Using Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's classic *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* as a touchstone, the seminar will examine the memoirs and autobiographies of other victims of Stalinist repression to place Solzhenitsyn's work in context. We will examine the experiences of a Soviet schoolgirl who was sent to the Gulag for the musings of her diary in Nina Lugovskaia's *I Want to Live! The Diary of a Young Girl in Stalin's Russia*, the fall of an ardent communist into the hell of Kolyma in Eugenia Ginzburg's *Journey into the Whirlwind*, and the moral compromises of an unwilling camp official in Fyodor Mochulsky's *Gulag Boss: A Soviet Memoir*. Each of these works will be supplemented with brief excerpts from Orlando Figes' *The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin's Russia* to place them in context. Stalin's victims were real people with real families and real hopes and fears. This seminar will tell their story through the lens of a brilliant work of subversive literature—*One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*.

The seminar will be moderated by Matthew Payne, Professor of History at Emory University, and will meet from **6:30pm to 8:30pm** at the Fox Center for four **Thursday evening** sessions during the **2017 spring semester: March 2, 16, 23 and 30th**. Everyone from the Atlanta community is welcome and invited to join us for this free seminar. Seating is limited and must be reserved in advance. For further information or to reserve seating, please email the Fox Center at foxcenter@emory.edu, or call 404.727.6424.

We are grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for its support of this program. Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in these seminars do not necessarily reflect those of the National Endowment for the Humanities.