



Department of History

HTST 545.09

The Great Patriotic War

Winter 2020

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Office Hours: Tu 9:30-10:00; Thu 13:00-13:30

Class Time: Thu 15:30-18:15

Location: SS115

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The war between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany lasted from June 1941 to May 1945. The shocking death toll from the Second World War on the Eastern Front was in part a result of the tremendous killing power of modern weaponry employed on an unprecedented scale. But the cost of the war was exacerbated by the fact that this technology was employed in a war between two regimes whose leaders shared an unflinching commitment to their respective causes that justified considerable disregard for human life. This disregard extended not only to the enemy but to their own combatants and to some extent civilian populations.

This course will examine Soviet preparations for war, and the conduct of the war, utilising both Soviet and German perspectives.

COURSE OUTCOMES: At the end of the course, students should:

*Be able to identify key events, stages, individuals, groups and processes in the period leading up to and during the course of The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union, 1941-1945

*Have gained a critical appreciation for how and why the Great Patriotic War has been periodized by historians and other interested parties over time and across cultures

*Have gained a broad understanding of cause and consequence, change and continuity and similarity and difference for key events, periods and processes in the Great Patriotic War

*Be familiar with, be able to distinguish between and be critical towards a range of primary and

secondary source materials used by historians in understanding the Great Patriotic War

*Have a basic understanding of key electronic and other finding aids for and repositories of historical knowledge available to historians in their research on The Great Patriotic War

*Be able to show their understanding and appreciation of the value of particular primary sources relating to the course topic in a systematic and coherent manner in written form

*Be able to construct a historical argument by analyzing and interpreting a variety of primary and secondary sources

*Be able to present a historical argument in a systematic and coherent manner in both written and oral form

*Be able to cite historical sources in their own work using a recognised method for referencing/citation

REQUIRED TEXT:

The course will be based around the following text, available for purchase in paperback at the University Bookstore or from online retailers such as Amazon:

Alexander Hill, *The Great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union, 1941-1945: A documentary reader* (London/New York, Routledge, 2009).

The above consists of commentary along with translated documents, many of which will be discussed in the seminars. It is important that you bring the above to each seminar.

The Great Patriotic War reader provides a basic narrative of events, but may also be used in conjunction with the following histories of the war that are optional purchases. Both of the below are referred to regularly in the reader:

David Glantz and Jonathan House, *When Titans Clashed: How the Red Army Stopped Hitler* (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1995)

Evan Mawdsley, *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War 1941-1945* (London: Hodder Arnold, 2005)

More detailed on specific themes, my *The Red Army and the Second World War* (Cambridge: CUP, 2017) is recommended for those who are keen!

EVALUATION:

| Piece of work | Date | Description | Contribution to final grade |
|-------------------|------|---|-----------------------------|
| Timeline exercise | Wk 3 | Group work – in-class - constructing a timeline of key international events on the Soviet road to war 1928-1941. More | 5% <u>BONUS</u> |

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|---------------------|--------------|---|---|
| | | information in class. | |
| Long essay proposal | Wk 5 | You will have to submit a long essay proposal giving an essay question, a description of what you intend to examine in your essay (250-300 words) and a bibliography with at least FIFTEEN items – TEN books/articles (secondary sources) and FIVE primary sources (see Long Essay below). Of the secondary sources in your bibliography, you must have found at least FIVE yourself (i.e. they must not appear in the reader and not include Glantz and House or Mawdsley). | 20% |
| Source questions | Wks 9 and 11 | You will have up to 40 minutes, in class, to respond to ONE of TWO sources concerned with material for seminars since the last source question. More details and practice in answering source questions will be provided in class. | 15% (take the higher score of the two sittings) |
| Long essay | Wk 13 | An essay of up to 4,500 words (the word limit including references and excluding the bibliography) on a topic of your choice concerned with Soviet preparations for war or the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945 itself, agreed in advance with me. You should have used at least THREE documentary sources from the reader, AT LEAST ONE diary or memoir, and ONE additional primary source, with no fewer than FIFTEEN sources in total. | 40% |
| Final test | Wk 13 | You will have up to one hour, in class, to answer 40 multiple-choice questions. | 10% |
| Presentation | Wks 2-13 | Students will give a short (15-minute) presentation on material agreed in advance with the course leader. | 15% |

'Long' essay questions:

In order to score highly on your essay you must:

*Have been answering the question you set. An example of the sort of question that you might be answering is 'To what extent did the winter weather of late 1941 prevent the German capture of Moscow?'

*Have an argument.

*Support your argument with evidence/examples. Any major assertion should be backed up with evidence.

*Where making significant use of existing arguments in the literature you must have acknowledged them.

*Show evidence of critical judgment (e.g. do not simply accept all sources at face value).

*Given that this is a final year course it is expected that students will make some effort to locate and use appropriate published documentary and other 'primary' source materials for their long essays. You should have used at least THREE documentary sources from the reader, AT LEAST ONE diary or memoir, and ONE additional primary source. It is expected that you will have used at least FIFTEEN sources in total. Assistance in the use of library resources may be obtained from the History Liaison Librarian, Nadine Hoffman, who can be contacted at nhoffman@ucalgary.ca.

*Students should be aware of the differing values of different types of sources (e.g. 'primary' and 'secondary', eyewitness, memoirs and diaries) for different purposes.

*Use a recognised format (in History) for citing sources (footnotes).

*Make appropriate use of terminology, and in particular those terms appearing in the glossary below.

It is recommended that students requiring assistance with referencing obtain a copy of Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing History* (Sixth Edition) (Boston/New York: Bedford/St Martin's, 2010) or another similar work. There is also an essay writing guide that provides some similar information at <https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>.

WRITING:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

D2L: Throughout the course, important material such as lecture outlines and study guides will be regularly posted on D2L. Students are advised to check this regularly.

CLASS SCHEDULE:

The lectures for this course will take a broadly chronological look at events between 1945 and the end of the Cold War, stopping to focus on particular themes such as the Cold War at sea or nuclear weapons.

Week 1 – Thursday 16 January: Introduction – *The Soviet Union from Nicholas II to Lenin and Stalin*

Please bring a printout of the course outline to the first class.

Week 2 – Thursday 23 January: *Lenin, Stalin and the West 1917-1939*

Week 3 – Thursday 30 January: *Lenin Stalin and the West 1917-1939* and *The Icebreaker Controversy and Soviet Intentions in 1941* [Timeline exercise - in class]

Week 4 – Thursday 6 February: *Barbarossa*

Week 5 – Thursday 13 February: *The Battle of Moscow* [Long essay proposal due]

Week 6 – READING WEEK (17-21 February 2020)

Week 7 – Thursday 27 February: *The Tide Turns – The Battle for Stalingrad*

Week 8 – Thursday 5 March: *The Battle of Kursk and the Race for the Dnepr*

Week 9 – Thursday 12 March: *The Siege of Leningrad* [Source question – in class]

Week 10 – Thursday 19 March: *Lend-Lease Aid, the Soviet Economy and the Soviet Union at War*

Week 11 – Thursday 26 March: *The Soviet Partisan Movement* [Source question – in class]

Week 12 – Thursday 2 April: *The ‘Ten “Stalinist” Crushing Blows’ of 1944*

Week 13 – Thursday 9 April: *From the Vistula to Berlin: The End of the Reich* [Final test - in class][Long essay]

Please note that the above outline is provisional and may be subject to modification.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

There will be a flat deduction of 10% of the available marks for any piece of written work submitted late without prior agreement prior to the final deadline for any coursework. The essay proposal and essay (coursework) must have been submitted, unless by prior agreement, by the

seminar of Week 13. If the essay proposal and essay have not been submitted by this point then you will receive a score of 0 for that piece of work. For the essay proposal and essay, there will be a flat deduction of 10% of the available marks for that piece of work for having obviously exceeded the word limits, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

DEPARTMENTAL GRADING SYSTEM:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | Description |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 90-100 | A+ | 4.00 | Outstanding performance |
| 85-89 | A | 4.00 | Excellent performance |
| 80-84 | A- | 3.70 | Approaching excellent performance |
| 77-79 | B+ | 3.30 | Exceeding good performance |
| 73-76 | B | 3.00 | Good performance |
| 70-72 | B- | 2.70 | Approaching good performance |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.30 | Exceeding satisfactory performance |
| 63-66 | C | 2.00 | Satisfactory performance |
| 60-62 | C- | 1.70 | Approaching satisfactory performance. |
| 56-59 | D+ | 1.30 | Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject |
| 50-55 | D | 1.00 | Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject. |
| 0-49 | F | 0 | Failure. Did not meet course requirements. |

Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Tower Room 116, call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

- **Attention history majors:** History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.
- Registration Changes and Exemption Requests:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name, and 4) your student number.** Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when reference properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, [Section K](#).

Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary

bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Other Useful Information:

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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