HTST 545.09 (was HTST 545.03)
The Great Patriotic War

A soviet soldier stands guard over imported US lorries, Iran, 1942, and Soviet T-34/85, 1945.

The war between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany lasted from June 1941 to May 1945 and remains one of the bloodiest wars in human history. Irrecoverable losses in the Soviet armed forces alone were in the region of 8,668,400, of which 12,031 were lost in the war with Japan.¹ To these figures one has to add the millions of Axis casualties and civilian war-related deaths. The shocking death toll from the war in the East 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 which justified disregard for human life and the human and material costs of seeing their bidding done. 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 and conduct of this war, known in the Soviet Union as the Great Patriotic War, as well as briefly considering the ramifications of the war for the post-war Soviet Union.

A ‘basic’ reading list is provided on page 3 of this outline, and additional material will is listed for subsequent seminars on the subsequent pages. Topics for each seminar are provided overleaf. Details of assessment are provided on page 12.

Seminar Outline:

1) Tuesday 13 January – Introduction – The Soviet Union from Lenin to Stalin [Documentary]

2) 20 January – War and the Soviet economic transformation 1928-1941

3) 27 January – Political repression in the Soviet Union 1928-1941 [Short film]

4) 3 February – [Long essay proposal due] The Soviet Union on the international stage 1927-1941

5) 10 February – [Source question] German invasion and the Soviet response June-December 1941 [Documentary]

6) 17 February – Reading Week

7) 24 February – When was the German invasion foiled? Smolensk and Moscow Stalingrad and the issue of turning points [Documentary]

8) 3 March – [Article response due] [continuation of Week 7 material]

9) 10 March – The war behind German lines – the Soviet partisan movement and the war effort

10) 17 March – The Soviet rear – the civilian population during the war [Film]

11) 24 March – How important was Allied aid to the Soviet Union during the war?

12) 31 March – [Long essay due] From Stalingrad to Berlin – why did the war drag on so long? [Documentary]

13) 7 April – [Quiz] The War at Sea/The War in the Far East

14) 14 April - [Source questions] Why was the human cost of the war so great for the Soviet Union? The Impact of the War on the Soviet Union
Basic Reading:

**Soviet History – General**

There are many other suitable titles in this category

**The Great Patriotic War – General material**

[A copy should be available on reserve during the first weeks of the semester]  
Krivosheev, G.F. (ed.), Soviet Casualties and Combat Losses in the Twentieth Century  
Mawdsley, E., Thunder in the East [Course text – for purchase at the U. of C. bookshop]  
Overy, R., Russia’s War [Additional text for purchase]  
Werth, A., Russia at War 1941-1945

**The Great Patriotic War – Military/diplomatic**

Bellamy, C., Absolute War: Soviet Russia in the Second World War  
Erickson, J., The Road to Stalingrad  
Erickson, J., The Road to Berlin  
Glantz, D.M., Colossus Reborn: The Red Army At War, 1941-1943  
Glantz, D. and House, J., When Titan’s Clashed [Course text – for purchase at the U. of C. bookshop]  
Roberts, G., Stalin’s Wars

**The Great Patriotic War – German perspectives**

Boog, H. et al, Germany and the Second World War (Volumes IV and VI)

**The Great Patriotic War – Economy and Domestic Affairs**

Barber, J., and Harrison, M., The Soviet Home Front 1941-1945  
Harrison, M., Accounting for War

**Journals**

The Journal of Slavic Military Studies is available from 2004 onwards online.
Seminar reading:

Week 2

War and the Soviet economic transformation 1928-1941

Davies, R.W. *The Soviet Economy in Turmoil 1929-1930* (Ch.12)
Gorodetsky, G. *Grand Delusion – Stalin and the German Invasion of Russia*
Hill, A. “Stalin and the West”, in Martel G. (ed.), *A Companion to International History 1900-2001* [BLACKBOARD]
Mawdsley, E., *The Stalin Years – The Soviet Union 1929-1953* (Ch.2)
Tucker, R.C. *Stalin in Power – The Revolution from Above 1928-1941*

Samuelson, L. *Plans for Stalin’s War Machine – Tukhachevskii and Military Economic Planning 1925-1941*
Stone, D. *Hammer and Rifle – The Militarization of the SU 1926-1933*
Tucker, R.C. *Stalin in Power – The Revolution from Above 1928-1941*

Week 3

Political repression in the Soviet Union 1928-1941

The ‘Great Purges’ (general):

Getty, J. & Naumov, O. *The Road to Terror: Stalin and the Self-Destruction of the Bolsheviks, 1932-1939*
Tucker, R.C. *Stalin in Power: The Stalinist Revolution from Above 1928-1941*
Volkogonov, D. *Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy*

The ‘Great Purges’ and the Soviet armed forces:

Week 4

The Soviet Union on the European Diplomatic Stage 1927-1941


Gorodetsky, G. *Grand Delusion: Stalin and the German Invasion of Russia*

Haslam, J. *The Soviet Union and the Struggle for Collective Security in Europe 1933-9*

Haslam, J. *The Soviet Union and the threat from the East, 1933-41: Moscow, Tokyo, and the prelude to the Pacific War*


Hill, A. “Stalin and the West”, in Martel G. (ed.), *A Companion to International History 1900 -2001* [BLACKBOARD]


Suvorov, Viktor “Who was planning to attack whom in June 1941, Hitler or Stalin?”, in *Journal of the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies* [Great Britain] 130(2) (1985), 50-55 [BLACKBOARD].


Wegner, B. (ed.) *From Peace to War – Germany, Soviet Russia and the World 1939-1941*

Week 5

German invasion and the Soviet response June-December 1941

The Soviet Armed Forces on the Eve of War:

Coox, A., *Nomohan: Japan Against Russia*, 1939


Lukinov, M. I., “Notes on the Polish Campaign (1939) and the War with Finland (1939-1940)”, in *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* 2001 14(3).

Van Dyke, C., *The Soviet Invasion of Finland*

The Soviet Response to German Invasion:

Barber, J., “The Moscow Crisis of October 1941”, in Cooper, J. et al (eds.), *Soviet History 1917-1953*

Braithwaite, R., *Moscow 1941: A City and its People at War*

Glantz, D.M., *Colossus Reborn: The Red Army at War, 1941-1943*


Volkogonov, D., “Sunday 22nd June 1941”, in Erickson and Dilks, *Barbarossa – The Axis and the Allies*

**Weeks 7-8**

When was the Nazi invasion foiled? Smolensk, Moscow and Stalingrad and the issue of turning points

Beevor, A., *Stalingrad*

Craig, W., *Enemy at the Gates*

Fugate, B., and Dvoretsky, L., *Thunder on the Dnepr*

Glantz, D.M. (ed.), *The Initial Period on the Eastern Front 22 June-August 1941*

Glantz, D.M., *Kharkov – Anatomy of a Military Disaster*


Seaton, A., *The Battle for Moscow*

Seaton, A., *The Russo-German War 1941-1945*

Stolfi, R.H.S., *Hitler’s Panzer’s East: World War II Reinterpreted*


Week 9

The War Behind the German Lines – The Soviet Partisan Movement and the Soviet War Effort

The Soviet Partisan Movement

Armstrong, J., *Soviet Partisans in World War Two*


Hill, A., *The War Behind the Eastern Front: The Soviet Partisan Movement in North-West Russia 1941-1944*


Howell, E., *The Soviet Partisan Movement 1941-1944*. Department of the Army Pamphlet 20-244 (August 1956) [BLACKBOARD].


Axis Occupation


Berkhoff, K., *Harvest of despair: life and death in Ukraine under Nazi rule*

Dallin, A., *German Rule in Russia 1941-1945: A Study of occupation policy*

Mulligan, T., *The Politics of Illusion and Empire: German occupation policy in the Soviet Union 1941-1943*

Mulligan, T., “Reckoning the Cost of the People’s War: The German Experience in the Central USSR”, in *Russian History* Vol.9, Pt.1 (1982) [BLACKBOARD].

Schulte, T., *The German army and Nazi policies in occupied Russia*

Shepherd, B., “Hawks, doves and Tote Zonen: A German security division in central Russia 1943”, in *Journal of Contemporary History* 37(3) (July 2002).

Shepherd, B., *War in the Wild East: the German Army and Soviet partisans*


Steinberg, J., “The Third Reich Reflected: German Civil Administration in the Occupied Soviet Union, 1941-4”, in *English Historical Review* (June 1995) and Martel, G. (ed.), *The World War Two Reader*


Week 10

The Soviet Rear – The Civilian Population

General

Barber, J., and Harrison, M., *The Soviet Home Front 1941-1945*

Werth, A, *Russia at War 1941-1945*
On German Occupied Territory

Armstrong, J., *Soviet Partisans in World War Two*
Berkhoff, K., *Harvest of despair: life and death in Ukraine under Nazi rule*
Dallin, A., *German Rule in Russia 1941-1945: A Study of occupation policy*
Hill, A., *The War Behind the Eastern Front: The Soviet Partisan Movement in North-West Russia 1941-1944*
Mulligan, T., *The Politics of Illusion and Empire: German occupation policy in the Soviet Union 1941-1943*
Schulte, T., *The German army and Nazi policies in occupied Russia*

The siege of Leningrad

Bidlack, R. (Foreword), *Writing the Siege of Leningrad – Women’s Diaries, Memoirs and Documentary Prose*
Glantz, D., *The Siege of Leningrad 1941-1944 – 900 Days of Terror*
Salisbury, H., *900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad*
Werth, A., *Russia at War 1941-1945*

**Week 11**

How important was Allied aid to the Soviet Union during the war?

Harrison, M., *Accounting for War – Soviet production, employment, and the defence burden, 1940-1945*
Harrison, M., *Soviet Planning in Peace and War 1938-1945*
Jones, R.H., *The Roads to Russia : United States lend-lease to the Soviet Union*
Lucas, R.C., *Eagles East : the Army Air Forces and the Soviet Union, 1941-1945*
Van Tuyll, H., *Feeding the Bear: American Aid to the Soviet Union, 1941-1945*

**Week 12**

From Stalingrad to Berlin: Why did the war drag on so long?

Much of the general reading will be useful for this question, but the following are either particularly focussed or particularly valuable:
Week 13

The War at Sea


Åselius, Gunnar, *The rise and fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic 1921-1941*


Rohwer, Jürgen and Monakov, Mikhail S, *Stalin’s Ocean-Going Fleet: Soviet Naval Strategy and Shipbuilding Programmes, 1922-1953*

The War in the Far East


Coox, A., *Nomohan: Japan Against Russia, 1939*

Haslam, J., *The Soviet Union and the threat from the East, 1933-41 : Moscow, Tokyo, and the prelude to the Pacific War*


Hasegawa, T., *Racing the Enemy: Stalin, Truman and the Surrender of Japan*

Week 14

What was the human price of the Great Patriotic War for the Soviet people and why was it so high?

Combat losses:

Krivosheev, G.F. (ed.), *Soviet Casualties and Combat Losses in the Twentieth Century*


On arguments for the barbarization of war in the East see:


Müller, R-D. and Ueberschär, G. [See below].

Edward B. Westerman, “‘Ordinary men’ or “ideological soldiers”: police battalion 310 in Russia, 1942”, in Martel, G. (ed.), *The World War Two Reader*

The fate of Soviet POWs:

Start with: Müller, R-D. and Ueberschär, G., *Hitler’s War in the East – A Critical Assessment* [See also Dallin, A. on G. occupation and partisan war reading list].

Hunger, with particular reference to Leningrad:

Salisbury, H., *The 900 days: The Siege of Leningrad*

German occupation and the partisan war:

See above.

The Holocaust:

There is a considerable volume of literature on this. A starting point might be Cesarani, D. (ed.), *The Final Solution: Origins and Implementation*.

The Impact of the Great Patriotic War on the Soviet Union

General and Soviet political life:

Bialer, S., *Stalin’s Successors: Leadership, Stability and Change in the Soviet Union.*


McCauley, M., *Stalin and Stalinism*

Nove, A., *Stalinism and After*

Volkogonov, D., *Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy*

Demography:

Anderson, B., and Silver, B., “Demographic Consequences of World War II on the Non-Russian Nationalities of the USSR”, in Linz, S. (ed.).

Krivosheev, G. (ed.), *Soviet Casualties and Combat Losses in the Twentieth Century*

Economy:

Filtzer, D., *Soviet Workers and Late Stalinism*

Readiness for war:

Donnely, C., *Red Banner: The Soviet Military System in Peace and War*
Holloway, D., *The Soviet Union and the Arms Race*

Religion:


Nationality:

Smith, G., *The Nationalities Question in the Soviet Union*

Cultural Life:

Brown, D., *Soviet Russian Literature since Stalin*
Taylor, R., and Spring, D., *Stalinism and Soviet Cinema*

The Party:

Rigby, T., *Communist Party Membership in the USSR 1917-1967*

Case study:


Soviet Il-2 Sturmovik attack aircraft of the Soviet Northern Fleet, 1944
### Assessment:

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<tr>
<th>Piece of work</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contribution to final grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long essay proposal</td>
<td>Wk 4</td>
<td>You will have to submit a long essay proposal giving an essay question, a description of what you intend to examine in your essay (2-300 words) and a bibliography with at least 10 items, including two sources which could reasonably be deemed documentary (i.e. primary).</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source question</td>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>You will have 25 minutes, in class, to respond to a source concerned with material for seminars 2-4.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Article response</td>
<td>Wk 8</td>
<td>Write a critical response in up to 1200 words (excluding references) of Stolfi’s ‘Barbarossa Revisited’ article in the reading for Week 7. More details during the Week 5 seminar.</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long essay</td>
<td>Wk 12</td>
<td>An essay of up to 3500 words (the word limit excluding references and 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 (see above). See also overleaf.</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>Wk 13</td>
<td>20 multiple-choice questions covering material for all seminars to date.</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Source questions</td>
<td>Wk 14</td>
<td>You will have 45 minutes, in class, to respond to two sources concerned with material for seminars 5 and 7-13.</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>Wks 2-14</td>
<td>All students will be responsible for orally presenting a summary of a reading provided the previous week to the group, and to answer questions on it.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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In order to pass the course you must answer all source questions, submit the article response, submit the long essay proposal and essay, and give a presentation. Where applicable, 10% of the marks will be deducted for exceeding word limits for a particular question/piece of work, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

All assessment components must be completed to receive a final grade, and be submitted, unless by prior agreement, by the seminar of Week 14.
‘Long’ essay questions:

In order to score highly on your essay you must:

* Have been answering the question.
* Have an argument.

* **Support your argument with evidence/examples.**

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

* Show evidence of critical judgement (i.e. 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 source materials for their long essays.

* Use a recognised format for citing sources.

**Research assistance (History Liaison Librarian)**

Mr Clyde’s office hours for the Winter 2009 semester will be Wednesday from 1-2:30 and Thursday from 1-2:30 in room SS639. They will run from February to April.

Students are welcome to go to his office hours for research help. If they cannot make those hours they can e-mail him at jvclyde@ucalgary.ca to arrange an appointment.

**Grading:**

All work will be graded as below:

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<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Description</th>
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<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>From ‘outstanding’ to ‘excellent’</td>
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<td>A</td>
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<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>From ‘very good’ to ‘reasonable’ (average)</td>
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<td>B-</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<td>D+</td>
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Final letter grades will be calculated on the basis of the percentage mark given for each piece of work and not the corresponding letter grades.
From the Registrar’s Office:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

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.

As noted in the Department of History Guide to Essay Presentation, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.

- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is 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 is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.

- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in The University of Calgary Calendar.

Carina McDonald/Social Science Faculty Rep.
Phone: 220-6551/Rm. MSC 251
SAFEWALK/Campus Security: 220-5333