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 looking at the cost of the war during the final seminar. 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 13. It is expected that you will be able to appropriately use the terms in the Glossary on page 12 in both class and written work.

Seminar Outline:

1) Monday 11 January – Introduction – The Soviet Union from Lenin to Stalin [Documentary]

2) 18 January – War and the Soviet economic transformation 1928-1941

3) 25 January – Political repression in the Soviet Union 1928-1941 [Short film]

4) 1 February – [Long essay proposal due] The Soviet Union on the international stage 1927-1941

5) 8 February – [Source question] German invasion and the Soviet response June-December 1941 [Documentary]

6) 15 February – Reading Week

7) 22 February – When was the German invasion foiled? Smolensk and Moscow Stalingrad and the issue of turning points [Documentary]

8) 1 March – [continuation of Week 7 material] [Documentary]

9) 8 March – [Article response due] The war behind German lines – the Soviet partisan movement and the war effort

10) 15 March – The Soviet rear – the civilian population during the war [Film]

11) 22 March – How important was Allied aid to the Soviet Union during the war?

12) 29 March – From Stalingrad to Berlin – why did the war drag on so long? [Documentary]

13) 5 April – [Long essay due] [Quiz] The War at Sea/The War in the Far East [Documentary]

14) 12 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

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:

It is expected that students will have read the equivalent of two-three articles from the reading below each week to enable them to participate fully in the seminars. Further reading is likely to enhance your grade in the source-response questions and long essay. The reading below may provide the foundations for your long essay, but should not make up more than 50% of your bibliography. Reading below will also provide context for your seminar presentation.

**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*
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:


Reese, R.R.  Stalin’s Reluctant Soldiers (Chapter 5)

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

5
**Week 5**

German invasion and the Soviet response June-December 1941

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

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*

Barbarossa and the Soviet Response:

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*
Stahel, D., *Operation Barbarossa and Germany's Defeat in the East*
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*
Citino, R.M., *Death of the Wehrmacht: The German Campaigns of 1942*
Craig, W., *Enemy at the Gates*
Fugate, B., and Dvoretsky, L., *Thunder on the Dnepr*
Glantz, D.M., *Barbarossa Derailed: The Battles for Smolensk, July-August 1941*
Glantz, D.M. (ed.), *The Initial Period on the Eastern Front 22 June-August 1941*
Glantz, D.M., *Kharkov – Anatomy of a Military Disaster*


Glantz, D.M. (with House, J.), To the Gates of Stalingrad: Soviet-German Combat Operations, April-August 1942 (The Stalingrad Trilogy, Volume 1)


Reinhardt, K., [Moscow 1941] “The Turning Point”, in Erickson and Dilks, Barbarossa – The Axis and the Allies

Sarandana, D.V., Beyond Stalingrad: Manstein and the Operations of Army Group Don

Seaton, A., The Battle for Moscow

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

Stahel, D., Operation Barbarossa and Germany's Defeat in the East

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

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:

Beevor, A. *The Fall of Berlin*
Boog, H. et al, *Germany and the Second World War* (Volume VI)
Erickson, J., *The Road to Berlin*
Gebhardt, J.F., *The Petsamo-Kirkenes Operation: Soviet breakthrough and pursuit in the Arctic, October 1944* (Leavenworth papers ; no. 17)
Glantz, David M. and Orenstein, H.S. (eds. and trans.), *Belorussia 1944: The Soviet General Staff Study*
Glantz, David M. ..., *The battle for Kursk, 1943: the Soviet General Staff study*
Glantz, David M. ..., *The battle for L'vov, July 1944: the Soviet General Staff study*
Glantz, David M. ..., *The battle for the Ukraine: the Red Army’s Korsun'-Shevchenkovskii Operation, 1944: the Soviet General Staff study*)
Glantz, D. and House, J., *When Titan’s Clashed*
Krivosheev, G.F. (ed.), *Soviet Casualties and Combat Losses in the Twentieth Century*
Le Tissier, T., *Zhukov at the Oder: the decisive battle for Berlin*
Noble, Alastair, *Nazi Rule and the Soviet Offensive in Eastern Germany, 1944-1945*
Ungváry, K., *The Siege of Budapest: One Hundred Days in World War II*
Werth, A., *Russia at War 1941-1945*
Zetterling, N. and Anders, F., *The Korsun Pocket: The Encirclement and Breakout of a German Army in the East, 1944*

**Week 13**
The War at Sea

Åselius, Gunnar, The rise and fall of the Soviet Navy in the Baltic 1921-1941
Hill, A., Russian and Soviet Naval Power in the Arctic, 1914-1945, [special issue of the]
Journal of Slavic Military Studies, Volume 20, Number 3 (July-September 2007). Articles by
Hill, Luzin, Suprun.
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

5(3).
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:

Il'enkov, S.A., “Concerning the Registration of Soviet Armed Forces’ Wartime Irrecovable
Losses, 1941-1945”, in Journal of Slavic Military Studies, Vol.9 No.2 (June 1996) pp.440-
442.
Krivosheev, G.F. (ed.), Soviet Casualties and Combat Losses in the Twentieth Century

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

Bartov, O., The Eastern Front 1941-1945: German troops and the barbarization of warfare
and Hitler’s Army.
Germany and the Second World War (Volume IV).
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:

Glossary:

Students are expected to be able to use the following terms appropriately in class and their written work:

- **army**: Military formation typically consisting of a number of corps and supporting units
- **army group**: German military formation consisting of a number of armies, and until late in the war equivalent in strength to a more than one or a large Soviet front
- **battalion**: Military unit typically consisting of a number of companies or equivalent (for most German unit types an Abteilung)
- **brigade**: Military unit typically consisting of a number of battalions or equivalent
- **company**: Military unit consisting of a number of platoons or equivalent
- **corps**: Military formation typically consisting of a number of divisions or equivalent and supporting units
- **division**: Military unit typically consisting of a number of brigades or equivalent with supporting arms and services. The largest type of military unit/smallest type of formation. A full-strength German infantry division was significantly larger than a Soviet infantry division, particularly during late 1941 and early 1942.
- **formation**: A number of military units of different types, e.g. infantry, armour, artillery, operating together with dedicated support services to facilitate the sustaining of operations beyond the tactical level
- **front**: Soviet military formation consisting of a number of armies and typically equivalent in strength to an early war German army or later war German army group
- **operational**: Moving beyond the tactical in terms of both time and space to involve the co-ordination of both the movement and engagements of units and formations with a view to a specific outcome
- **regiment**: Military unit consisting of more than one battalion or equivalent, often with supporting units, and roughly equivalent in strength to a brigade
- **strategic**: Typically involving the movement and direction of multiple formations and possibly a sequence of operations, and likely or intended to have impact on the opponents ability to continue the war
- **tactical**: Involving the movement and direction of forces, typically at the unit level, in battle
- **unit**: Military personnel and equipment, typically with a dominant weapons system or role (e.g. infantry or armour), brought together in an organisational subdivision for the purposes of combat. A military unit is typically incorporated into a formation to provide for effective co-ordination with other unit types and logistical and other support (e.g. intelligence) for sustained operations.
**Assessment:**

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<th>Piece of work</th>
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<th>Contribution to final grade</th>
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<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 and one memoir/diary (i.e. primary).</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<td>Source question</td>
<td>Wk 5</td>
<td>You will have 30 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 9</td>
<td>Write a critical response in up to 1500 words (including 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 13</td>
<td>An essay of up to 4000 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 (see above). See also overleaf.</td>
<td>40%</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 50 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 and critique 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 and other ‘primary’ source materials for their long essays. **You should have used at least two documentary source and one memoir/diary.**

* 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 for citing sources (footnotes).

**Research assistance (History Liaison Librarian):**

Mr Clyde will hold office hours Wednesday 10-12 and Thursday 12-2 in the History Department. 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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<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>From ‘outstanding’ to ‘excellent’</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

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints