Course Description: Violence, famine, and epidemic disease took more than fifty million Soviet lives between 1914 and 1953. Over half of these deaths occurred between 1941 and 1945, when the Soviet Union fought the most savage and immense war in history. No other nation ever endured anything like it. The Soviets defeated the invading Axis powers despite the purge of the military leadership in 1937, horrible mistakes at the outset of the war, and widespread hostility within the country to the Stalinist regime. We will focus on the impact of the Stalinist state’s attempt to transform the nation into an industrial power, the death and destruction during the German occupation, as well as the courage and barbarism in the fight to the death on the Eastern Front, especially during the Battles of Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, and Berlin. Evaluating the role of Stalin (or “Uncle Joe” as the American and British public knew him) and his inner circle, as well as what the Stalinist Revolution and “Great Patriotic War” meant for ordinary Soviets, will be of particular concern.
Grading: This course contains a substantial writing component. During the course of the semester students will write four critical analyses of assigned reading, five pages in length each. In addition, by 11:30 a.m. on most class days, students will e-mail me three questions dealing with that day’s reading. The final grade is based on both the written assignments (60% essays; 10% questions) and the extent and quality of classroom participation (30%). Late papers/questions will be penalized. While NSP rules permit students three unexcused absences, in this discussion-based seminar any unexcused absences will negatively impact the class participation grade.

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259.

For an explanation of academic dishonesty, students should consult the Office of Student Judicial Services at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/.

In keeping with the university’s revision of its grading options, this course will be graded with the use of +/- grades (for example A-, C+, etc.).

Writing Tips:
1. You are encouraged to discuss the topic with classmates but the essay you write must be your own work.
2. State your argument in your opening paragraph. Do so quickly and concisely and as forcefully as possible.
3. Support your argument by specific references to evidence from the readings. Also confront the opposing argument and state your reasons for rejecting it.
4. The topic sentence of each of these supporting paragraphs should state the aspect of the topic you wish to discuss.
5. Use the last paragraph to summarize your argument briefly. Let it mirror your first paragraph.
6. Avoid excessive or unnecessary detail. You are writing for an audience (me) who knows what happened and has done the reading.
7. Quote to add punch. Paraphrase otherwise. Do not quote often or use long quotations.
8. Avoid the passive voice. Write about the past in the past tense.
9. Try to write as simply and directly as possible. Omit needless words.
10. Your essay, due at the beginning of class, must be typed, double-spaced, spell-checked, and grammatically correct.
**Texts:** Kevin McDermott, *Stalin.*  
S. A. Smith, *The Russian Revolution.*  
John Scott, *Behind the Urals.*  
Arthur Koestler, *Darkness at Noon.*  
Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna.*  
Richard Overy, *Russia’s War.*  
Catherine Merridale, *Ivan’s War.*  
Geoffrey Roberts, *Victory at Stalingrad.*  

Course Packet available from Paradigm, 407 W. 24th St.

**WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

**WEEK ONE: Introduction**  
Wednesday, January 19  
Film Clip: “Why We Fight: The Battle of Russia”

Friday, January 21  
Reading: Smith, 1-39  
McDermott, 1-34  
*Father Gapon’s Petition*

**WEEK TWO: Revolutionary Russia**  
Wednesday, January 26  
Reading: Smith, 40-99  
McDermott, 34-40  
Overy 1-12

Friday, January 28  
Reading: Smith, 100-168  
McDermott, 41-63  
Overy, 13-16  
Film: “The Life and Times of Joseph Stalin”

**WEEK THREE: Forced Collectivization & Famine**  
Wednesday, February 2  
Reading: *Hindus, “Red Bread”*  
McDermott, 64-71  
Merridale, 29-33  
Overy, 16-17, 22-23
Friday, February 4
Film: “Harvest of Despair”

WEEK FOUR: Breakneck Industrialization
Wednesday, February 9
Reading: McDermott, 71-87
    Scott, ix-92
    Overy, 18-20
    Merridale, 33-43

Friday, February 11
Reading: Scott, 117-170

WEEK FIVE: The Great Terror
Wednesday, February 16: Essay #1 Due
Reading: McDermott, 88-95
    Overy, 24-25
    *Conquest, “The Kirov Murder”
    *Knight, “1 December: The Murder”
    *Getty, “The Politics of Repression Revisited”
    *Getty, “Growing Tension in 1935”

Friday, February 18
Reading: Overy, 21-22, 24-33
    McDermott, 95-115
    Merridale, 44-48

WEEK SIX: Fear and Belief in the Terror
Wednesday, February 23
Reading: Chukovskaya, 1-120

Friday, February 25
Reading: Scott, 173-206
Discussion of Film: “Burnt by the Sun”

WEEK SEVEN: Why Confess?
Wednesday, March 2
Reading: *“Bukharin’s Letter to Stalin”
    Koestler, 1-96
Friday, March 4: *Essay #2 Due*
Reading: Koestler, 97-272

**WEEK EIGHT: How War Came**
Wednesday, March 9
Reading: Overy, 34-55
  McDermott, 116-121
  Roberts, 20-22
  Merridale, 39-48
  Baker, 10-15; Doc. 1

Friday, March 11
Reading: Overy, 56-72
  Baker, 15-31; Doc. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
  Merridale, 39-81
  Roberts, 17-19, 23-26
Film Clip: “The Hour before Midnight”

*** SPRING BREAK ***

**WEEK NINE: Operation Barbarossa**
Wednesday, March 23
  Overy, 73-98
  McDermott, 122-136
  Merridale, 82-115
  Baker, 3-9, 32-40, 44-48; Doc. 7, 8, 9, 10
Film Clip: “The Goths Ride East”

Friday, March 25
Reading: Overy, 99-112
  Baker, 40-44
  *Bidlack, “Survival Strategies”*

**WEEK TEN: Battle of Moscow in War of Annihilation**
Wednesday, March 30
Reading: Overy, 113-124
  Baker, 50-56; Doc. 11, 12, 13, 14
  Merridale, 116-124, 146-152
  Roberts, 39-45
Friday, April 1: *Essay #3 Due*
Reading: Overy, 125-153
   Baker, 48-50, 70-73; Doc. 17
   Roberts, 26-32
   Merridale, 125-126, 136-143, 187-225
Film: “She Defends the Fatherland”

**WEEK ELEVEN: The Battle of Stalingrad**
Wednesday, April 6
Reading: Overy, 154-170
   Roberts, 49-104
   Baker, 57-68; Doc. 15, 16
   Merridale, 171-171

Friday, April 8
Reading: Overy, 171-189
   Roberts, 107-136
   Baker, 68-70
   Merridale, 179-186

**WEEK TWELVE: The Battle of Kursk and False Dawn**
Wednesday, April 13
Reading: Overy, 190-222
   Baker, 73-81
   Merridale, 187-225
   Roberts, 139-142
Film Clip: “The Citadel”

Friday, April 15
Reading: Overy, 223-244
   Baker, 82-98; Doc. 18, 19, 20
   Merridale, 226-280
   Roberts, 142-145
Discussion of film: “Come and See”
WEEK THIRTEEN: The Red Army in Germany
Wednesday, April 20
Reading: Overy, 251-289
   Baker, 98-102; Doc. 21, 22, 23
   Merridale, 281-335
   Roberts, 146-161
   *Naimark, “The Problem of Rape”
Discussion of Film: “A Woman in Berlin”

Friday, April 22
NO CLASS – EASTER WEEKEND

WEEK FOURTEEN: Assessment & Post-War Russia
Wednesday, April 27
Reading: Overy, 290-330
   Baker, 103-107
   McDermott, 137-167
   Merridale, 336-388
Film clip: “The Fall of Berlin”

Friday, April 29: Essay #4 Due

WEEK FIFTEEN
Students prepare for the three week extension of the course (May 9-31) in London, Normandy, Paris, and Berlin.