

Fall 2008: History 740  
Tu 3:30-6:20 MHRA 1208

## **Selected Topics in European History: Readings in Stalinism**

(www.uncg.edu/~jwjones/russia)

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Office Hours: M 4:00-5; W 2:00-3; Th. 10:30-11:30 and by appointment	

### **Course Description**

This graduate-level course will examine the historiography of the Stalin period from the rise of Stalin in the 1920s through the “Stalin Revolution,” the famine and purges of the 1930s, World War II and postwar reconstruction in the 1940s to Stalin’s final years in the early 1950s. The course will focus on recent scholarly research of the Stalin period with a wide variety of methodologies, theories, and approaches to history in mind. We will examine several specific themes in the course: Nationalism, Nationalities, & Contested Regions; Issues of Gender, Social Values, and Everyday Life in the Stalinist 1930s; Resistance, Repression, & Soviet Power; and War & Postwar Reconstruction.

### **Learning Outcomes**

- Students will acquire knowledge of some of the key issues and debates in the broad historiography of the Stalinist period
- Students will gain insight on the historiography of a specific topic in the Stalin era by writing an historiographical essay
- Students will obtain the knowledge and skills to critically appraise varying historical arguments and formulate their own interpretations
- Students will learn how to critically read and distinguish between different methodologies and to “read between the lines” of differing points of view
- Students will participate in a respectful and thoughtful manner in discussions
- Students will develop analytical skills and the ability to apply principles and generalizations learned in this class to other problems and situations

### **Course Activities**

Participation	30%
4 Book Reviews (2-3 pages; 12-point font; double-spaced)	10% each
Historiographical Essay (18-22 pages; 12-point font; double-spaced)	30%

### **Participation**

Obviously in a discussion-based seminar of this nature class participation is crucial. The 30% participation grade will be based entirely on in-class participation during our weekly meetings (it should be noted that the quality of one’s addition to the discussion will be more important than the quantity thereof). The participation grade will also be based in part on oral reports of the titles selected for review weeks and of one’s historiographical paper at the end of the semester.

## **Book Reviews**

Each student will write four book reviews worth 10% each of the course grade. Each student will write a review during the weeks when we divide up various titles, and the other nine titles will also be divided up as well. Students are encouraged to consult published reviews with the clear understanding that their review shall be their own work. The book reviews should be concise (2-3 pages; 12-point font; double-spaced) and should convey the author's argument and methodology clearly, as well as describe the source base(s) on which the work(s) are based. Most importantly, the reviews should assess the strengths and weaknesses of the works under review.

## **Historiographical Essay**

Students will write a historiographical essay, worth 25% of the overall course grade, identifying the major works, trends, and issues of any topic of the student's interest relevant to Stalinist history. The essay (18-22 pages; 12-point font; double-spaced) should convey the major themes covered in the works examined as well as differences between varying treatments of similar topics. For each work discussed in the essay students should consider the following questions: What is the author's thesis? What sources/evidence does the author rely on? Where does the book fit with historiographical trends in the field? What are the strengths and weaknesses of the book, i.e. how convincing is the author's interpretation and the book's overall argument? Finally, a strong essay will relate the works examined to each other in a clear and logical manner.

## **Course Schedule**

Tuesday, August 26. Introduction to the Course & Discussion of *Stalin* by Hiroaki Kuromiya

### **Part I: Nationalism, Nationalities, & Contested Regions**

Tuesday, September 2. Reading: Terry Martin, *The Affirmative Action Empire: Nations and Nationalism in the Soviet Union, 1923-1939*

Tuesday, September 9. Reading: Kate Brown, *A Biography of No Place: From Ethnic Borderland to Soviet Heartland*

Tuesday, September 16. Reading: Douglas Northrop, *Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia*

### **Part II: Gender, Values, & Life in Stalinist Russia**

Tuesday, September 23. Reading: Wendy Goldman, *Women at the Gates: Gender and Industry in Stalin's Russia*

Tuesday, September 30. Reading: David Hoffman, *Stalinist Values: The Cultural Norms of Soviet Modernity, 1917-1941*

Tuesday, October 7. Reading List (students will be assigned to read, write a review, and do a brief oral report of a title to be identified).

### **Part III: Resistance, Repression, & Soviet Power**

Tuesday, October 14. Reading: Lynn Viola, ed., *Contending With Stalinism: Soviet Power & Popular Resistance in the 1930s*

Tuesday, October 28. Reading: Sheila Fitzpatrick, ed., *Stalinism: New Directions*

Tuesday, November 4. Reading List (students will be assigned to read, write a review, and do a brief oral report of a title to be identified).

### **Part IV: War & Postwar Reconstruction**

Tuesday, November 11. Reading: Catherine Merridale, *Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945*

Tuesday, November 18. Reading: Elena Zubkova, *Russia After the War: Hopes, Illusions, and Disappointments, 1945-1957*

Tuesday, November 25. Reading List (students will be assigned to read, write a review, and do a brief oral report of a title to be identified).

Tuesday, December 2. Conclusion to the Course. Oral Reports on the Historiographical Essays. Reading: TBA

**Historiographical Essay due Tuesday, December 9.**