This course explores the very different ways historians have thought about and argued over the nature of Stalinism. As such, we will mostly be reading secondary literature and critically analyzing the contending points of view. We will be primarily concerned with the domestic aspects of Stalinism and focused on the 1930s and 1940s. The course assumes a basic knowledge of the rise of Stalin to power and the key events of his rule.

**Course Objectives and Requirements:**

The fundamental project of the seminar will be the development of an intellectual community in which we all work together to reach an understanding of a deeply contentious set of historical issues. We will each be responsible to complete the assigned readings for every session and to bring our ideas and perspectives to the metaphorical table. Attendance is mandatory and active participation in discussion is expected.

A primary objective of this seminar is to enhance the student's interpretive skills by a close reading of a variety of materials. To this end, each student will prepare a short "working paper" (1-2 typed pages) for each class session. These papers should explicate the author's argument, draw out points of comparison between the week's readings, and include questions to be discussed in class that will help us probe the author’s point of view. The papers will constitute an essential part of the written work for the course and will also help to structure the weekly discussions. The papers will be due by 10am each Wednesday; I will read them briefly prior to the session. They will be returned in class so that students may draw on their questions for the discussion. I will then read the papers carefully and return them the following week. Class participation and working papers will constitute 75% of the grade. Since one key objective of these working papers is to facilitate discussion unexcused late papers will not be accepted and will receive a “F.”
Each student will write a more formal paper (approx. 6-8 typed pages) due no later than May 12 (the end of reading period). This essay will ask you to reflect on an aspect of the course readings and discussions; it will not require additional reading or research. The paper will constitute 25% of the grade.

Students are encouraged to meet with me during office hours or by appointment to discuss any aspect of the semester's work. I hope to facilitate intellectual inquiry within and outside the classroom setting and welcome student input and criticism.

All written work is governed by the Honor Code. Please be sure to ask me if you have any questions about how it applies to the work in this class.

Special Needs: If you have a documented disability and would like to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.

Readings:
The following books have been ordered at the Bookstore; they have also been placed on Reserve. The articles we will be reading will be available Blackboard.

Hoffmann, ed. Stalinism, The Essential Readings
Fitzpatrick, Stalin’s Peasants
Chukovskaya, Sofia Petrovna

A final note: Please turn off cell phones for the entire class period. Once class has begun, please refrain from taking breaks and leaving the room until the designated break for everyone half way through the session.

Schedule of Classes and Readings Assignments

Feb 4: Introduction
I have placed two textbooks on Reserve for those who have not studied the Stalin period and/or those who need to refresh their knowledge. Please read the relevant chapters in one of the following:

Freeze, ed. Russia: a history Chs. 10-12, [pp. 263-335.]
Riasanovsky and Steinberg, A History of Russia, Chs. 35-38, [pp. 465-526]
Feb. 11: Framing the debate


Feb. 18: The Great Break and the Great Depression: Imperatives of Industrialization?

Siegelbaum “The Socialist Offensive,” in Stalinism As a Way of Life p. 27-39. [This reading knits together a number of primary documents with Siegelbaum’s analysis of them.]

“A Day in Magnitogorsk” Excerpts from Behind the Urals in Riha, pp 568-585


Feb. 25: The Great Break: Collectivization

Fitzpatrick, Stalin’s Peasants, pp.3-79, 174-203, 282-312.

Selections from In the Shadow of Revolution, pp. 241-242, 305-321.

March 4: Workers and the Question of Resistance


March 11: Consumption and Civilization

Section “Consumption and Civilization” in Fitzpatrick, ed., Stalinism, New Directions pp. 177-230. Essays by:
   Hessler, “Cultured Trade”
   Volkov, “The Concept of Kul’turnost’

March 18: Gender and Family


Frida Troib et. al., “Engineers’ Wives” in In the shadow of Revolution pp. 419-423


Review your notes on Volkov, “Kul’turnost’”

Break week

April 1: The Modernity Paradigm

Kotkin – “Stalinism as a Civilization” (pp. 107-126) and
Holquist “State Violence as Technique: The Logic of Violence in Soviet Totalitarianism”( pp.129-156) both in Hoffmann, ed. Stalinism, The Essential Readings

April 8: The Stalinist Self


Review your notes on Rossman, “Weavers” and Kotkin “Coersion and Identity”

**April 15: Varieties of Terror 1**

K. Schlogel Moscow, 1937 Ch 8 (pp. 125-143), Ch 11 (pp. 176-197), and pages 491-504

Section “Varieties of Terror” in Fitzpatrick, ed., Stalinism, New Directions pp. 257-308 Essays by:
  - Harris, “Purging of Local Cliques in the Urals region, 1936-1937”
  - Hagenloh, “’Socially Harmful Elements’ and the Great Terror”

**April 22: Varieties of Terror 2**

Chukovskaya, Sofia Petrovna (entire)


**April 29: World War and Holocaust**

Edele “What Are We Fighting for?” Loyalty in the Soviet War Effort, 1941–1945” International Labor and Working-Class History, No. 84, Fall 2013, pp. 248-268.


**May 6: Last Class**

Readings TBA