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 primarily concern 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 Requirements:**

- Students must attend every session of the colloquium or present a valid excuse to the instructor. Active student participation in the weekly sessions is vital to the success of the course.

- Students must complete the assigned readings for every session of the colloquium.

- A primary objective of this course is to develop 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 articulate the major issues raised by the readings, define the author's point of view, draw out points of comparison between the week's readings, and include questions to be discussed in class. 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 3pm each Wednesday and will be read briefly by the instructor prior to the session. They will be returned in class so that students may draw on their questions for the discussion. The papers will then be carefully read by the instructor, returned the following week, and graded with a A+, A, A-. After completing the first three working papers, students are encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss their progress on this assignment.

- Each student will write two more formal papers (each approx. 5-6 typed pages). The first essay will be due no later than noon Oct. 13 and the second will be due no later than Dec. 17 (the end of reading period). These essays will ask you to reflect on an aspect of the course readings and discussions; they will not require additional reading or research. [Each paper will constitute 20% of the grade.]

- Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours or by appointment to discuss any aspect of the semester's work. The instructor hopes to facilitate intellectual inquiry within and outside the classroom setting and welcomes student input and criticism.

**Readings:**

The following books have been ordered at the Bookstore; they have also been placed on Reserve. Most of the articles we will be reading will be available on ERes.

- Hoffmann, ed. *Stalinism, The Essential Readings*
- Fitzpatrick, *Stalin’s Peasants*
- Scott, *Behind the Urals*

**A final note:** Please turn off cell phones, pagers, beeping watches and the like for the entire class period; once class has begun, please refrain from taking breaks and leaving the room until the designated break for everyone halfway through the session.
Sept. 6 Introduction

Sept 13 The Great Change


Sept 20 Collectivization and the Question of Resistance

Fitzpatrick, Stalin’s Peasants, pp.3-127, 174-203, 286-312


Sept 27 Industrialization and the Question of Resistance

Scott, Behind the Urals: An American Worker in Russia's City of Steel, Intro. and Parts. 1-6.


Oct 4 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’”

Oct. 11 Socialist Realism
“Life has become better, comrades, life has become more cheerful”

Movie: Circus (1936)
[handout on the film]


BREAK WEEK

Oct. 25 The Transformative state


Nov. 1 Stalinist Self

Review your notes on Rossman, “Weavers” and Kotkin, “Coercion”

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Nov. 8 Gender and Stalinist Family Values


Nov. 15 Varieties of Terror

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”


Nov. 22 No class – Thanksgiving the next day

Nov 29 WWII


Overy, Russia’s War, Blood Upon the Snow, pp. 54-113, 120-158


Dec. 6 Ivan’s war and its aftermath


Zubkova, Russia after the War pp. 3-139.
[Library has one hard copy; another copy is available from NetLibrary. We will discuss the practicalities of using this on-line.]

Dec, 13 Last Class