**Description:** This course examines several facets of what was officially termed the “Great Patriotic War.” The Soviet Union lost an estimated 26 million of its citizens’ lives during the war with Germany, and the tragedy had wide repercussions for Soviet culture. The USSR also emerged victorious. The course will analyze the reasons for the Soviet victory and explore the wartime experience as refracted through the eyes of soldiers, diverse groups of civilians, and cultural intellectuals, with particular attention to historical controversies.

Grades will be based on an in-class midterm (30%), a non-cumulative final (30%), and a 10-page research paper (40%). Engaged participation may raise your grade by one or two percentage points (e.g. from 82% to 84%).

Texts available for purchase at the UO Bookstore:

- Richard Overy, *Russia’s War*
- Catherine Merridale, *Ivan’s War*
- Karel C. Berkhoff, *Harvest of Despair: Life and Death in Ukraine under Nazi Rule*

**Part I. The course of the war.** Reading: Overy, *Russia’s War*

- **Week 1. Opening stages of the war**
  Mon., Mar. 30  Background (based on *Russia’s War*, 1-72).

- **Week 2. The tide turns**
  Mon., Apr. 6  Collaboration, terror, and resistance. Discuss 125-154.
  Wed., Apr. 8  Stalingrad and Kursk. Discuss 154-222.

- **Week 3. Victory**

**Part II. Soldiers’ experience.** Reading: Merridale, *Ivan’s War*


- **Week 4. Soldiers’ experience from Barbarossa to liberation**
  Mon., Apr. 20  Soldiers’ experience in the Red Army: from the 1930s to Stalingrad. Discuss 1-186.

- **Week 5. Liberation, rape, memory**
  Mon., Apr. 27  The defeat of Nazi Germany. Discuss 263-388.
  Wed., Apr. 29  Midterm exam

**Part III. Culture, daily life, controversies**

- **Week 6. Wartime culture**
  Wed., May 6  Wartime journalism. Reading: selections by Ilya Ehrenburg and Konstantin Simonov (Blackboard)

- **Week 7. Ethnicity, collaboration, and Holocaust: the case of Ukraine**
  Mon., May 11  Ukraine and the Holocaust. Reading: *Harvest of Despair*

- **Week 8. Ethnicity, collaboration, and terror**
  Mon., May 18  German deportations, culture, and nationalism. Reading: 187-313.
Week 9. Stalin’s wartime role
Mon., May 25  Memorial Day: No class


Week 10. The cultural legacy of the war
Mon., June 1. Begin in-class film: Andrei Tarkovsky, dir., *Ivan’s Childhood* [*My Name is Ivan*] (1962) (95 min.)

Wed., June 3. Finish film and discuss; wrap-up on cultural legacy of the war.

**Paper due:** 10:00, Mon., June 8.

**Final Exam:** 3:15, Wed., June 10.