This course will introduce graduate students to the history of the USSR, 1917-1991. Each week we will explore different topics in Soviet history, including the 1917 revolutions, Stalinism, the formation of the USSR, and the Soviet Union and the Eastern Bloc. We will discuss the events themselves and how interpretations of those events have changed over time (with the beginning of the Cold War, the collapse of the USSR, the opening of archives, and so on.)

Course readings: The syllabus includes optional background readings and common readings. I will also distribute a separate bibliography of document collections. Discussion leaders should familiarize themselves with some of the document collections on their week's topic. All books are on reserve at College Library. Items marked (ACLS) are available as e-books through MadCat. Items marked (E) are available through the College Library Reserves website. Other articles are available through JSTOR. (I've marked the URL. You will need to login through MadCat.)

Assignments: Each student will lead discussion twice. Each student will write three papers during the semester: one 5-page review essay discussing a given week's readings, one 8-10-page primary source analysis (focusing on one or more document collection), and one 12-15-page historiographical essay. More information and instructions about these assignments will follow.

9/4 Week One: Introduction

9/11 Week Two: 1917

Optional Background/Context

Common Readings
9/18 Week Four: Civil War and the Formation of the USSR

Optional Background/Context

**Common Readings**

9/25 Week Five: The Soviet 1920s

Optional Background/Context

**Common Readings**

10/2 Week Six: Dimensions of Empire

Optional Background/Context

**Common Readings**

10/9 Week Seven: Stalinism

Optional Background/Context

**Common Readings**

**10/16 Week Seven: Dimensions of Internationalism**

**Optional Background/Context**

**Common Readings**

**10/23 Week Eight: World War Two**

**Optional Background/Context**
Alexander Werth, Russia at War, 1964.

**Common Readings**
1. Alexander Dallin, German Rule in Russia, 1941-1945, 1957, pp. 44-103. (ACLS)
3. Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin, 2010, pp. TBD

**10/30 Week Nine: Postwar**

**Optional Background/Context**
Vera Dunham, In Stalin's Time, 1976, pp. 3-23. (E)

**Common Readings**
11/6 Week Ten: The Postwar USSR and the World
Optional Background/Context

Common Readings
1. Vladislav Zubok and Constantine Pleshakov, Inside the Kremlin's Cold War: From Stalin to Khrushchev, 1997, pp. TBD (ACLS)

11/13 Week Eleven: The Khrushchev Eva
Optional Background/Context

Common Readings

11/20 and 11/27 No Class (ASEEES Conference and Thanksgiving)
Work on Final Papers

12/4 Week Fourteen: The Brezhnev Era
Optional Background/Context

Common Readings

12/11 Week Fifteen: The Road to Dissolution
Optional Background/Context
Mikhail Sergeevich Gorbachev, Memoirs, 1996.

Common Readings