
World War II in Eastern Europe

OSHER 862-001**Dates:** Tuesdays: October 13 – November 17**Time:** 9:30 am – 11:30 am**Location:** Online via Zoom**Instructor:** Stephen C. Hall, Colonel, USAF (Retired)

Professor of the Practice, Literature, Media, and Communication, Georgia Institute of Technology

Course Description:

Because our relatives fought in France and Germany, we Americans tend to know little about the World War II campaigns in Eastern Europe, even though the vast preponderance of fighting was done there. As with its successor lecture, *World War II in Western Europe*, this lecture series focuses on the specific events of the Eastern European campaign, but even more on the decisions that led to victory. We will carefully examine the pros and cons of the major decisions, the factors in play, and why the final decisions were what they turned out to be. We will examine Operation Barbarossa, the Battle of Stalingrad, and the amazing recovery and resilience shown by the Soviets. Additionally, we will discuss separate topics including Soviet Women in WWII. This course should be an eye-opener to many.

This class will be especially germane to those who have read *The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich* and to those who have taken the lecture series, *World War I*.

Course Overview:

- Week 1:** The Roots of World War II in Europe
- Setting the European Stage
 - The Legacy of Versailles
 - Bedfellows: the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact
- Week 2:** Operation Barbarossa: The German Invasion of Russia
- Prelude to Action
 - The Attack
 - Russian Response
 - Ghost of Napoleon

Week 3: Lend Lease: “The Most Unsordid Act”

- What Was Lend Lease?
- The Decisions
- Aid to Whom?
- How to Get it There
- Results

Week 4: Russian Women in World War II

- Pilots
- Snipers
- Soldiers
- Contribution and Legacy

Week 5: Stalingrad: High-water Mark of the Wehrmacht

- Why Was Stalingrad So Important?
- Plan
- Execution
- The Russian Response
- Coda

Week 6: Battle of Berlin: Victory

- Zhukov: Russia’s Patton + Marshall
- Final Thrust
- Surrender