

HIST 3312 Spring 2021

Europe at War, 1939-1945: Occupation, Genocide, Resistance

Professor William Hitchcock (hitch@virginia.edu)

Lecture Meeting Time: M/W 1:00 pm via Zoom (link on Collab at “Online Meetings”)

Section Meeting Time: See Collab at “Online Meetings”

This course surveys the impact of the Second World War upon the people and nations of Europe. We will deal in particular with the rise of Fascism, appeasement and the outbreak of war, the fall of France, the survival of Britain, the nature of the Nazi genocidal war on the Jews, the German-Soviet war, the European resistance to German occupation, and the liberation of Europe in 1944-45.

Required Readings for the Course (you may read these in digital format if you wish):

Browning, Christopher. *Ordinary Men*. 978-0060995065

Hitchcock, William. *The Bitter Road to Freedom*. 978-1439123300

Jackson, Julian. *The Fall of France*. 978-0192805508

Levi, Primo. *Survival in Auschwitz*. 978-0684826806

MacDonald, Collum. *The Killing of Reinhard Heydrich: The SS 'Butcher of Prague'* 978-0306808609

Overy, Richard. *Russia's War*. 978-0141049175

Anonymous. *A Woman in Berlin*. 978-0312426118

Final Grades will be based on five (5) short essays and attendance

Every three weeks, you are required to submit a short essay in response to a prompt given by the instructor. These essays will be in response to the assigned reading. These short essays must be uploaded to your folder in File Drop on Collab **by 5:00 pm EST** on:

Feb 19 (essay #1)

March 12 (essay #2)

April 2 (essay #3)

April 23 (essay #4)

May 7 (essay #5)

Because of the high volume of pages that you will submit, the Teaching Assistant will not be able to provide substantive written responses to your papers. Instead, you will receive one of four point totals:

- **20 points:** A paper that answers the prompt clearly, is well written (clear thesis statement, well-organized, no grammatical mistakes, does not exceed word-limit), and is submitted on time.
- **15 points:** A paper that is adequate but does not fully answer the prompt, or has grammatical, proof-reading, and organization problems but is still submitted on time.
- **10 points:** A paper that is poorly written, does not answer the prompt, but is submitted on time.
- **0 points:** any late paper. (If you have been given an extension by the PROFESSOR, this does not apply.)

Attendance: You are required to attend all lectures and have your Zoom camera on, unless the professor or TA has given you permission to miss class or discussion section. Attendance will be taken at lecture and section. You will lose one point from your final grade for every unexcused absence from lecture or discussion section.

Your final grade will be based on an accumulation of points.

If you earn enough points to reach a particular range you will receive the corresponding final grade.

100 points = A+

95 to 99 points = A

90 to 94 points = A-

86 to 89 points = B+

83 to 85 points = B

80 to 82 points = B-

76 to 79 points = C+

73 to 75 points = C

70 to 72 points = C-

61 to 69 points = D

60 or fewer points = F

Weekly Lecture Topics and Readings

Week 1. The Rise and Fascism and Nazism

Feb 1 Who was Hitler and what was his “vision” of Germany and Europe?

Feb 3 Who was Mussolini and how did Fascism relate to Nazism?

Reading:

- Robert O. Paxton, “The Five Stages of Fascism,” *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 70, No. 1. (Mar., 1998), pp. 1-23. [On Collab under Resources tab]
- Richard Bessel, “Political Violence and the Nazi Seizure of Power,” *History Today*, October 1985 Vol. 35 Issue 10. [On Collab under Resources tab]
- "Origins of Neo-Nazi and White Supremacist Terms and Symbols," <https://www.ushmm.org/antisemitism/what-is-antisemitism/origins-of-neo-nazi-and-white-supremacist-terms-and-symbols>
- Browse the material put together on Hitler's rise to power by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum: <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/adolfo-hitler>
- "Fascism," <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/fascism-1>

Week 2. Appeasement and the Outbreak of War

Feb 8 Why and how did Europe “appease” Hitler?

Feb 10 How War Came, September 1939-May 1940.

Reading:

- G. Bruce Strang, "The Spirit of Ulysses? Ideology and British Appeasement in the 1930s," in Resources tab on Collab.
- Norrin M. Ripsman and Jack S. Levy. "Wishful Thinking or Buying Time? The Logic of British Appeasement in the 1930s." *International Security*, Fall, 2008, Vol. 33, No. 2 (Fall, 2008), pp. 148-181, in Resources tab on Collab.
- Julian Jackson, *The Fall of France*, 1-100.
- OPTIONAL VIEWING: Log in to UVA Library homepage and watch Episode 1, *Apocalypse: World War 2*: https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u8761467

Week 3. Strange Defeat

Feb 15 What explains the rapid defeat of France in June 1940?

Feb 17 BREAK DAY: no class.

Reading:

- Julian Jackson, *Fall of France*, 101-142.
- Stephen Schuker, "France and the Remilitarization of the Rhineland, 1936," *French Historical Studies*, Spring, 1986, Vol. 14, No. 3 (Spring, 1986), pp. 299- 338. On Collab under the Resources tab.

Feb 19: PAPER #1 DUE BY 5:00 PM: UPLOAD YOUR ESSAY TO YOUR FOLDER AT FILE DROP TAB ON COLLAB

Prompt #1: Please write an essay of *about* 1,200 words in length that answers this question: "Why did Britain and France appease Germany in the years just before WW2?" For source material, use only the assigned readings for this class. Do not refer to any outside material of any kind.

Week 4. "Alone."

Feb 22 How did Britain win the "Battle of Britain"?

Feb 24 How did the war effort shape Britain's domestic politics?

Reading:

- George Orwell, "the Lion and the Unicorn" and "Wartime Diary." On Collab under the Resources tab.
- "The Beveridge Report and the Foundations of the Welfare State," <https://blog.nationalarchives.gov.uk/beveridge-report-foundations-welfare-state/>
- Noël Whiteside, "The Beveridge Report and Its Implementation: a Revolutionary Project?", *Histoire@Politique: Politique, culture, société*, n° 24, septembre-décembre 2014. On Collab under Resources tab.
- OPTIONAL VIEWING: Log in to UVA Library homepage and watch Episode 2, Apocalypse: World War 2: https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u8761468

Week 5. Occupations

March 1 What was “Vichy France”?

March 3 Why did Germany invade Yugoslavia and Greece? What were the consequences?

Reading:

- Jackson, *The Fall of France*, 143-249.
- Article on Vichy France including its role in the Holocaust, at <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-french-vichy-regime>
- Laurent Joly, "The Genesis of Vichy's Jewish Statute of October 1940," in Resources tab on Collab.
- OPTIONAL VIEWING: *Apocalypse: World War 2*: Log in to UVA Library homepage and watch Episode 3. https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u8761465

Week 6. The German Invasion of the USSR and the Origins of the Holocaust.

March 8 Why did Nazi Germany invade the Soviet Union, and how did the Soviet Union resist?

March 10 Why (and how) did Germany launch a war of annihilation against the Jews?

Reading:

- Overy, *Russia's War*, 1-72.
- Jason Dawsey, “Coordinating the Destruction of an Entire People: The Wannsee Conference,” [here](#)
- English translation of the record of the Meeting at Wannsee [here](#)
- Browning, *Ordinary Men*, all.

March 12: PAPER #2 DUE BY 5:00 PM: UPLOAD YOUR ESSAY TO YOUR FOLDER AT FILE DROP TAB ON COLLAB

Prompt #2: TBA.

Week 7. Genocide.

March 15 Life and Death in the Ghettos

March 17 The Extermination Camps

Reading:

- Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz* (all).
- Peter Hayes, "Auschwitz, Capital of the Holocaust," in Resources tab on Collab.

Week 8. Resistance.

March 22 What resistance movements emerged in Eastern Europe?

March 24 What resistance movements emerged in Western Europe?

Reading:

- Macdonald, *The Killing of Reinhard Heydrich* (all).

Week 9. Operation "TORCH"

March 29 BREAK DAY

March 31 The War in North Africa

Reading:

- R. Fine, "The Media, the Military, and American Policy toward Vichy North Africa," in Resources tab on Collab.
- P. Bernhard, "Italian Atrocities in North Africa," in Resources tab.
- OPTIONAL VIEWING: *Apocalypse: World War 2*: Log in to UVA Library homepage and watch Episode 5: https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u8695097

April 2: PAPER #3 DUE BY 5:00 PM: UPLOAD YOUR ESSAY TO YOUR FOLDER AT FILE DROP TAB ON COLLAB

Prompt #3: TBA

Week 10. The Liberation of Italy

April 5 How did Mussolini Fall?

April 7 What were the consequences of the war in Italy, 1943-45?

Reading:

- Rob Citino on “The Death of the Duce,” [here](#).
- Tyler Bamford, “Ernie Pyle: The Voice of the American Soldier in World War II,” [here](#).
- R. Fine, "The 'Pyle Style' of War Reporting," in Resources tab on Collab.
- Ernie Pyle, *Brave Men*, various articles on Collab under Resources Tab.

Week 11. The Russian War.

April 12 What were the consequences of the German invasion for the Soviet people?

April 14 Assessing the German-Soviet Military Conflict CLASS VISIT FROM SPECIAL GUEST **DR. ROBERT CITINO**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF WAR AND DEMOCRACY; SAMUEL ZEMURRAY STONE SENIOR HISTORIAN, NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MUSEUM.

Reading:

- Richard Overy, *Russia's War*, 73-185.

Week 12. The Human Costs

April 19 The French “civil war”: Vichy 1942-44

April 21 The Allied Bombing Campaign

Reading:

- Hitchcock, *Bitter Road to Freedom*, 1-122.

April 23: PAPER #4 DUE BY 5:00 PM: UPLOAD YOUR ESSAY TO YOUR FOLDER AT FILE DROP TAB ON COLLAB

Prompt #4: TBA

Week 13. Liberation

April 26 D-Day

April 28 Liberation of Paris and western Europe

Reading:

- Hitchcock, *Bitter Road*, 125-373;
- Overy, *Russia's War*, 223-330.
- OPTIONAL VIEWING: Apocalypse: World War 2: Episode 6: https://search.lib.virginia.edu/sources/uva_library/items/u8695101

Week 14. In the Rubble

May 3 Germany Occupied

May 5 Assessing the Costs and Meanings

Reading:

- Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*, all.
- Kristen Burton, "War Crimes on Trial: The Nuremberg and Tokyo Trials," [here](#).

May 7: PAPER #5 DUE BY 5:00 PM: UPLOAD YOUR ESSAY TO YOUR FOLDER AT FILE DROP TAB ON COLLAB

Prompt #5: TBA

Please note that May 8 is "VE-Day" (Victory-Europe Day), the date on which German forces surrendered to the Allied Forces in France. In the USSR, the date that is celebrated is May 9.