

Mr. Hitchcock

Spring Term 2018

Office: Nau Hall 285

Office Hours: Monday 11-1:00 and by appt.

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HIST 3452

The Second World War

This course provides a survey of the greatest, most destructive war in human history: The Second World War. Over 50 million people died in the conflict, and it reached every corner of the globe. Its political, social, and human consequences were vast and shape the world we live in today. Understanding the war – its origins, its course, and its impact – remains one of the great challenges for historians. This class will provide students with a narrative of the war, both in the European and Pacific theaters. It will also ask students to think about a number of broad interpretive questions: why did the war begin? Why was it waged with such ferocity on all sides? What ideas sustained the combatants through so many years of sacrifice? How did the “United Nations” win? Did the victors tarnish their triumph by using certain weapons that killed many innocent people? How have various societies come to remember, and commemorate, the war?

The following books are required. Please purchase them.

Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men* (Harper)

Akira Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War* (Bedford/St Martin’s)

David Kennedy, *The American People in World War II: Freedom from Fear, Part II* (Oxford)

Andrew Roberts, *The Storm of War* (Harper)

Eugene Sledge, *With the Old Breed* (Presidio)

J. Samuel Walker, *Prompt and Utter Destruction* (UNC)

Additional digital materials will be assigned; please see each weekly assignment in the syllabus.

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS FOR THIS COURSE:

1. A take-home essay mid-term, in response to a prompt. Due in class in hard copy on **February 21**. 30% of final grade.
2. 5-page reaction paper on “Jewish Resistance” materials from US Holocaust Memorial Museum site, due in hard copy in class on **April 4**. 10% of final grade.
3. Oral History Paper. Each student will write a 12-15 page essay based on research in transcripts of interviews given by veterans. These materials are available on-line. Details will be provided. Due in class on **April 18**. 30% of final grade.
4. A final cumulative exam held in our classroom on **May 8** (9:00-12:00). 30% of final grade.

POLICY ON DISCUSSION SECTIONS:

Attendance at discussion section is mandatory. Roll will be taken. Three unexcused absences from section will result in an F for the course.

If you must miss a section, make sure to alert your TA ahead of time!

THE HONOR CODE

“Plagiarism is representing someone else’s ideas or work as your own original ideas or work. Plagiarism encompasses many things, and is by far the most common manifestation of academic fraud. For example, copying a passage straight from a book, a website, or any other source into a paper without using quotation marks and explicitly citing the source is plagiarism. Additionally, paraphrasing is plagiarism where you fail to cite your original source and, in some cases, where you fail to use quotation marks as well. It is very important that students properly acknowledge all ideas, work, and even distinctive words or phrases that are not their own.” This text is from <http://www.virginia.edu/honor/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/PlagiarismSupplement2011.pdf>

Receiving unattributed assistance on an exam or paper also constitutes a violation of the honor code. All work for this class must bear these words and your signature:

“On my honor as a student, I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment/exam.”

Lecture topics and weekly reading assignments

Part I: The European War, 1939-1942

Week 1.

W, Jan. 17. Introduction: Four Regional Wars, One *World* War.

Read: Roberts, 1-11.

Discussion sections will meet this week, simply for organizational purposes.

Week 2:

M, Jan. 22. Origins: Structure vs. Individuals.

W, Jan. 24. Appeasement.

This week, read and discuss:

Paul Kennedy, "The Tradition of Appeasement in British Foreign Policy," on Collab.

N. Ripsman and J. Levy, "Wishful Thinking or Buying Time?" on Collab.

"The Hossbach Memorandum (1937);" <http://avalon.law.yale.edu/imt/hossbach.asp>

Winston Churchill on the Munich Agreement, Oct. 5 1938:

<https://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/101-the-munich-agreement>

Churchill's warning, Oct. 16 1938:

<https://www.winstonchurchill.org/resources/speeches/1930-1938-the-wilderness/the-defence-of-freedom-and-peace/>

Week 3:

M, Jan 29. The War in Europe Begins: Poland, 1939.

W, Jan 31. The Fall of France; Vichy.

This week, read and discuss: Roberts, 15-86 (chaps 1-2); on the Vichy regime:

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Holocaust/VichyRegime.html>

And "The Five Stages of Fascism," by Robert O. Paxton, in *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 70, No. 1 (March 1998), pp. 1-23. On Collab.

Week 4:

M, Feb. 5. Britain Alone.

W, Feb. 7. Finest Hour: British people at war, 1940-44.

Read and discuss: Roberts, 87-118 (chap 3); David Kennedy, 1-74; and Winston Churchill's speeches:

(audio) Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat - 13 May 1940, First Speech to the House of Commons as Prime Minister. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/92-blood-toil-tears-and-sweat>

Be Ye Men of Valour - 19 May 1940, First Broadcast on BBC as Prime Minister. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/91-be-ye-men-of-valour>

We Shall Fight on the Beaches - 4 June 1940, House of Commons. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/128-we-shall-fight-on-the-beaches>

Their Finest Hour - 18 June 1940, House of Commons. <http://www.winstonchurchill.org/learn/speeches/speeches-of-winston-churchill/122-their-finest-hour>

Week 5.

M, Feb. 12. Holocaust, Origins.

W, Feb. 14. Barbarossa.

Read and discuss: Browning, all. Roberts, 136-184 (chap 5) and 219-250 (chap 7).

Week 6:

M, Feb. 19. Holocaust, 1941-42.

W, Feb. 21. Leningrad.

Feb 21: Mid-Term Take-home Essay due in class.

Part II: The Pacific War

Week 7:

M, Feb. 26. The Japanese Empire to 1940.

W, Feb. 28. The Road to Pearl Harbor.

Read: Iriye, 1-108 and 158-169; Kennedy, 74-106; Roberts, 185-215 (chap 6).

[Yes, sections will meet!]

[SPRING BREAK: START SLEDGE, WITH THE OLD BREED, OVER BREAK]

Week 8:

M, March 12: The USA Responds to Japan

W, March 14. Home Front, USA

Read and discuss: Kennedy, 321-372; Sledge, Part I, "Peleliu."

M. Kapell on the Detroit Race Riot of 1943. On Collab.

Franklin Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" speech of January 1941.
<http://americanrhetoric.com/speeches/fdrthefourfreedoms.htm>

Week 9:

M, March 19. Asian Battlefronts.

W, March 21. Stalingrad.

Read and discuss: Kennedy, 106-139; Roberts, 315-345; Sledge, Part II, "Okinawa."

Part III: Toward Victory

Week 10:

M, March 26: Hitler's Europe circa 1943: Collaboration, Resistance, Exploitation.

W, March 28: The Battle of the Atlantic.

Read and discuss: Kennedy, 140-147; Roberts, 346-374.

Discuss "Jewish Resistance" materials at
<https://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10005213>

Week 11:

M, April 2. War in North Africa.

W, April 4. Italy: From Sicily to Rome.

Read and discuss: Roberts, 119-135 (chap 4); 281-314 (chap 9); 375-406 (chap 12).

April 4--Short essay due in class on "Jewish Resistance" materials.

Week 12:

M, April 9: The Red Army from Stalingrad to Berlin.

W, April 11: Overlord.

Read: Kennedy, 249-320; Roberts, 409-490.

Week 13:

M, April 16: "Strategic" Bombing.

W, April 18: The Defeat of Germany.

Read: Roberts, 491-563. Kennedy, 373-426.

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH PAPERS DUE IN CLASS ON APRIL 18. HAND A HARD COPY TO YOUR TA AND SEND THEM A COPY BY EMAIL.

Week 14:

M, April 23: The Final Assault on Japan.

W, April 25: The Atomic Bomb.

Read: Kennedy, 373-426. Samuel Walker, *Prompt and Utter Destruction*, all.

Read also Paul Fussell, "Thank God For The Atom Bomb," in *Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays* (New York: Summit Books, 1988). Collab.

Week 15:

M, April 30: Our Memory Problem.

FINAL EXAM: IN OUR CLASSROOM TUESDAY MAY 8 FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON.