

# History 2812-001. WORLD WAR TWO

40146: 1:00-1:50 P.M., MWF

Fall Semester 2021

**Zoom Invite Link for Class Sessions:**

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Classroom:** Virtual

**Professor:** Gregory J. W. Urwin, Ph.D.

**Office:** 931 Gladfelter Hall

**Office Hours:** Monday and Wednesday, 11:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.; Wednesday, 2:00 to 3:00 P.M.; or by appointment via Zoom invite link: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/91444210830>.

**E-Mail Address:** [gurwin@temple.edu](mailto:gurwin@temple.edu)

**Home Page:** [Gregory J. W. Urwin | Temple University College of Liberal Arts](#)

**Teaching Assistant:** Joseph Edward Johnson

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00-11:30 A.M., or by appointment via Zoom invite link: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/97659951588>

**E-Mail Address:** [tuo72180@temple.edu](mailto:tuo72180@temple.edu)

**How This Course Will Be Taught: Synchronously Online:** Click this Zoom link at 1:00 P.M. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/94208100656>.

**Course Description:** This course offers a survey of World War II, the largest and most destructive armed conflict in human history, with coverage of its causes and consequences. It utilizes the prism of grand strategy to analyze national policy and military strategy. In addition to detailed descriptions of major military operations, the course will assess the impact that Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Winston S. Churchill, Joseph Stalin, and Franklin D. Roosevelt had on the war. While this course emphasizes military events and wartime diplomacy, some attention will be paid to the internal politics of the major belligerents and economic factors. There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Goals and Objectives:**

Knowledge Based Skills: 1) Strategy, Tactics, and Logistics; 2) Impact of Evolving Military Technology; 3) Impact of Politics on Military Affairs; 4) War's Impact on Society; 5) Social Pressures and the Military; 6) Recruitment, Training, and Motivation; 7) Military Professionalism.

Skill-Based Goals: 1) Spatial Awareness; 2) Writing Proficiency; 3) Appreciation for Historical Context; 4) Improved Reading Comprehension; 5) Sequential Logic; 6)

Analytical Thinking; 7) Preparation for a Lifetime of Learning; 8) Research Skills; 9) Computer Literacy.

**Main Text:** Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2001.  
Available online from Temple University Libraries  
at: <https://librarysearch.temple.edu/catalog/991036741870803811>.

**Collateral Texts:** Stephen G. Fritz, *Frontsoldaten: The German Soldier in World War II*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995.

Allan Allport, *Browned Off and Bloody-Minded: The British Soldier Goes to War 1939-1945*. Yale: Yale University Press, 2017.

Robert E. Humphrey, *Once upon a Time in War: The 99<sup>th</sup> Division in World War II*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2008.

Wilson D. Miscamble, C.S.C., *The Most Controversial Decision: Truman, the Atomic Bombs, and the Defeat of Japan*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011.

**Estimated Costs:** The total retail cost for the five books assigned to this course is \$130.84. You may be able to reduce your expenditures by purchasing used copies from the Temple University Bookstore. Amazon.com also sells some titles at a discount. In addition, you can access an electronic version of the Main Text free of charge from Temple University Libraries (see above).

**Semester Grade:** The student's final grade will be based on the total number of points earned in two exams (100 points apiece, or 200 points, total), a book review and a review essay (100 points apiece, or 200 points, total), two computer exercises (25 points apiece, 50 points, total), and three quizzes (50 points apiece, or 150 points, total). Class attendance and participation will also affect the grade. It is up to any student who misses a test or quiz to schedule a make-up session with the teaching assistant. Students who think they will not be able to complete a written assignment on time should also request an extension from the teaching assistant. Students who fail to promptly contact the teaching assistant about missed or late work can expect a late penalty.

### **Breakdown of Grading Percentages**

A: 92-100%

A-: 90-91%

B+: 88-89%

B: 82-87%

B-: 80-81%

C+: 78-79%

C: 72-77%

C-: 70-71%

D+: 68-69%  
D: 62-67%  
D-: 60-61%  
F: 0-59%

**Book Review Assignment:** In addition to the main text and four collateral readings, each student is expected to read an additional book dealing with different aspects of World War II and submit a written review of the same. The title for one of these reviews may be chosen from a reading list provided by Dr. Urwin on Canvas. Students may choose any book found on this list. Read only books found on Dr. Urwin's list. If you choose another without Dr. Urwin's permission, your review will not be accepted.

The review should be typed (in 10- or 12-point font), double-spaced, and five to seven pages long. This written assignment must be carefully proofread, as spelling, grammar, and punctuation will have an important effect on your grade.

*The book review should be accompanied by the URL of some article from an Internet web site that pertains in some way to the book that you have reviewed (entries from Wikipedia or Amazon.com will not fulfill this assignment).*

For detailed tips on what is expected in your reviews, see the separate guide that Dr. Urwin has posted on Canvas.

**Finding a Book for Your Book Review:** The Charles Library here at Temple possesses a strong military history collection with many titles pertaining to World War II. You should be able to find most of the books listed on the reading list there. **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW ON ANY OF THE REQUIRED READINGS ASSIGNED FOR THIS COURSE. IN OTHER WORDS, ALL BOOKS LISTED ON PAGES 1 OR 2 OF THIS SYLLABUS ARE OFF LIMITS FOR YOUR BOOK REVIEW.** You must read a SIXTH book for this course.

If you find a particular title that you want to read, check it out early. If the Charles Library does not have it, you should be able to order a copy via interlibrary loan – provided you do not wait until the last minute. If you find a promising World War II title that is not on the reading list and really want to read it, you may bring it to Dr. Urwin for his approval. The book must be a scholarly work of history with reference notes (footnotes or endnotes) and a respectable bibliography. Memoirs are not acceptable. If you have any trouble picking a suitable title, feel free to consult with Dr. Urwin.

*Finally, find a website (other than a Wikipedia entry) that discusses the issues raised by this book -- the morality of the atomic bomb and/or the application of total war during World War II, and place the URL to that site at the end of your paper.*

**Review Essay:** The second written assignment for the course concerns a book to be read by everyone in class – *The Most Controversial Decision: Truman, the Atomic Bombs, and the Defeat of Japan* by Wilson C. Miscamble, C.S.C, an old classmate from my graduate study days at the University of Notre Dame. This paper should be typed (in 10- or 12-point font), double-spaced, and five to seven pages long. It must be carefully proofread, since spelling, grammar, and punctuation will affect your grade. Your essay can be a book review in part. Feel free to summarize the contents of the book, its literary quality, and the success or failure of the author in researching and interpreting the past. And be

sure you answer the following questions.

Did President Harry S. Truman really order the use of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and Nagasaki to shorten World War 2 and save American lives, or was he more interested in seeking diplomatic leverage by intimidating the Soviet Union?

Did the United States have defensible reasons for using the atomic bomb against Japan, or were the destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki simply motivated by racism and revenge?

Even if America's use of the atomic bomb against Japan brought World War 2 to a close, was it the morally right thing to do?

**Course Minimum Grade:** Although D- is a passing grade, a minimum grade of C- is required in many programs, and courses required by the major. For more information, please see [Temple University's Academic Policies on Grades and Grading](#).

**Incomplete:** A student will be eligible for a grade of "Incomplete" only if he/she: 1) has completed at least 51% of the work at a passing level, 2) is unable to complete the work for a serious reason beyond his or her control, and 3) files a signed agreement with the instructor outlining the work to be completed and the time-frame in which that work will be completed. The student is responsible for initiating this process and all incomplete forms must be sent to the Senior Vice Dean for Academic Affairs prior to the start of study days in that semester.

**Withdrawal from the Course:** If a student wishes to withdraw from a course, it is the student's responsibility to meet the deadline for the last day to withdraw from the current semester.

See [Temple University's Academic Calendar](#) for withdrawing deadlines and consult the [University policy on withdrawals](#) (Policy # 02.10.14).

**Attendance Policy:** Attendance will be taken by Qwickly Pro. Students must check in via Canvas on each class day. The professor will activate check in about ten minutes before class and it will run twenty-five minutes – or, until 1:15 P.M. Students who miss six classes without a valid or verifiable excuse may receive a failing grade for the course.

**Course Technologies:** This course requires the use of Canvas, including access to materials and assignment submission. Some videos posted via Canvas will require the use of speakers. The instructor may utilize web-conferencing tools to deliver synchronous material. In order to participate in synchronous sessions (should they exist), you should have a computer, a webcam, headphones, and microphone.

This course requires the use of Microsoft Office (i.e., Word, Excel, PowerPoint). Students can gain access to these materials by visiting the [Computer Services Download Site](#).

Students should check their Temple email daily for course updates.

All students are required to comply with [Temple University's Computer and Network Security Policy](#).

**Accessibility of course technologies**

- [Adobe Acrobat accessibility information](#)
  - [Big Blue Button accessibility information](#)
  - [Canvas accessibility information](#)
  - [Microsoft Office accessibility information](#)
  - [VoiceThread accessibility information](#)
  - [Zoom accessibility information](#)
- Limited resources are available for students who do not have the technology they need for class. Students with educational technology needs, including no computer or camera or insufficient Wifi-access, should submit a Student Technology Assistance Application located in TUPortal and linked from the Dean of Students Support and Resources webpage. The university will endeavor to meet needs, such as with a long-term loan of a laptop or Mifi device, a refurbished computer, or subsidized internet access. Internet Essentials from Comcast provides the option to purchase a computer for \$150 and high-speed Internet service for \$9.95 a month, plus tax. The Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) is available to purchase Xfinity, Verizon, T-Mobile, and other internet services. Qualified households can receive a temporary monthly credit of up to \$50/month toward their Internet service and leased Internet equipment until the program's funding runs out.
  - On-campus computer labs have resumed normal operations and are available for student use

**Assignment Submission:** All assignments will be open-book and due on the dates specified in the syllabus. You will be asked to submit all assignments online via Canvas -- either as uploaded files (exams, quizzes, and review essay) or in textboxes (thematic recaps).

**Your exams, quizzes, and review essay must be submitted in Microsoft Word or pdf format (doc, docx, or pdf).** Files in any other format are unacceptable.

**Statement on the Recording and Distribution of Recordings of Class Sessions:** Lectures in this course will be recorded and made available on Canvas. As extra insurance, students with an “approved accommodation from the Office of Disability Resources (DRS)” have permission to record all class sessions for their personal use.

**Academic Honesty Statement:** According to the University Student Code of Conduct, students must not commit, attempt to commit, aid, encourage, facilitate, or solicit the commission of academic dishonesty and impropriety including plagiarism, academic cheating, and selling lecture notes or other information provided by an instructor without the instructor’s authorization. Students are expected to do their own work on all exams, quizzes, and other exercises. Anyone caught plagiarizing material in their various papers will fail the course and face other sanctions as enumerated in the [University Code of Conduct](#). *The American Heritage Dictionary* defines plagiarism as: “1. To steal and use the ideas and writings of another as one’s own. 2. To appropriate passages or ideas from another and use them as one’s own.” You can repeat major ideas from other works and even quote them, but it is only honest to inform the reader where you found that material.

**Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:** Please bear in mind that COVID-19 may result in a need for new or additional accommodations. Temple University adheres to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need an accommodation under this Act due to a disability, you must immediately contact Disability Resources and Services at 215-204-1280 or [drs@temple.edu](mailto:drs@temple.edu) and register. After you are duly registered, you must make an appointment with the instructor to discuss the academic accommodation that your disability requires. I will work with you and DRS to coordinate reasonable accommodations for all students with documented disabilities and all dealings on this score will be confidential. Accommodations are not retroactive.

**Statement on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities:** Freedom to teach and freedom to learn are inseparable facets of academic freedom. The University has a policy on Student and Faculty Academic Rights and Responsibilities (Policy #03.70.02), which can be accessed through at the following URL:  
<http://policies.temple.edu/PDF/99.pdf>.

**Expectations for Class Conduct:** In order to maintain a safe and focused learning environment, we must all comply with the four public health pillars: wearing face coverings, maintaining physical distancing, washing our hands and monitoring our health. It is also important to foster a respectful and productive learning environment that includes all students in our diverse community of learners. Our differences, some of which are outlined in the University's nondiscrimination statement, will add richness to this learning experience. Therefore, all opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse.

Treat your classmates and instructor with respect in all communication, class activities, and meetings. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual. Please consider that sarcasm, humor and slang can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Profanity should be avoided as should the use of all capital letters when composing responses in discussion threads, which can be construed as “shouting” online. Remember to be careful with your own and others’ privacy. In general, have your behavior mirror how you would like to be treated by others.

**Netiquette:** Your instructor and fellow students wish to foster a safe online learning environment. All opinions and experiences, no matter how different or controversial they may be perceived, must be respected in the tolerant spirit of academic discourse. You are encouraged to comment, question, or critique an idea but you are not to attack an individual.

Our differences, some of which are outlined in the [University's nondiscrimination statement](#), will add richness to this learning experience. Please consider that sarcasm and humor can be misconstrued in online interactions and generate unintended disruptions. Working as a community of learners, we can build a polite and respectful course atmosphere.

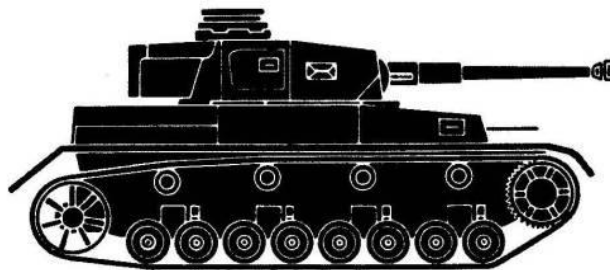
## TEMPLE AND COVID-19

Temple University's motto is Perseverance Conquers, and we will meet the challenges of the COVID pandemic with flexibility and resilience. The university has made plans for multiple eventualities. Working together as a community to deliver a meaningful learning experience is a responsibility we all share: we are in this together so we can be together.

**How This Course Will Be Taught:** Synchronously all semester via ZOOM. You can access each class session at the appropriate day and time by clicking this ZOOM link: <https://temple.zoom.us/j/94208100656>.

**Attendance Protocol and Your Health:** If you feel unwell, you should not come to campus, and you will not be penalized for your absence. Instructors are required to ensure that attendance is recorded for each in-person or synchronous class session. The primary reason for documentation of attendance is to facilitate contact tracing, so that if a student or instructor with whom you have had close contact tests positive for COVID-19, the university can contact you. Recording of attendance will also provide an opportunity for outreach from student services and/or academic support units to support students should they become ill. Faculty and students agree to act in good faith and work with mutual flexibility. The expectation is that students will be honest in representing class attendance.

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## CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: 23-27 August

### **Origins of the War in Europe and the Invasion of Poland**

Murray and Millett, Chs. 1-3

Week 2: 30 August-3 September

### **Nazi Blitzkrieg: Scandinavia, the Low Countries, and France**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 4, pp. 63-83

Week 3: 6-10 September (No Class on Labor Day, 6 September)

### **Hitler Diverted: The Battle of Britain, the Mediterranean, and North Africa**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 4, pp. 83-90, Ch. 5

Week 4: 13-17 September

**Operation “Barbarossa”: Hitler Invades the Soviet Union**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 6

Quiz: Fritz, *Frontsoldaten* (17 September)

Week 5: 20-24 September

**Origins of the Pacific War, Pearl Harbor, and Japan’s Six Months of Conquest**

Murray and Millett, Chs. 7-8

Week 6: 27 September-1 October

**The Allies Turn the Tide against Hitler: North Africa and Stalingrad**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 11

Quiz: Allport, *Browned Off and Bloody-Minded* (1 October)

Week 7: 4-8 October

**The Battle of the Atlantic and the Air War against Germany**

Murray and Millett, Chs. 10, 12

Week 8: 11-15 October

**Catch-Up, Review, and Midterm Exam**

Midterm (15 October)

Week 9: 18-22 October

**Turning Point in the Pacific: Guadalcanal and MacArthur’s Campaigns in New Guinea and New Britain**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 9

Week 10: 25-29 October

**German Disasters on the Eastern Front, 1943-1944**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 14, pp. 387-410

Week 11: 1-5 November

**Promise and Frustration: The Allies Invade Sicily and Italy**



Murray and Millett, Ch. 14, pp. 374-87  
Book Review (your choice of title) Due (5 November)

Week 12: 8-12 November

**Operation OVERLORD and the Liberation of France**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 15

Week 13: 15-19 November

**The American Drive across the Pacific, 1944**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 13

Quiz: Humphrey, *Once upon a Time in War* (19 November)

Week 14: 22-26 November (Fall Break & Thanksgiving Holiday, No Class This Week)

Fall Break (No Class), 22-24 November

Thanksgiving (No Class), 25-26 November

Week 15: 29 November-3 December

**The Collapse of Germany**

Murray and Millett, Ch. 16

Week 16: 6-10 December (Study Days, 7-8 December; Final Exams Start, 9-10 December)

**Japan's Final Agonies: Iwo Jima, Okinawa, and the Atomic Bomb**

Murray and Millett, Chs. 18-20, Epilogue

Review Essay, Miscamble, *The Most Controversial Decision*, Due (6 December)

Final Exam, 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M., Friday, 10 December 2021

Final Exams Continue: 13-15 December

