

History 4860  
Spring 2015  
Young Hall 216

## World War Two

Wednesdays 5:30-8:20 p.m.  
Instructor: Dr. Richard Byers  
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Tel: 867-2841  
Office Hours: MW 10-1, W 1-5 or by appt.

### Overview

The Second World War was the most extensive and devastating in world history. Tens of millions of people lost their lives, and global patterns of politics, economics and societies were fundamentally and irrevocably changed. Although much of the fighting took place in Europe, Asia and the Pacific Ocean, the conflict generated transformations throughout the world. This course will examine the Second World War from a global perspective, and will show that the war provides a bridge between the distant past and the contemporary world.

### Course Objectives: After taking this class, students will be able to:

Understand and recognize the developments and events that led to the outbreak of war, shaped its course, and led to its conclusion.

Recognize and understand the forces, both internal and external, that motivated the protagonists before and during the conflict.

Be able to understand and critically analyze the consequences of the war, both for victors and losers.

Possess awareness and knowledge of the close links between the conflict and contemporary geopolitics.

Methods of Instruction: Group discussion, film, assigned readings.

### Required Texts (available at Bookstore)

Zeiler, *Annihilation: A Global Military History of World War Two*, (Zeiler)

Adams, *Best War Ever: America and World War Two*, (Adams)

Bayly and Harper, *Forgotten Armies: The Fall of British Asia* (Bayly)

Bellamy, *Absolute War: Soviet Russia in World War Two* (Bellamy)

Bergen, *War and Genocide: A Concise History of the Holocaust* (Bergen)

Bergerud, *Touched With Fire: Land War in the South Pacific* (Bergerud)

Hitchcock, *The Bitter Road to Freedom* (Hitchcock)

Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, Norton (Overy)

Ledig, *The Stalin Front*, (Ledig SF)

Ledig, *Payback* (Ledig PB)

Sledge, *With the Old Breed* (Sledge)

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin* (Woman in Berlin)

**Other Requirements:**

**Attendance – Students are required to attend every class session, and participate. COME PREPARED TO SPEAK, AND BE CALLED UPON. This is a seminar/discussion class, which does not work without your prepared input. As there is a class participation component in your final grade, those who miss class sessions or attend but say little will forfeit points toward their final grade. You have been warned.**

- Assessment -**
- (1) One final research paper (traditional or digital), or Unit Plan of 12-25 pages on a topic of your choice with instructor approval, including a prospectus, worth 20% of your final grade.
  - (2) Two take home essay exams based on class and textbook material, each worth 20% of your final grade.
  - (3) Two short (6-8 pages) review/summary papers based on the weekly readings and at least two other sources (recommended readings or other materials agreeable to the instructor), **due the following week of class**, each worth 10% of your grade.
  - (4) Class participation, worth 20% of your final grade.

All papers are expected to be typed, double-spaced, with no spelling or grammar errors, and all citations should be correctly noted in a source list or bibliography. For citation guidelines, see the standards outlined in Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations* or those contained in the latest edition of the *Chicago Manual of Style*. See Dr. May's "Turabian Seminar" located on the History Department MyUNG webpage for details and a refresher. Papers that do not conform to these standards will be returned for correction with a twenty percent penalty. **This class will be demanding, and my standards and expectations are high.**

**Policies**

- (1) Students must obtain the required books from the bookstore, or online. Remember that the Bookstore will remove many titles well before the end of the semester.
- (2) No special exemptions will be provided for either exam. Students should expect to take the exams at the allotted times. Barring a documented medical/family emergency, no alternative exams will be offered.
- (3) Late papers will incur a penalty of one letter grade for every day they are late. **NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXCUSES. Papers more than a week late will not be graded, and you will receive a grade of 0.**
- (4) Please turn off all cell phones during class, or set them to vibrate in the case of an emergency.
- (5) All readings are required to be completed **PRIOR to class that week** – those who fail to either do the reading or to bring the week's materials with them to class will face adverse grade consequences.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**

- Honor Code: "On my honor, I will not lie, cheat, steal, plagiarize, evade the truth, or tolerate those who do."

Suspected violations of the Academic Integrity policy should be referred by students to the instructor. If the instructor concludes that a violation of the Academic Integrity policy has occurred, the instructor will either (1) penalize the student and file an incident report with the Academic Integrity Council or (2) refer the matter directly to the Academic Integrity Council. If an incident report is filed by the instructor, the instructor will review the completed report with the student and will request that the student sign the report as an indication that the student is aware of the contents of the report

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

UNG is committed to the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities and to the principle of individual rights and responsibilities. To that end, the policies and procedures of UNG reasonably

ensure that a person with a disability is not, on the basis of that disability, denied full and equal access to and the enjoyment of academic programs and co-curricular activities or otherwise is subjected to discrimination in such programs and activities.

The policies for access by individuals with disabilities at UNG are designed to ensure full compliance with all pertinent federal and state legislation, specifically to include Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990.

To receive disability accommodations, the student should contact the Coordinator of Disability Resources, Office of Academic Support Programs, located in the Stewart Center. Approval of reasonable accommodations will be made on a case-by-case basis.

**Class Evaluations:** Class evaluations at UNG are now conducted on-line through Banner. Evaluation of the class is considered a component of the course and students will not be permitted to access their course grade until the evaluation has been completed. The evaluations will be accessible beginning one week prior to Final Exam week.

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subjected to anti-plagiarism review through services such as turnitin.com or search engines (Google for example). Submitted papers will be included as source documents in a reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. Use of turnitin.com is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the website.

**PAPER ITINERARY:** Because writing is a process, not an event, and also because writing a paper at this level requires considerable time management skills, I have instituted the following deadlines for you to observe. I do this not to punish you, but to help you complete the best paper that you can. Believe me, you will be pleased that I have done so. Here are the deadlines.

January 14 - Deadline for choosing paper topic in class.

January 28 - First Prospectus due, including outline of paper topic, thesis, and list of source materials.

February 11 – Final revised Prospectus due, including corrections and revisions and updated source list.

March 25 – Draft of final paper due, including bibliography, in class.

April 24 – Final Paper due at 5 p.m.

For help with writing and organizing a prospectus, see the following sites:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/faculty/s/smcMahon/courses/hist247/files/247prospectus.pdf>.

<http://www.uky.edu/~dolp/HIS316/handouts/prospectus.html> and

<http://www.history.ucsb.edu/faculty/marcuse/classes/133p/handouts/ProspectusHandout044.htm>.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES**

**(subject to change)**

Week One – Zeiler Chapters 1-2

- handout of syllabus and welcome

Week Two – REQUIRED READING : Readings by Bell, Overy, et.al. on Reserve at LTC Main Desk

- a question of causes

- discussion of readings; A Thirty Years War?

**\*\*\*Paper Topic Due\*\*\***

Week Three – REQUIRED READING: Zeiler Chapter 3, Edward Drea’s thorough analysis of Nomonhan at [http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/LP2\\_NomonhanJapanese-SovietTacticalCombat\\_1939.pdf](http://usacac.army.mil/cac2/cgsc/carl/download/csipubs/LP2_NomonhanJapanese-SovietTacticalCombat_1939.pdf) , Levy, *Appeasement and Rearmament*, Conclusion (on Reserve at LTC Main Desk)

Japan in China, The Spanish Civil War

What might have been : Focus on Khalkin-Gol/Nomonhan

Appeasement: the policy and the reality

Week Four - REQUIRED READING: Zeiler, Chapters 4-5, and see [http://web.mit.edu/ssp/seminars/wed\\_archives98fall/doughty.htm](http://web.mit.edu/ssp/seminars/wed_archives98fall/doughty.htm).

Hitler Strikes: Poland, Scandinavia, France

The Blitzkrieg debate: myth or reality?

\*\*\*\***First Paper Prospectus Due**\*\*\*\*

Week Five – REQUIRED READING: Zeiler chapters 6-10, Bellamy chapters 1-11, Bergerud

The War widens: Operations Sealion and Barbarossa, Japan Strikes

\*\*\*\***Graduate Presentation on Tooze, *The Wages of Destruction***\*\*\*\*

Week Six – REQUIRED READING: Zeiler, 11-15, Bellamy 12-16, Ledig SF

The Tide turns – El Alamein, Midway, Stalingrad

Graduate Presentation on Eric Bergerud, *Touched with Fire: Land War in the South Pacific*

\*\*\*\***Revised Paper Prospectus Due**\*\*\*\*

Week Seven – REQUIRED READING: Zeiler 16-25, Bellamy 17-20, Ledig PB, and the articles at

[http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/call/call\\_3-88\\_histp.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/call/call_3-88_histp.htm) and

[http://www.historynet.com/wars\\_conflicts/world\\_war\\_2/3421346.html](http://www.historynet.com/wars_conflicts/world_war_2/3421346.html), and

<http://automaticballpoint.com/2010/05/04/the-mask-of-the-bear-soviet-deception-in-operation-bagratiion/>

The road to Victory and its consequences

Why doesn’t anyone remember Operation Bagration?

\*\*\*\***FIRST EXAM HANDOUT IN CLASS**\*\*\*\*

Week Eight – REQUIRED READING: Overy, Hitchcock

Analyzing the Allied Victory; winners and losers

\*\*\*\***FIRST EXAM DUE BY CLASS TIME**\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\***LAST DAY TO DROP WITH A W MONDAY MARCH 2**\*\*\*\*

Week Nine – REQUIRED READING, Bergen, and also Snyder, “The Holocaust: The Ignored Reality,”

located at <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22875>

The horror of German Europe: The Holocaust and Generalplan Ost

\*\*\*\***Graduate Presentation on Snyder, *Bloodlands***\*\*\*\*

Week Ten – REQUIRED READING, Adams, Sledge

Ordinary Americans in World War Two

\*\*\*\***SECOND EXAM HAND OUT IN CLASS**\*\*\*\*

Week Eleven – SPRING BREAK ENJOY!

Week Twelve - REQUIRED FILMS: *Miracle at St. Anna* (2008)

World War Two in Film, Television, the Web and in Video Games: The Limits of Hollywood representation

– we will discuss these themes, and the film, in week 13.

\*\*\*\***SECOND EXAM DUE BY CLASS TIME**\*\*\*\*

Week Thirteen - REQUIRED READING: *A Woman in Berlin*

The Legacies of the war in Europe and the U.S.A.

**\*\*\*Graduate Presentation on Ferguson, *The War of the World*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*Final Paper Rough Draft due\*\*\***

Week Fourteen – REQUIRED READING: Bayly & Harper

The Legacies of the war in Asia

Week Fifteen – REQUIRED VIEWING: Ken Burns, *The War* (2007), episodes 4, 5, and the accompanying

online materials located at [www.pbs.org/thewar/](http://www.pbs.org/thewar/). Also explore the websites and materials at

<http://nationalww2museum.org/> and

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com/default.asp?page=education.asp&subpage=teachersguide>

World War Two in the Twenty-First Century: Media, Museums and Monuments

Week Sixteen – Wrap up of class and open forum

**\*\*\*FINAL DAY OF CLASSES WEDNESDAY APRIL 22\*\*\***

**\*\*\*ALL OUTSTANDING PAPERS, INCLUDING FINAL PAPER, DUE BY FRIDAY APRIL 24 AT 5 P.M.\*\*\***