



HIST 417: World War Two in Europe

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Arthurs

Location: Woodburn 102, MWF 10:30-11:20 AM

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Course Description:

This course examines the impact of the most devastating war in human history on the political, social, and cultural fabric of European societies. Although we will cover the basic political and military history of the war in Europe, the emphasis will be on such themes as occupation, collaboration, resistance and retribution. Each of these broad themes, moreover, will be connected to the Holocaust and the many wars within the European war. We will also explore the interplay of myth and memory of the war from a variety of national perspectives.

Undergraduate Assignments:

Papers (50%): A midterm and a final paper, worth 20% and 30% of your grade respectively. Each paper should be approximately 6-8 pages double-spaced. Assignment prompts will be distributed in class, and will assess your ability to understand and respond to the arguments made in the readings, lectures and class discussion. Papers must use the Chicago style of citation; see eCampus for the style guide. On eCampus you can also find a paper grading rubric and an explanation of grading criteria.

Students have the option of rewriting the midterm paper. When submitting a rewrite, you must also submit the original version of the paper, with my comments included. I strongly encourage you to consult with me in revising papers. **Rewrites will be accepted up to one week after graded papers are returned.** Plagiarized papers are not eligible for rewrites.

eCampus Discussion (20%): As indicated on the syllabus, some weeks will be devoted to discussion workshops. Students will write responses to recent readings, which must be posted on the eCampus Discussion Board by **12:00 PM on the Tuesday of workshop**

week. Each response will be graded, with the results posted online. Students will be divided into discussion groups to facilitate conversation. Please check your group's page regularly, as you can earn additional points by commenting on your peers' posts. While you are encouraged to engage with each other, please ensure that your first post contains your original thoughts regarding the prompts.

Reflection Assignment (5%): At the beginning of the semester, you will write a brief (approximately two pages double-spaced) reflection on the broad themes of the course; you will then revisit this paper at the end of term and write a further two pages reflecting on how your ideas have changed over the semester. The two pieces will then be turned in and graded together.

European Resistance Archive Website Assignment (5%): Students will analyze a series of recorded testimonies from members of European resistance movements.

Participation and Attendance (20%): As you will notice on the syllabus, some weeks will be focused on lectures while others are devoted to discussion workshops. During workshop weeks, the class will be divided into groups to facilitate conversation. Your contributions for each discussion week are graded and form the core of your participation grade. You must attend the discussion group to which you are assigned.

Attendance counts towards your participation grade. You are expected to attend all class meetings, with a notebook and the readings in hand. Be prepared to discuss the texts and ask questions. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences; however, I understand that illness and problems can arise, so you will be allowed **TWO** "free" misses over the course of the semester. Be judicious about how you use these absences. If you use up your absences early in the semester, I will not be sympathetic when you need to miss class later in the term. Perfect attendance will raise your participation grade, while multiple absences will lower it. **You must have an attendance rate of at least 60% in order to pass the course.**

Extra Credit: Students may earn up to 3% extra credit by writing an analysis of a film that is relevant to the themes of the course; see eCampus for approved films. The paper should be 3-4 pages double-spaced. Students are encouraged to consult with me ahead of time. You may only hand in one extra credit assignment per semester.

Graduate Assignments:

Term Paper (50%): Graduate students will write a 15-20 page historiography paper on a subject of their choice, chosen in consultation with me and relevant to the themes of the course. In addition to assigned readings, they must choose 4-6 works of scholarly literature (books, journal articles, etc.) on their topic. As indicated on the schedule, students must submit a **2-3 page proposal and preliminary bibliography and meet with me individually** to discuss their project.

Reflection Assignment (5%): Same as undergraduates.

European Resistance Archive Website Assignment (5%): Same as undergraduates.

Online Discussion (20%): Same as undergraduates.

Participation and Attendance (20%): See above for attendance policies. I expect graduate students to be active participants in class, especially given the importance of intellectual debate to your program of study. At the same time, please be inclusive and respectful of undergraduates in your contributions. Graduate students may also be asked to provide course assistance.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this History course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate general knowledge of the facts, concepts, and approaches of history;
- critically analyze and assess primary sources;
- critically analyze and assess secondary sources;
- produce historical essays that are coherent, grammatically correct, and use proper historical documentation.

Readings:

The following books are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. Other readings, indicated by an asterisk (*), are available on eCampus.

- Richard Bessel, *Nazism and War*
- Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee, *The World in Flames: A World War Two Sourcebook* (indicated in schedule as Sourcebook)
- Catherine Merridale, *Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945*
- Richard Overy, *1939: Countdown to War*
- Alessandro Portelli, *The Order Has Been Carried Out*
- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*
- John Keegan, *The Second World War* (Optional textbook for background)

eCampus:

Important materials – including this syllabus, readings, PowerPoint slides from past lectures, discussion questions and useful links – will be posted on the course website, which can be accessed by logging on to **ecampus.wvu.edu**.

Course Expectations:

Assignments: Unless otherwise specified, papers must be submitted in **HARD COPY** and stapled, not sent via email. They should be double-spaced, with 1-inch margins and in 12-point font. Late papers will be deducted half a grade level (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B) for every day that they are late, beginning at the time at which they are due. No extensions will be given.

Communication: I will often communicate with the class via your WVU email account (MIX). Please be sure to check it regularly. Email is also the best way to contact me. When emailing, please ensure that you are polite and professional; an unpunctuated

Blackberry message with no salutation will not be answered. I will work hard to get back to you in a timely manner.

Courtesy during Class: It is disruptive to others to arrive late to class or leave early. Please don't do it. If you know that you will have to leave class early, explain the situation to me beforehand and sit near the door so that you can exit as quietly as possible. Please turn off all cell phones, beepers, or any other wireless device that may make noise during class. I will confiscate your device if it rings in class. You may use a laptop in class for taking notes, but if you are using it for email, Facebook, instant messaging, or any other activity I will ask you to stop using your computer.

Writing Center: Writing is one of the most important skills in this course. You are encouraged to use the WVU Writing Center to help you revise papers. More information on the Writing Center's resources can be found via a link on the course eCampus page.

Academic Integrity: Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be dealt with severely. At a minimum, **offenders will fail the course**. Plagiarism means "submitting, without appropriate acknowledgement, a report, notebook, speech, outline, theme, thesis, dissertation, or other written, visual, or oral material that has been copied in whole or in part from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper" (WVU Undergraduate Catalog, 2003-2005, p. 47). Plagiarism includes not only lifting passages word for word without using quotation marks (even if you cite the author!), but also the substantial use of anyone else's ideas without citing them. **Using material from the World Wide Web without citing it is plagiarism.** Your work is made stronger, not weaker, by showing that you are able to refer to the work of others and comment upon it critically. Whenever you use material word for word, you must use quotation marks and cite the proper author.

WVU Social Justice Statement: West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veteran status, religion, sexual orientation, color, or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration. If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with Disability Services (293-6700).

Schedule

Week I

- 8/18 Course Overview
8/20 What Was WW2?
REFLECTION PAPER #1 DUE
8/22 Discussion of Reflection Papers

Week II

- 8/25 First World War and its Legacies
8/27 Interwar politics – Bolshevism, Fascism, Nazism
8/29 Understanding National Socialism

Readings:

- *Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, *14-18: Understanding the Great War* (New York: Hill and Wang, 2002): 20-36; 226-237.
- *Alan Sharp, “The Versailles Settlement: The Start of the Road to the Second World War?” in *The Origins of the Second World War: An International Perspective*, ed. Frank McDonough (London: Continuum, 2011): 15-33.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 3-31.

Documents:

- *Woodrow Wilson, “The Idealistic View”
- *German Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference, “A Peace of Might”
- *Adolf Hitler, “Speech of 10 April 1923”
- “Mussolini and the Masses” (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 10-30.

Week III

- 9/1 **NO CLASS – LABOR DAY**
9/3 Hitler on the March
9/5 Democracy in Retreat

Readings:

- *Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Extremes: A History of the World, 1914-1991* (New York: Pantheon Books, 1994), 119-141.
- *Enrique Moradiellos, “The International Dimensions of the Spanish Civil War” in *The Origins of the Second World War*: 311-326.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 35-89.

Documents:

- “Abyssinia’s Plight” (Sourcebook)
- “Spain’s Anguish” (Sourcebook)
- “Hossbach Memorandum” (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 31-44

Week IV – Workshop 1

ONLINE RESPONSES DUE BY NOON ON TUESDAY

- 9/8 Peace in Our Time? The Appeasement Debate
 9/10 Discussion Group 1
 9/12 Discussion Group 2

Readings:

- Overy, *1939: Countdown to War*.

Documents:

- “Appeasement” (Sourcebook)
- “France Goes to War” (Sourcebook)

Week V

- 9/15 The War Begins: Poland Partitioned and Conquered
 9/17 Occupied Poland and the Jewish Question
 9/19 From the Phony War to the Fall of France

Readings:

- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 119-154.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 93-109.
- *Alexander Rossino, “Destructive Impulses: German Soldiers and the Invasion of Poland.” *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 11.3 (1997), 351-365
- *Christopher R. Browning, “Nazi Ghettoization Policy in Poland: 1939-41.” *Central European History* 19.4 (1986): 343-368.
- *Martin Alexander, “‘No Taste for the Fight’? French Combat Performance in 1940 and the Politics of the Fall of France.” In *Time to Kill: The Soldier’s Experience of War in the West, 1939-1945*, eds. Paul Addison and Angus Calder (London: Pimlico, 1997): 161-176.

Documents:

- “Rethinking Armored Warfare” (Sourcebook)
- “Occupied Poland” (Sourcebook)
- “France’s Collapse” (Sourcebook)
- “Strange Defeat” (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 47-87.

Week VI

- 9/22 Collaboration East and West
 9/24 Daily Life in Hitler’s Europe
 9/26 The Last Stronghold? Britain and the Blitz
MIDTERM PAPER PROMPT HANDED OUT

Readings:

- *Robert Gildea, Dirk Luyten, and Juliane Fürst. "To Work or Not To Work?" In *Surviving Hitler and Mussolini: Daily Life in Occupied Europe*, eds. Robert Gildea, Anette Warring, and Olivier Wieviorka (New York: Bloomsbury Books, 2007): 42-87.
- *Rab Bennett, *Under the Shadow of the Swastika: The Moral Dilemmas of Resistance and Collaboration in Hitler's Europe* (New York: NYU Press, 1999), 43-67.
- *Anette Warring, "Intimate and Sexual Relations" in *Surviving Hitler and Mussolini*: 88-128.
- *Jose Harris, "War and Social History: Britain and the Home Front during the Second World War." *Contemporary European History* 1.1 (1992), 17-35.

Documents:

- "The Nazi New Order" (Sourcebook)
- "French Collaboration" (Sourcebook)
- "London is Burning" (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 88-102, 279-289.

Week VII – Workshop 2

ONLINE RESPONSES DUE BY NOON ON TUESDAY

9/29 Writing Workshop
 10/1 Discussion Group 2
 10/3 Discussion Group 1

Week VIII

10/6 Turning to the East
 10/8 Barbarossa
 10/10 **NO CLASS – MIDTERM PAPERS AND GRAD PAPER PROPOSALS DUE IN HISTORY DEPARTMENT MAILBOX (WOODBURN 220) BY 4 PM**

Readings:

- Merridale, *Ivan's Army*, 82-171.
- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 155-186.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 109-133.
- *Jürgen Förster, "The Relation between Operation Barbarossa as an Ideological War of Extermination and the Final Solution" in *The Final Solution: Origins and Implementation*, ed. David Cesarini (New York: Routledge, 1994): 85-102.

Documents:

- "Germany Strikes East" (Sourcebook)
- "The Criminal Orders" (Sourcebook)
- "Saving Moscow" (Sourcebook)
- "Combat on the Russian Front" (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 127-208.

Week IX

- 10/13 **NO CLASS – FALL BREAK**
10/15 Holocaust: Outside the Camps
10/17 Holocaust: Inside the Camps

Readings:

- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 187-276.
- *Christopher R. Browning, “One Day in Jozefow: Initiation to Mass Murder” in *Nazism and German Society, 1933-1945*, ed. David Crew (New York: Routledge, 1994): 300-315.
- *Jan T. Gross, “Jews and their Polish Neighbors: The Case of Jedwabne in Summer of 1941” in *Contested Memories: Poles and Jews During the Holocaust and its Aftermath* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003): 69-82.

Documents:

- “Atrocities in Kamenets-Podolsky” (Sourcebook)
- “The Warsaw Ghetto” (Sourcebook)
- “Wannsee Conference” (Sourcebook)

Week X – Workshop 3

ONLINE RESPONSES DUE BY NOON ON TUESDAY

- 10/20 *Night and Fog*
10/22 Discussion Group 1
10/24 Discussion Group 2

Week XI

- 10/27 Stalingrad
10/29 The Allies Arrive: North Africa and Italy
10/31 Resistance and Civil War

Readings:

- Merridale, *Ivan’s Army*, 171-262.
- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 277-312.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 133-150.
- *Olivier Wieviorka and Jacek Tebinka. “Resisters: From Everyday Life to Counter-State.” In *Surviving Hitler and Mussolini*: 153-176.

Documents:

- “Stalingrad: the Rats’ War” (Sourcebook)
- “The Polish Resistance” (Sourcebook)
- “Yugoslavia’s Partisans” (Sourcebook)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 220-237, 310-368.

Week XII – Workshop 4

ONLINE RESPONSES DUE BY NOON ON TUESDAY

11/3 European Resistance Archive
WEBSITE ASSIGNMENT DUE

11/5 Discussion Group 2

11/7 Discussion Group 1

Readings:

- Portelli, *The Order*, 71-199.

Documents:

- Video testimonials from www.resistance-archive.org.

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 483-502.

Week XIII

11/10 Liberation

11/12 Downfall

11/14 Aftermath

Readings:

- Merridale, *Ivan's Army*, 263-335.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 151-181.
- *Peter Schrijvers, *The Crash of Ruin: American Combat Soldiers in Europe During World War II* (New York: NYU Press, 1998), 218-248.
- *David Killingray, "If I Fight for Them, Maybe Then I Can Go Back to the Village': African Soldiers in the Mediterranean and European Campaigns, 1939-1945" in *Time to Kill*: 93-114.
- *Mary Louise Roberts, "The Price of Discretion: Prostitution, Venereal Disease, and the American Military in France, 1944-1946." *American Historical Review* 115.4 (2010): 1002-1030.

Documents:

- "Nazis to the Bitter End?" (Sourcebook)
- **A Woman in Berlin* (selections)

Recommended:

- Keegan, *The Second World War*, 369-482, 503-533.

Week XIV

11/17 The New World Order

11/19 Prosecution and Retribution

11/21 Recovery and Rebuilding

FINAL PAPER PROMPT HANDED OUT

Readings:

- Merridale, *Ivan's Army*, 336-371.
- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 185-203.
- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 313-337.

- *Megan Koreman, “The Collaborator’s Penance: The Local Purge, 1944-5,” *Contemporary European History* 6.2 (1997): 177-192.
- *Geoff Eley, “When Europe Was New: Liberation and the Making of the Post-War Era” in *The Lasting War: Society and Identity in Britain, France and Germany after 1945*, eds. Monica Riera and Gavin Schaffer (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2008): 17-43.
- *Norman Naimark, “The Persistence of ‘the Postwar’: Germany and Poland” in *Histories of the Aftermath: the Legacies of the Second World War in Europe*, ed. Frank Biess and Robert Moeller (New York: Berghahn Books, 2010): 13-29.

Documents:

- “The Nuremberg Trials” (Sourcebook)
- “The Iron Curtain” (Sourcebook)

THANKSGIVING BREAK NOV. 24-28

Week XV

- 12/1 *Vergangenheitsbewältigung*
 12/3 Remembering and Forgetting in Postwar Europe
 12/5 Final Discussion
REFLECTION PAPER #2 DUE
LAST DAY TO SUBMIT EXTRA CREDIT PAPERS
 12/8 **NO CLASS – WRITE FINAL PAPERS**

Readings:

- Bessel, *Nazism and War*, 203-220.
- Merridale, *Ivan’s Army*, 372-388.
- *Andrew Stuart Bergerson, “In the Shadow of the Towers: An Ethnography of a German-Israeli Student Exchange Program.” *New German Critique*, no. 71 (1997): 141-176.
- *Dan Stone, “Memory Wars in the ‘New Europe.’” In *The Oxford Handbook of Modern European History*, ed. Dan Stone (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012): 714-731.

FINAL PAPERS DUE IN HISTORY DEPARTMENT MAILBOX (WOODBURN 220) BY NOON ON FRIDAY, DEC. 12TH