

The World at War, 1939-1945
HIS 349
Fall 2016, MWF 11:00-11:50, MHRA 1215

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Course Description

This course will begin with an examination of the causes of the war, which include the failure of the Peace of Paris, the Great Depression, the rise of Hitler's Third Reich, and the successive diplomatic crises of the late 1930s. Next we will focus on the narrative history of the war. This section will include the great battles that punctuate the war as well as the mobilization of the material and human resources of the home front needed to fight a war on this scale. We will also consider the attempt by Hitler to construct his "New Order," an "order" which included the forced labor of millions and the mass murder of millions more, including six million Jews. Finally, we will attempt to evaluate the impact of the war.

Student Learning Objectives

General Education Student Learning Objectives

Categories: Historical Perspectives (GHP)

1. Use a historical approach to analyze and contextualize primary and secondary sources representing divergent perspectives.
2. Use evidence to interpret the past coherently, orally and/or in writing.

Course Student Learning Objectives

1. Students will be able to analyze the origins, execution, and consequences of World War II.
2. Students will be able to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
3. Students will be able to construct a historical argument using primary sources and support a thesis statement in a short essay.
4. Students will improve their ability to articulate their ideas both orally and in written form.

Course Reading

- Required Text: Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2000).
- The remainder of the course readings are available for download on Canvas.

Grades

- Exams (3): 60%. The course is divided into three units. Therefore, there will be three equally weighted exams. The exams will consist of objective questions to quiz your grasp of key concepts and actors, and subjective questions to measure your critical analysis. The objective questions will derive from class notes and the subjective questions from class discussions.

- Paper (1): 20%. Students will choose one option from several writing prompts. The five-page essay must include an introductory paragraph with a thesis statement, body paragraphs that support the thesis, a conclusion, and endnotes. The evidence to support your thesis must come from the two assigned textbooks (no outside sources, specifically internet sources, should be used). The papers must be typed in Times New Roman, 12-point font, double-spaced, and with standard one-inch margins. A grading rubric and more specific instructions will be posted on Canvas. In addition, you must follow the [Academic Integrity Policy](#) or face disciplinary measures.

- Research Presentation (1): 10%. Students will deliver a five-minute Power Point Presentation based on their research paper. More specific instructions, deadlines, and a grading rubric are available on Canvas.

- Quizzes (several): 10%. Students will be given quizzes on the course readings throughout the semester. Students can prepare for this assessment by reading the unit study guide that is posted on Canvas, which provides the student learning objectives and identifications. The quizzes will be given promptly at the start of class and CANNOT be made up. To earn full credit it is recommended that assignments are read prior to class and to attend all classes.

- Class Participation: Although this class is in a lecture setting and you will have dozens of classmates, you are expected to participate in class discussions. To ensure that you are best engaged and not a distraction to others, there will be a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, meaning laptops, cell phones, and other non-life sustaining electronic devices will be prohibited. Violation of this policy will result in a recorded absence and a request for you to leave the classroom.

- Attendance: All students are expected to attend all class meetings and be to class on time. A sign in sheet will be distributed at the beginning of class to record attendance. Students that arrive late will be marked absent. It is reasonable to expect that illness or other unexpected events will cause you to miss a class on occasion. A student may miss three (3) classes without penalty. However, each additional absence will result in a drop of 1/3 of a letter grade from your overall course grade.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic/Reading Assignment
1	8/22	Introduction
	8/24	The Treaty of Versailles <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Margaret McMillan, <i>Paris 1919</i>, “Punishment and Prevention,” “Keeping Germany Down,” and “Footing the Bill,” p. 157-193.▪ Marvin Perry, <i>Sources of the Western Tradition</i>, “Paris Peace Conference,” p. 313-316.
	8/26	The Treaty of Versailles <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Margaret McMillan, <i>Paris 1919</i>, “Deadlock Over the German Terms” and “The Hall of Mirrors,” p. 194-203, 459-483.
2	8/29	German National Socialism <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stanley G. Payne, <i>History of Fascism</i>, “German National Socialism,” p. 147-211.
	8/31	German National Socialism <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Stanley G. Payne, <i>History of Fascism</i>, “German National Socialism,” p. 147-211.
	9/2	Research Paper: Primary Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Class meets at the Hodges Reading Room in Jackson Library
3	9/5	Labor Day – Class Dismissed
	9/7	Research Paper: Digital Sources <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Class meets at the CITI Lab in Jackson Library
	9/9	Remilitarization <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Donald Kagan, <i>On the Origins of War</i>, “The Second World War, 1939-1945,” p. 334-364.▪ Marvin Perry, <i>Sources of Western Tradition</i>, “Remilitarization of the Rhineland,” p. 383-385.
4	9/12	Appeasement <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Donald Kagan, <i>On the Origins of War</i>, “The Second World War, 1939-1945,” p. 364-413.▪ Marvin Perry, <i>Sources of Western Tradition</i>, “The Anschluss, March 1938” and “The Munich Agreement,” p. 385-392.

- 9/14 **Konzentrationslager**
- Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide*, “Open Aggression: In Search of War, 1938-1939,” p. 81-100.
- 9/16 **The Invasion of Poland**
- Antony Beevor, *The Second World War*, “Outbreak of War” and “The Wholesale Destruction of Poland,” p. 11-39.
- 5 9/19 **Ghettoization of the Polish Jews**
- Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide*, “Experiments in Brutality, 1939-1940: War Against Poland and the So-Called Euthanasia Program,” p. 101-130.
- 9/21 **Phoney War & Blitzkrieg**
- Antony Beevor, *The Second World War*, “From Phoney War to Blitzkrieg, September 1939-March 1940,” “Norway and Denmark: January-May 1940,” “Onslaught in the West: May 1940,” p. 40-51, 70-98.
- 9/23 **The Fall of France**
- Antony Beevor, *The Second World War*, “The Fall of France: May-June 1940,” p. 99-121.
 - Donald Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, “The Second World War, 1939-1945,” p. 413-417.
- 6 9/26 **Exam #1**
- 9/28 **American Neutrality**
- Robert Dallek, *Franklin Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, “The Reluctant Neutral,” p. 199-232.
- 9/30 **Battle of Britain**
- R.A.C. Parker, *The Second World War: A Short History*, “Britain Alone,” p. 44-59.
 - Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “The Battle of Britain,” p. 397-400.
- Research Paper Topic Due**
- 7 10/3 **Lend-Lease**
- Robert Dallek, *Franklin Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, “Conflict and Compromise,” p. 233-268.
- 10/5 **Operation Barbarossa**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “Barbarossa, 1941,” p. 110-142.
 - Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide*, “Experiments in Brutality, 1939-1940: War Against Poland and the So-Called Euthanasia Program,” p. 145-161.

- 10/7 **Anglo-American Cooperation**
- Robert Dallek, *Franklin Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, “The Tortuous Road to War,” p. 269-299.
 - [Atlantic Charter](#)
- 8 10/10 **Pacific Theater**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Origins of the Asia-Pacific War,” p. 143-168.
- 10/12 **Japanese Conquests**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Japanese War of Conquest, 1941-1942,” p. 169-195.
 - Robert Dallek, *Franklin Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, “The Tortuous Road to War,” p. 299-313.
- 10/14 **The Grand Alliance**
- Robert Dallek, *Franklin Roosevelt and American Foreign Policy, 1932-1945*, “The Struggle for Unity,” p. 317-361.
- 9 10/17 **Fall Break – Class Dismissed**
- 10/19 **Arsenal of Democracy**
- David M. Kennedy, *Freedom From Fear*, “The War of Machines,” p. 615-655.
- 10/21 **Japanese Conquests**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Asia-Pacific War, 1942-1944,” p. 196-233.
- 10 10/24 **The Battle of the Atlantic**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Battle of the Atlantic, 1939-1943,” p. 234-261.
- 10/26 **The Peak of the Third Reich**
- Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “Year of Decision For Germany, 1942,” p. 262-303.
 - Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “Stalingrad,” p. 404-408.
- 10/28 **New Order**
- Doris L. Bergen, *War & Genocide*, “The Peak Years of Killing: 1942 and 1943,” p. 174-203.
 - Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “Holocaust,” p. 408-414, 421-428.
- 11 10/31 **Exam #2**

- 11/2 **Allied Bombing Offensive**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Combined Bomber Offensive, 1941-1945,” p. 304-335.

Research Paper Bibliography Due

- 11/4 **The Destruction of Japanese Naval Power**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Destruction of Japanese Naval Power, 1943-1944,” p. 336-373.
- 12 11/7 **The Killing Time**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Killing Time, 1943-1944,” p. 374-410.
- 11/9 **The Invasion of France**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Invasion of France, 1944,” p. 411-445.
▪ Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “D-Day,” p. 428-430.
- 11/11 **Victory in Europe**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The End In Europe, 1944-1945” p. 446-483.
▪ Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “The End of the Third Reich,” p. 431-440.
- 13 11/14 **The Destruction of the Japanese Empire**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Destruction of the Japanese Empire, 1944-1945,” p. 484-508.
- 11/16 **The End of the Asia-Pacific War**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The End of the Asia-Pacific War, 1945,” p. 509-516.
▪ Marvin Perry, *Sources of Western Tradition*, “The Defeat of Japan,” p. 440-444.
- 11/18 **The End of the Asia-Pacific War**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The End of the Asia-Pacific War, 1945,” p. 516-526.
▪ Harry S Truman, *Year of Decisions*, p. 415-426.

Research Paper Draft Due

- 14 11/21 **The End of the Asia-Pacific War**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The End of the Asia-Pacific War, 1945,” p. 516-526.

- 11/23 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**
- 11/25 **Thanksgiving Break – Class Dismissed**
- 15 11/28 **The Aftermath of the War**
▪ Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to Be Won*, “The Aftermath of the War,” p. 554-574.
- Research Paper Due**
- 11/30 **Research Presentations**
- 12/2 **Research Presentations**
- 16 12/5 **Research Presentations**
- 12/7 **Exam #3 (12:00-3:00)**