

Spring 2023

Syllabus

HIS349-01 The World at War, 1939-1945

Instructor: Mark Moser mamoser@uncg.edu **Office:** MHRA 2104

Meeting Time/Location: TR 3:30 to 4:45 MHRA 1204

Office Hours Spring 2023: T 1:00 to 3:00 R 1:00 to 3:00 (and by appointment)

Required Texts:

Browning, Christopher R. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. (New York: Harper, 2017). ISBN 9780062303028

Hanson, Victor Davis. *The Second World Wars: How the First Global Conflict was Fought and Won* (New York: Basic Books, 2017). ISBN 9780465066988

Kershaw, Alex. *The Bedford Boys: One American Town's Ultimate D-Day Sacrifice* (Cambridge, MA: DaCapo Press, 2003). ISBN 9780306813559

Note* In addition to the above texts there will occasionally be other material from scholarly sources that you will be required to read. There will also be a few select films that will be made available to you on Canvas throughout the semester.

General Education Global Perspectives Student Learning Outcomes:

Interpret or evaluate information on diverse cultures, politics, and/or intellectual traditions as they were affected by the Second World War.

(This will be accomplished primarily through the two book response papers)

Describe interconnections among regions of the world. (Including substantial focus on at least one—other than the United States or Great Britain)

(This will be accomplished primarily through the weekly discussion postings)

Use diverse cultural frames of reference and alternative perspectives to analyze issues.

(This will be accomplished primarily through the midterm and final exams)

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Even though this is a large class, discussion of your readings will routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) You should not find this course difficult provided that you remain current with your reading. However, students who fall behind will likely find it difficult to catch up.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a significant portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here, you cannot participate. **Students accumulating more than 4 absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter. Students accumulating excessive absences may be dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of "W" must drop the class on or before Friday, March 3.** Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session. This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early.

(A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above).

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me ASAP** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available.

Warning: Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop/tablet, etc. in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops/tablets, etc. from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to *any* electronic device (**especially smart phones!**) that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 75 consecutive minutes without checking your social media accounts, email, etc., then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG. **I do not want to see you looking at your phones at any time while you are in class.**

Grading:

Participation/Discussion Postings	40%
<i>Ordinary Men</i> Response Paper	10%
<i>Bedford Boys</i> Response Paper	10%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(January 10, 12) Course Intro and Film

Week Two—(January 17, 19) Readings: *Ordinary Men* Preface through Chapter 5 and Hanson: Preface – Chapter 2

Week Three—(January 24, 26) Readings: *Ordinary Men* Chapters 6-9 and Hanson: Chapter 3

Week Four—(January 31, February 2) Readings: *Ordinary Men* Chapters 10-13 and Hanson: Chapters 4-5

Week Five—(February 7, 9) Readings: *Ordinary Men* Chapters 14-17 and Hanson: Chapter 6-7

Week Six—(February 14, 16) Readings: *Ordinary Men* Afterward and Hanson: Chapters 8-9

Week Seven—(February 21, 23) Readings: Hanson Chapter 10
Ordinary Men Response Paper Due Tuesday, February 21.

Week Eight—(February 28, March 2) Review Tuesday, February 28
Midterm Exam Thursday March 2 (You will need a small format bluebook)

SPRING BREAK – No class Tuesday March 7 or Thursday, March 9

Week Nine—(March 14, 16)
Chapters 11-12

Readings: *Bedford Boys* Chapters 1-5 and Hanson:

Week Ten—(March 21, 23)
Chapters 13-14

Readings: *Bedford Boys* Chapters 6-10 and Hanson:

Week Eleven—(March 28, 30)
Chapters 15-16

Readings: *Bedford Boys* Chapters 11-15 and Hanson:

Week Twelve—(April 4, 6) Readings: *Bedford Boys* Chapters 16-19 and Hanson:
Chapters 17-18

Week Thirteen—(April 11, 13) Readings: Hanson: Chapters 19-20
Bedford Boys Response Paper Due Tuesday, April 11.

Week Fourteen—(April 18, 20*) Film: TBA

*Last Day of class Tuesday, April 25 Review for final exam.

FINAL EXAM Tuesday, May 2 3:30-6:30 PM (You will need a small format bluebook)

Warning: Plagiarism is a serious offense and can result in serious consequences for students who engage in this practice, up to and including receiving a failing grade for a course. Egregious violations can result in university level disciplinary measures being taken. I have a zero tolerance policy regarding plagiarism in this class.

As we return for spring 2023, please uphold UNCG's culture of care to limit the spread of covid-19 and other airborne illnesses. These actions include, but are not limited to:

- *Engaging in proper hand-washing hygiene*
- *Self-monitoring for symptoms of covid-19*
- *Staying home when ill*
- *Complying with directions from health care providers or public health officials to isolate if ill*

- *Completing a [self-report](#) when experiencing covid-19 symptoms or testing positive for covid-19*
- *Following the CDC's [exposure guidelines](#) when exposed to someone who has tested positive for covid-19*
- *Staying informed about the University's policies and announcements via the [covid-19](#) website*