

HIST351: The Second World War
Fall 2010
R.W. Roberts
University Hall 223
(765)494-0040
Tues. 2:30-3:30; or by apt.

Overview:

The two world wars that were fought in the twentieth century shaped and defined today's world. No other events were as important. This course is an in-depth look at the second of those wars, from its origins to its conclusion and legacy. But it is also about how we--historians, journalists, novelists, filmmakers, readers--make sense out of the war and give meaning to it. It is important to recognize that the meaning of the war has changed in the last sixty-five years, and that Americans during the hottest moments of the Cold War and the dog-days of the Vietnam War saw World War II in radically different lights. To understand this is to comprehend why the past is never dead and why history is important.

Books:

Thomas Zeiler, **Annihilation: A Global History of World War II**
Randy Roberts, **Joe Louis: Hard Times Man**
E.B. Sledge, **With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa**

Requirements:

Your grade in this class will be based on three exams and one 1,500 paper. Each exam and the paper will be worth 100 points. The exams will focus on lectures, readings, and representations of the war. The date of each exam and the readings for each exam will be announced in class. The paper will examine two aspects of popular culture before and during the war: the **Joe Louis** book and one film from the World War II period. This will be discussed in more detail in class.

Grading Scale:

93-100%-A
90-92%--A-
87-89%--B+
83-86%--B
80-82%--B-
77-79%--C+

73-76%--C
70-72%--C-
67-69%--D+
63-66%--D
60-62%--D-
00-59%--F

Lecture Topics:(Exam dates will be announced in class.)

--War Without End and the Lessons of World War I and Versailles
--The Rise of Dictators
--The Path to War
--Blitzkrieg Part One--Poland
--Sitzkrieg and the War in the North
--Blitzkrieg Part Two-France
--The Battle of Britain
--America Debates
--Barbarossa
--Pearl Harbor
--Japan and the World
--The Allies: Individual Success and Joint Failures
--The War in the West: Sicily, Italy, Germany, and the Atlantic
--Fighting a Total War at Home
--The War Against the Jews
--John Wayne's War and the Popular Culture of the War
--D-Day
--The End of Germany
--The War in the Pacific
--The Defeat of Japan
--The Changing Meaning of the War and the Lasting Impact of World War II on the World and American Culture

Cheating/Plagiarism:

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will

likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students' Office.

Students with Disabilities:

If you need any special accommodations to participate fully in class, please see me as soon as possible. I will keep all discussions confidential as long as the situation permits. Please note that, in order for Purdue University to accommodate your needs, you will need to provide appropriate written documentation and have it on file with Student Services. Students should be aware that Services for Student Disabilities are available at 494-1247 if you need further assistance.

Disclaimer:

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.