

HIST351: The Second World War

Spring 2021

Professor R.W. Roberts

University Hall 223

rroberts@purdue.edu

Discussion/Student Hours Thursday 1:30-2:30pm and by appointment

Zoom Link on Brightspace

Course Delivery:

This is an online course delivered on Brightspace. With the exception of the book *World War II: A Very Short Introduction* all content and assignments will be available on Brightspace. Links to videos and other content will be contained in the relevant PowerPoints. We will regularly post critical announcements to Brightspace, including questions for your weekly prompt. It is your responsibility to keep up with these announcements daily.

Overview:

The two world wars 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 historians, journalists, novelists, filmmakers, and readers have tried to 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 dogdays 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.

Teaching Assistants:

Emmanuella Amoh eamoh@purdue.edu Discussion/Student Hours Thursday 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment Zoom Link on Brightspace	Students with last names: Adams-Franke
Yvonne Boyer yboyer@purdue.edu Discussion/Student Hours Thursday 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment Zoom Link on Brightspace	Students with last names: Fredrick-Lawson
Devan Lindey dlindey@purdue.edu Discussion/Student Hours Thursday 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment Zoom Link on Brightspace	Students with last names: Lee-Royer
Meredith Stukey tuttle13@purdue.edu Discussion/Student Hours Thursday 1:30-3:30pm and by appointment Zoom Link on Brightspace	Students with last names: Russell-Zylstra

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand how historians, journalists, novelists, filmmakers, and readers have tried to make sense out of WWII.
2. Recognize how the meaning of the war and its outcome has changed in past 75 years.
3. Comprehend the statement by William Faulkner, "The past is never dead. It's not even past."
4. Recognize the causes, key turning points, ending, and results of WWII.
5. Identify the characteristics and accomplishments of the leading politicians, generals, and major figures of the war.

Learning Objectives:

- 1.1 Journalists documented the war. Students will read and analyze the documents that journalists produced.
- 1.2 Historians study the documents that journalists, government officials, and a wide variety of other sources produced about the war. Students will learn and investigate how historians use a wide variety of documents.
- 1.3 Novelists and filmmakers create works of art from the stories of the conflict. Students will be introduced to and appraise the idea of how fiction can present a higher truth.
- 2.1 Analyze how current events during the past 75 years have influenced how historians, novelists and film makers have interpreted the war.
- 3.1 The Faulkner statement suggests that history is a living, contested thing. Students will explore and differentiate how and why our interpretation of the past is constantly changing
- 4.1 Students will locate and identify the major causes, events and results of WWII by listening to pod casts lectures and reading historical works.
- 5.1 Drawing on lectures and readings, students will increase their knowledge of the war by identifying characteristics and accomplishments of the leading politicians, generals, and major figures of the war.

Exams and Grading:

Your grade in this class is based on:

1. You will have three exams. Each exam is worth 100 points. The exams will focus on lectures, readings, and representations of World War II in documentaries and films.
2. Brief (250-300 word) answers to 12 prompts. Each will be worth 10 points and I will drop your lowest 2. All together the 10 prompt papers are worth 100 points. For the weeks that you have a prompt, it will be released in an announcement on Monday and due by Thursday at 11:59pm EST.

Total points in the class:400

Required Readings:

Gerhard Weinberg, *World War II: A Very Short Introduction*, 2014
Other readings listed in the syllabus posted on Brightspace.

GRADING STANDARD:

97-100%--A+	83-86%--B	70-72%--C-	00-59%--F
93-96%--A	80-82%--B-	67-69%--D+	
90-92%--A-	77-79%--C+	63-66%--D	
87-89%--B+	73-76%--C	60-62%--D-	

Schedule of Lectures and Topics:

Week 1:

Tuesday, January 19:

Listen: Introduction

Read: "The Naked Truth of Battle"

Thursday, January 21:

Listen: World War I

Read: World War I Songs and Poems

Week 2:

Tuesday, January 26:

Listen: Versailles

Watch: C-SPAN Interview Margaret MacMillan

Thursday, January 28:

Listen: Before Götterdämmerung;

The Rise of Totalitarianism- Soviet Union and Italy

Read: Weinberg, Introduction and Chapter 1

Week 3:

Tuesday, February 2:

Listen: Adolf Hitler- The Rise to Power

Watch: "Tomorrow Belongs to Me"

Thursday, February 4:

Listen: Adolf Hitler-Depression to Power

Watch: "Triumph of the Will"

C-SPAN Lecture Ian Kershaw

Week 4:

Tuesday, February 9:

Listen: Hitler and the Destruction of the Versailles System pt1

Hitler and the Destruction of the Versailles System pt2

Watch: Lil Hitler; News Reel: Berlin Olympics; Boxing in Nazi Germany

News Reel: Chamberlin at Munich

Thursday, February 11:

Exam 1: Released at 9:00am EST due Friday, February 12, by 9:00am EST

Week 5:

Tuesday, February 16:

Listen: Thinking about War

Thursday, February 18:

Listen: Blitz into Poland

The Winter Wars

Watch: News Reel: War 1939; News Reel: Finland Fights On

Read: Weinberg, Chapter 2

Week 6:

Tuesday, February 23:

Listen: The Battle of France

The Fall of France

Watch: News Reel: Dynamo; Clip *Darkest Hour*

Read: Weinberg, Chapter 3

Thursday, February 25:

Listen: The Battle of Britain

Read: "The Lion Caged"

Watch: *Why We Fight: The Battle of Britain*

Week 7:

Tuesday, March 2:

Listen: Operation Barbarossa

Read: Weinberg, Chapter 4

Watch: News Reel: Germany invades Russia 1941

Thursday, March 4:

Listen: American Isolationism

Read: "The Transatlantic Duel: Hitler Vs. Roosevelt"

Watch: News Reel: Ruben James;

Arsenal of Democracy

Week 8:

Tuesday, March 9:

Listen: Trouble in the East
Read: Weinberg, Chapter 5

Thursday, March 11:

Listen: Day of Infamy;
Japanese Expansion
Read: "Pearl Harbor: Who Blundered?"
Watch: *Pearl Harbor* movie clip; Day of Infamy Speech; *Know Your Enemy: Japan*

Week 9:

Tuesday, March 16:

Listen: Midway
Read: "6 Minutes that Changed the World"
Watch: Movie clip *Midway* '76; John Ford clip; News Reel: Doolittle Raid

Thursday, March 18:

Listen: Guadalcanal
Stalingrad
Read: Weinberg, Chapter 6
Watch: News Reel: Guadalcanal; News Reel Stalingrad

Week 10:

Tuesday, March 23:

Listen: North Africa

Thursday, March 25:

Exam 2: Released at 9:00am EST due Friday, March 25, by 9:00am EST

Week 11:

Tuesday, March 30:

Listen: Sicily and Italy
Watch: Clip *Patton*; News Reel: Battle of San Pietro

Thursday, April 1:

Watch: C-SPAN Popular Culture Goes to War; *The Negro Soldier*
Read: "The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson"

Week 12:

Tuesday, April 6:

Listen: The Atlantic War; Why Historians are Smarter than Generals
Read: Weinberg, Chapter 7

Thursday, April 8:

Listen: Day of Days pt. 1

Day of Days pt. 2

Watch: The Definitive History of D-Day: June 6, 1944

Read: "D-Day: What It Meant"

Week 13:

Tuesday, April 13:

Listen: Breaking Out

Thursday, April 15:

Listen: Battle of the Bulge

Read: "After the Air Raids"

Watch: Clip: *A Bridge too Far*; Malcom Gladwell on Bombsights

Week 14:

Tuesday, April 20:

Listen: Ending the War in Europe

Read: The Last Days of The Third Reich

Watch: Movie clip *Downfall*

Thursday: April 22:

Listen: The Final Solution

Watch: Clips *Judgment at Nuremberg*

Week 15:

Tuesday, April 27:

Listen: Island Hopping

Air War, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa

Watch: With the Marines in Tarawa (1944)

Movie clips *Iwo Jima*

Read: Weinberg, Chapter 8

Thursday, April 29:

Listen: The End of the War

From one War to Another

Read: "i Am Become Death..."

Week 16:

Exam 3 (Final) Released at 9:00am EST TBA and due the next day by 9:00am EST

Class Attendance and Behavior:

I encourage everyone to get the most out of their tuition dollars by following along with the course's content in a timely manner. Obviously, this course is being offered during troubling times. I encourage everyone to make use of my Zoom office hours, so I can get to know you as I would during a face-to-face class. If you encounter any medical problem, please keep me informed.

Special provisions related to Protect Purdue Policy implementation

Students should stay home and contact the Protect Purdue Health Center (496-INFO) if they feel ill, have any symptoms associated with COVID-19, or suspect they have been exposed to the virus. In an online class and the current context of COVID-19, in-person attendance will not be a factor in the final grades, but the student still needs to inform the instructor of any conflict that can be anticipated and will affect the submission of an assignment or the ability to take an exam. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts can be anticipated, such as for many University-sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible. For unanticipated or emergency conflict, when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, through Brightspace, or by phone. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, quarantine, or isolation, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students via [email](#) or phone at 765-494-1747. Our course Brightspace includes a link on Attendance and Grief Absence policies under the University Policies menu.

If you become quarantined or isolated at any point in time during the semester, in addition to support from the Protect Purdue Health Center, you will also have access to an Academic Case Manager who can provide you academic support during this time. Your Academic Case Manager can be reached at acmq@purdue.edu and will provide you with general guidelines/resources around communicating with your instructors, be available for academic support, and offer suggestions for how to be successful when learning remotely. Importantly, if you find yourself too sick to progress in the course, notify your academic case manager and notify me via email or Brightspace. We will make arrangements based on your particular situation. The Office of the Dean of Students (odos@purdue.edu) is also available to support you should this situation occur.

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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247. More details are available on our course Brightspace under Accessibility Information.

Nondiscrimination Policy, Diversity and Inclusion:

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies.

Mental Health Statement:

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack, <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>. Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please see the Office of the Dean of Students, <http://www.purdue.edu/odos>, for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm). If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students.

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Grief Absence Policy

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). Students will be excused from classes for funeral leave and given the opportunity to complete missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

Violent Behavior Policy

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, violent behavior is prohibited in or on any university facility or while participating in any university activity.

Right of Revision

Final decisions regarding course structure, requirements, and grading rest with the professor, and are subject to change.

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.