HISTORY 249  
The Second World War in Europe  
Spring 2017  
Syllabus DRAFT  
*Information below may change at the instructor’s discretion.*

**Instructor:** Prof. Winson Chu  
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**Lecture**  
Class Number: 58562  
Class Section: LEC 401  
Days/Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays – 1:00-1:50 pm  
Dates: January 23 – May 11, 2017  
Room: Bolton Hall B52

**Discussions**

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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Class#</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<td>DIS 601</td>
<td>58563</td>
<td>2:00 PM-2:50 PM</td>
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**Final Exam:** Saturday, May 13, 2017 (10:00 am - 12:00 pm) in Bolton Hall B52
Course Description
This course examines European history through the context of the Second World War. The course follows political, diplomatic, and military developments as well as cultural, societal, and ideological changes that were the causes and consequences of the conflict. Particular attention is paid to continuities with the First World War and the Cold War. One of the main challenges of the course is to periodize the conflict and to reconsider the different meanings of war. Weekly topics are not in strict chronological order but are rather introduced around themes. The focus of the course is on Germany and the concepts of “total war,” resistance, and collaboration. There will be particular emphasis on the origins of the Holocaust and Germany’s murderous project to create a biological utopia in Eastern Europe. The course also covers the causes and impact of Allied victory and the expulsion of Germans, Poles, and other groups at the end of the war. Course readings are drawn from diverse books and articles. In addition, primary source materials are included for weekly discussion.

Learning Goals
- to differentiate the short- and long-term origins and impact of the First World War
- to gain a greater understanding of the craft of history, and in particular:
  * how historians provide different kinds of evidence to argue about the past
  * how to evaluate primary and secondary sources in a critical manner
- to be able to write in a persuasive and cogent manner using primary and secondary sources
- to be able to work with colleagues in constructing arguments and evaluating those of others

1. Regular attendance is mandatory. Missing any section without an excuse will affect your grade. In lecture, tardiness and leaving class early are disruptive and not acceptable. Every two instances of tardiness/leaving early will be treated as one unexcused section absence. Usage of computers and phones beyond course needs is also disruptive to your fellow students and may be penalized at the discretion of the instructor.
2. You are expected to read the assigned texts before the first meeting of each week. You can come to the professor’s or TA’s office hours if you have any questions.
3. Active participation in your mandatory weekly discussion section is an important part of the course and of your grade. There will be assignments and quizzes on maps and readings.
4. One midterm exam (held in lecture) and one final exam (see finals schedule). Please pay attention in class for further details.
5. Two papers (4-6 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, printed on paper and submitted to D2L) on a topic given in class. Papers must be submitted on time. Please pay attention in class for further details.

You are responsible for being aware of class deadlines and pertinent university deadlines.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND CLASS OR CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES MAY BE DROPPED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

Departmental Policy on Auditors: If the instructor admits auditors, the number of auditors who may be admitted is determined not by the number of seats in the classroom but by the stated capacity of the course, and the admission of auditors is provisional until the end of the add/drop period. The Department recommends that instructors not admit auditors in seminars and not in any course in excess of the stated capacity.

*In this class, auditors may attend the lectures but not the discussion sections.

DRAFT VERSION
DO NOT USE AFTER CLASSES BEGIN
Grading
20% Discussion Section Grade (includes assignments and active participation)
20% First Paper
20% Second Paper
15% Midterm Exam
25% Final Examination

Grade Scale

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Score</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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Adjustments and deductions may be made to the preliminary course grade for absences and other factors. Grading scales may differ for individual assignments.

Email and D2L
You must check your UWM email regularly and often for important course notifications. The course also uses the Desire2Learn website to distribute information, including grades for exams and papers. Please note that D2L and email are used for supplementary course information and are not meant to replace going to lecture, attending discussion section, or doing the readings.

If you enrolled late or were not on the D2L mailing list due to enrollment issues, you can check the announcements page on D2L, where email messages (in abbreviated form) are posted. It is your responsibility to find out any work you may have missed and to be aware of exam dates and assignment deadlines.

You can access D2L at the following website: http://d2l.uwm.edu/

If you are having problems accessing D2L, go to http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/LTC/student_help/help.student.htm
Please see the end of the syllabus for more information on D2L.
Required Readings:
For lecture, we will be reading several secondary source texts written by historians, including
books, sections of books, and articles. In addition, you will also read a variety of primary
sources for your discussion section. Please read the texts in a critical manner and come to your
weekly section prepared to discuss the lecture and section readings with your classmates and TA.

Books:
ISBN-10: 0195174429

ISBN-10: 0684826801

ISBN-10: 0521608430

ISBN-10: 039331619X

The required books can be found online or ordered in bookstores. Wherever you obtain the
books, please pay attention to the ISBN numbers to make sure that you get the correct edition.

Other Readings:
Some weeks may include required or supplemental readings. These readings are either on D2L
or in the required books above.

Library Reserve:
Copies of the required books have also been ordered for two-hour reserve at the Golda Meir
Library. The editions may vary. You can check the availability of the books at
http://www.uwm.edu/Library (go to “Course Reserve” and look for this course). Please keep in
mind that these library reserve copies might be in high demand by other students. Also, some
books might not be on reserve if the library does not carry the title, so check beforehand.
Academic Advising in History
All L&S students have to declare and complete an academic major to graduate. If you have earned in excess of 45 credits and have not yet declared a major, you are encouraged to do so. If you either are interested in declaring a major (or minor) in History or require academic advising in History, please visit the Department of History undergraduate program web page at https://uwm.edu/history/undergraduate/advising/ for information on how to proceed.

Policies:
If you are a student requiring special accommodation for a verified disability, please contact the instructor immediately.

Do not make audio or visual recordings without the explicit permission of the instructor. Using class email lists and individual student email addresses for commercial purposes may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in assignments and cheating on exams may lead to failure in the course and other sanctions, including expulsion from the university. On Plagiarism, see: http://guides.library.uwm.edu/c.php?g=56454&p=363101
On Academic Misconduct, see: http://www4.uwm.edu/dos/conduct/academic-misconduct.cfm
For more information about these and other policies, please refer to the following link from University-wide policies: http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf

Credit hour policy: This 3-credit course meets for 3 hours per week during the semester. Students are expected to put in 7 additional hours per week studying and working on assignments to achieve the learning goals of this course.
Course Schedule

The readings and schedule may change at the instructor’s discretion.

A single asterisk (*) indicates a primary source located on D2L
A double asterisk (**) indicates a secondary source located on D2L

Week 1 – Long Fuse or Hitler’s War?
1/24: Introduction: The Histories of World War II
1/26: The “German Question” unsolved
Lecture Readings:
Discussion Readings:
**Norman Davies, “How we didn’t win the war . . . but the Russians did,” The Sunday Times, November 5, 2006.

Week 2 – Europa Irredenta
1/31: The First World War and peacemaking
2/2: Communism and Fascism
Lecture Readings:
Mawdsley, World War II, pp. 1-51, skim pp. 52-73.
Discussion Readings:
TWiF Mussolini and the Masses, p. 9.
*“The 25 Points 1920: An Early Nazi Program”
*General Ludendorff: “On Overcoming the Consequences of the Lost War,” 1922

Week 3 – The Crisis of the International System
2/7: Nazism and the Third Reich before the war
2/9: The Spanish Civil War
Lecture Readings:
Discussion Readings:
TWiF Abyssinia’s Plight, p. 11.
Spain’s Anguish, p. 13.
*George Orwell, The Road to Wigan Pier (1937), Excerpt
Week 4 – Revising Versailles
2/14: The politics of “appeasement”
2/16: The Polish campaign
Lecture Readings:
Mawdsley, World War II, pp. 74-103.
Discussion Readings:
TWiF Hossbach Memorandum, p. 22.
Appeasement, p. 25.
Rethinking Armored Warfare, p. 38.

Week 5 – From local war to world war
2/21: “Blitzkrieg” in the West
2/23: The Battle of Britain
Lecture Readings:
Mawdsley, World War II, pp. 104-133.
Discussion Readings:
TWiF France’s Collapse, p. 42.
Strange Defeat, p. 46.
De Gaulle’s Appeal to France, p. 52.
London is Burning, p. 58.

Week 6 – From world war to global war
2/28: Operation Barbarossa and the Soviet entry in the war
3/2: Pearl Harbor and American entry in the war
Lecture Readings:
Discussion Readings:
TWiF Germany Strikes East, p. 91.
“The Criminal Orders,” p. 94.
Saving Moscow, p. 96.
The Mood in America, p. 139.
Revival of Russian Orthodoxy, p. 285.

FIRST PAPERS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION (3/2-3/3)
Week 7 - Contours of the “New Order”

3/7: Germanization and mass murder
3/9: The Wannsee Conference and the “Final Solution”

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
*TWiF* Occupied Poland, p. 54.
   A Polish Witness to Massacre, p. 327.
   The Warsaw Ghetto, p. 332.
   Himmler and the Final Solution, p. 337.

Week 8 – The war for hearts and minds

3/14: Collaboration and resistance in occupied Europe
3/16: MIDTERM

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
*TWiF* French Collaboration, p. 53.
   The Polish Resistance, p. 182.
   Greece at War, p. 184.
   Four Freedoms, p. 270.
   Atlantic Charter, p. 271.

SPRING RECESS, No Class on 3/21 and 3/23-24

Week 9 – “Home front” in “total war”

3/28: Economic production
3/30: Women and the war

Lecture Readings:
Mawdsley, World War II, pp. 320-345.

Discussion Readings:
TWiF Arsenal of Democracy, p. 105.
Producing for Victory, p. 113.
Germany’s Delayed Mobilization, p. 117.
German Forced Labor, p. 120.

Week 10 – Defining the war’s turning point

4/4: Stalingrad vs. Kursk
4/6: The instruments of “total war” - The Waffen-SS

Lecture Readings:
Overy, Why the Allies Won, Chapter 3 (Deep War: Stalingrad and Kursk), pp. 63-100.

Discussion Readings:
TWiF Stalingrad: The Rat’s War, p. 149.
Siege of Leningrad, p. 190.
Panzer Warfare in the East, p. 192.
Soviet Tactical Doctrine, p. 194.
Battle of Kursk, p. 196.
Week 11 – Second Fronts

4/11: The war at sea
4/13: From North Africa to Normandy

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
- *TWiF* Desert War, p. 87
- Germany’s U-Boat Strategy, p. 177.
- Rommel Reflects on the Desert War, p. 141
- Eisenhower and Overlord, p. 198.

Week 12 – Germany’s downfall

4/18: D-Days
4/20: From Arnhem to the German surrender

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
- *TWiF* Von Moltke’s Thoughts on Resistance, p. 340.
Week 13 – “Total war” comes home
4/25: The Allied air campaign
4/27: Displacement and Expulsion

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
*TWiF*  Area Bombing, p. 169.
Massacre by Bombing, p. 170.
Displaced Jews in Occupied Germany, p. 362.

* Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin* (excerpts)

SECOND PAPERS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION (4/27-4/28)

Week 14 – The Third World War
5/2: The Cold War begins
5/4: Europe divided

Lecture Readings:

Discussion Readings:
*TWiF* Nazis to the Bitter End?, p. 349.
The German Problem, p. 355.
America’s Plans for Postwar Germany, p. 357.
The Nuremberg Trials, p. 359.

Week 15 – Remembering World War II
5/9: The new German Question
5/11: Who won the war?

Lecture Readings:
Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, Chapter 10 (Why the Allies Won) and Epilogue, pp. 314-330.

Discussion Readings:
Erich von Manstein, *Lost Victories* (Excerpt)

SEE FRONT PAGE FOR FINAL EXAM TIME