

World War II

History 4570/G

T, R 3:00p.m-4:15p.m. LA 362

Professor A.R. Millett

Spring 2013

The purpose of this course is to provide the students with a broad view and comprehensive understanding of World War II as a global event. It will deal with the war's causes, conduct, and consequences. It will cover the war from the perspective of all the major belligerents, Axis and Allied. The dominant perspective, however, will be that of the United States, the only Allied power to play an important role in the defeat of all three Axis powers, Germany, Italy, and Japan. The course is built around lectures, complemented by demonstrations, audio-visual experiences, handouts, and discussions.

There will be five graded assignments. There will be three in-class examinations covering each third of the course. There will be a summative take-home essay of ten pages or less that will require a broad understanding of the war. The fifth assignment requires the students to choose one of two options: (1) conduct an interview with a World War II veteran or (2) read three books on a specific World War II topic and write a review essay on these books. Each of the five assignments will be worth 100 points. The final grade will be determined on a 90-80-70 percentage of 500 points.

There is a single text for the course: Williamson Murray and Allan R. Millett, *A War to be Won: Fighting the Second World War* (Harvard University Press, 2000). It is available in paperback, new or used, at the UNO bookstore or on Amazon.com. The class will receive copies of articles and handouts that should be regarded as required reading.

By the end of the second week of class, each student will choose either the oral history project or the reading project. The initial guidance for each of these assignments is:

- (A.) The subject of the interview must have been a serving member of the U.S armed forces, the merchant marine, or a war industry worker. It cannot be someone already interviewed by a staff member of the National World War II Museum. I will provide an interview form used by the U.S. Army Military History Institute for guidance. The written product will be a five-to-six page paper, summarizing the interview. I will provide those summaries to the NWWIIM for possible follow-up.

- (B.) The reading project requires a bibliographic search, best conducted either by consulting printed World War II bibliographies or by going on-line and consulting bibliographies created by the U.S. Army Military History Institute, the Naval Historical Center, and the Air University library. After you make your initial selections, I will review your choices for appropriateness, defined by your subject matter interest. The limited bibliography in *A War to be Won* may be of some help.

You may want to invest in a World War II reference work. They are legion, and many may be found on the sale at Barnes and Noble and Books A Million. I recommend I.C.B. Dear and M.R.D. Foot, editors, *The Oxford Companion to World War II* (Oxford University Press, 1995). In the one volume field, Elizabeth Anne Wheal and Stephan Pope, eds., *The Macmillan Dictionary of the Second World War* (2nd ed., Macmillan, 1995) is a good alternative. The five volume *Encyclopedia of World War II* edited by David Zabecki is designed for World War II buffs (ABC-Clio, 2005) but is a good investment.

Class Schedule

1st Week

T Jan. 15 World War I and the Collapse of Traditional Europe, 1890-1929
R Jan 17 The Rise of Nazism; Japan Resurgent, 1930's
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 1-3, Appendices 1-4

2nd Week

T Jan 22 The Invasion of Poland and Western Europe, 1940-1941
R Jan 24 The War for Europe and Great Britain, 1940-1941
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 4-5

3rd Week

T Jan 29 Operation Barbarossa, 1941
R Jan 31 "The Final Solution"
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 6

4th Week

T Feb 5 The Asia-Pacific War, 1937-1941
R Feb 7 **Examination**
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 7

5th Week

T Feb 12 No Class / Mardi Gras
R Feb 14 1942: The Axis Ascendant
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 8

6th Week

T Feb 19 Home Front Mobilizations
R Feb 21 The Battle of the Atlantic
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 10 and 19

7th Week

T Feb 26 The Wars within the War: Resistance Movements and
Revolutionary Nationalism
R Feb 28 1942-1943: The Allies Check the Axis: Africa, Russia, the Pacific
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 9 and 11

8th Week

T Mar 5 Operation Pointblank: Bombing Germany
R Mar 7 **Examination**
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 12

9th Week

T Mar 12 The Mediterranean Campaign, 1943-1944
R Mar 14 Stalingrad
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 14

10th Week

T Mar 19 The Pacific Campaigns 1943-1944
R Mar 21 Europe Under the Bombs, 1944-1945
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 12 and 13

11th Week

T & R Mar 26 & 28 Spring Break

12th Week

T Apr 2 Creation of the Second Front in Europe, 1944
R Apr 4 The Marianas Campaign
Reading: *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 15

13th Week

T Apr 9 Allied Offensives into Central Europe, 1944
R Apr 11 Liberation of the Philippines, 1944-1945
Reading *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 16 and 17

14th Week

T Apr 16 The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-1945
R Apr 18 The Final Defeat of Germany and Allied Occupation, 1945
Reading *A War to Be Won*, Chapter 17

15th Week

T Apr 23 The Final Defeat of Japan and Occupation, 1945
R Apr 25 **Examination and Projects Due**
Reading *A War to Be Won*, Chapters 18, 20, and Epilogue

16th Week

T Apr 30 No Class
R May 2 **Comprehensive Examination in Class**

Evaluation Schedule

February 7 Examination
March 7 Examination
April 25 Examination
April 25 Projects Due
May 2 Comprehensive Examination in Class