

**History 3843 FW 2020-21**  
**Occupation, Collaboration and Death: A Social and Military History of the**  
**Second World War to 1944**

Dr. Deborah Neill, Department of History

**Course Format/Time:**

This course will be offered ONLINE, with all lectures, information, assignment guidelines, discussions and important information posted on the class moodle site. For students who are interested, the Professor will host live office hours/discussion on Thursdays between 10:30-11:30 via zoom, but attendance at the live sessions is not mandatory.

**Course Description:**

We begin in the 1930s with the Japanese invasion of mainland China and the Spanish Civil War, and from there explore the conditions leading to Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939. The rest of the course explores the war globally to 1944, with the goal of not only understanding the major military battles, but also how, in occupied and unoccupied regions, the war affected ordinary lives. We will study events in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Soviet Union, the Arab world, Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Among the topics we discuss are fascism and Nazism, Japanese imperialism, the growth of liberation movements, the mobilization and organization of wartime societies, the Holocaust, mass aerial bombings, and other acts of violence. We also explore resistance and collaboration in occupied territories. We will rely on a rich variety of sources including memoirs, diaries, letters films, novels and many secondary sources.

**Course Organization:**

To make the course as accessible as possible for students, the course can be done completely online, meaning that lectures will be pre-recorded and posted at the beginning of each week and can be watched at times convenient for students. Participation grades will also be evaluated based on submitted discussion questions and assignments that students can hand in at any time within a 7 day period. There will be a live discussion with the Professor once a week in the originally scheduled time of the class, but attendance is not mandatory. The professor will also be available for live office hours at a set time.

**Course Goals:**

**The goals of the course are as follows:**

- 1) Learn factual information about World War Two, including key battles and events, geography and the social and military history of the conflict;
- 2) work with primary sources to understand the war from the "inside out";
- 3) develop skills in critically analyzing and contrasting historical views (historiography);

- 4) Develop written skills through short answer assignment and an essay on a topic related to the war.

**Assignments and Grade Breakdown (tentative)**

Participation written submissions (based on weekly questions)	20%
Book review: Willy Reese	10%
Essay (6-9 pages, or about 2,250 words)	25%
Short Answer pieces (2)	15%
Final Exam (online)	30%

**Textbooks (in addition there will be short primary and secondary source readings available via moodle each week)**

Mawdsley, Evan, *World War II: A New History* (Cambridge, 2020)  
Willy Reese, *A Stranger to Myself* (e-book edition)

**Suggested Weekly Lecture Topics**

Week 1	The path to war: Japan and China
Week 2	The path to war: Spanish Civil War
Week 3	Appeasement to Blitzkrieg
Week 4	From the Battle of Britain to war in Russia
Week 5	The United States vs. Japan
Week 6	Africa and the Middle East
Week 7	India, Singapore and Hong Kong
Week 8	Canada and the Caribbean
Week 9	Violence against civilians and aerial bombing
Week 10	Mobilizing the Home Fronts for War
Week 11	The Path to the "Final Solution"
Week 12	Resistance, Collaboration and D-Day