

FW22 AP/HIST 3843 3.0A Occupation, Collaboration and Death: A Social and Military History of the Second World War to 1944 (Fall term)

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

We begin in 1937 with the Japanese invasion of mainland China, and move from there to the lead up to war in Poland in 1939. We then move through major events between 1941-44 including the 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union and the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the brutal battles of 1942-43, and the D-Day invasion of 1944. Our goal is to not only understand the major military battles, but also to explore how, in occupied and unoccupied regions, the war affected ordinary lives. We take a global perspective, studying the war in East Asia, Southeast Asia, Europe, the Soviet Union, the Arab world, Africa, the Caribbean, and North America. Among the topics discussed are the rise of fascism and Nazism, the war's origins, the German invasion & occupation of Europe, Japanese imperialism in Asia, the growth of national liberation movements, the mobilization and reorganization of the world's societies and economies for total war, the Holocaust, mass aerial bombings and other acts of violence. We also explore the various ways in which national governments collaborated with foreign occupation forces. We will rely on a rich variety of sources including memoirs, diaries, letters, film, novels, and a wide array of secondary sources.

Required Course Text/Readings:

\*TENTATIVE\*

Mawdsley, Evan, *World War II: A New History* (Cambridge, 2020).

Willy Reese, *A Stranger to Myself* (you can purchase this as a kobo e-book, or you can borrow it for an hour at a time from the internet archive by creating a free account).

We will also be reading excerpts from a variety of journals and books. While the list can change from year to year, past readings we have used are below and many will likely be on the list again this year. The links or the readings themselves are embedded in the weekly syllabus on the site and you do not need to purchase these books. That said, if you find them of significant interest you may wish to do so.

Irène Nemirovsky, *Suite Française*

March Bloch, *Strange Defeat*

Alexander Werth, *Russia at War 1941-1945*

Eric Jennings, *Escape from Vichy: the Refugee Exodus to the French Caribbean*

Victor Klemperer, *To the Bitter End: the Diaries of Victor Klemperer, 1942-1945*

Mark Roseman, *The Villa, the Lake, the Meeting*

Studs Terkel, *"The Good War": an Oral History of World War II*

Shigeru Mizuki, *Showa 1939-1944: a History of Japan*

Weighting of Course:

**\*TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown\***

Participation/question submissions (attendance 5% + 3 submissions at 5% each).....	20%
Memoir Study .....	20%
Essay (8-10 pages, or about 2,000-3,000 words) .....	25%
Facts & Figures Quiz.....	10%
Final Exam (online, open book exam).....	25%

Organization of the Course:

The class meets twice a week for 1.5 hours each time. This time is divided between lecture and all-class “breakout” discussions. These discussions can be about readings, specific points, or questions that come up as we go through lecture material. Please do the readings in advance of the week in question, so that you can participate fully in discussions.

Course Learning Objectives:

- Learn factual information about World War Two, including key battles and events, geography and the social and military history of the conflict;
- work with memoirs and other primary sources related to the war;
- develop skills including critically analyzing & comparing/contrasting historical views (historiography);
- Enhance writing and organization skills through writing assignments.