

FW22 AP/HIST 3844 3.0M Liberation, Violence, and Reconstruction: A History of the Second World War and its Aftermath, 1944-1949 (Winter term)

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Expanded Course Description (expanded from course calendar description):

This course provides a global history of the fallout of the Second World War. We begin after D-Day in June 1944 and we end in the watershed year of 1949 with the beginning of the Cold War. In the first part of the course we look at the military and social history of the war from June 1944 to August 1945, examining how the final year affected nations and individuals. We will also address the impact of the Allied bombing of Germany, the discovery of the scale and extent of the Holocaust, the decision to drop the atomic bomb on Japan, and the question of collaborators and vigilante justice. We then turn to exploring the broader repercussions of the war: the geopolitical situation after the war, the question of “displaced persons” (DPs), the return and reintegration of soldiers, the war crimes trials, reconstruction of devastated communities, the partition of Germany, and the re-occupation of colonial territories. In the final weeks we will discuss the Chinese Civil War, the establishment of NATO and the beginning of the Cold War. We seek a global perspective; we will therefore examine many regions of the world including East Asia, India, Europe, the U.S.S.R., the Arab world, Africa and North America.

Required Course Text/Readings:

TENTATIVE

Primo Levi, *The Reawakening*

Victor Sebestyen. *1946: The Making of the Modern World*. New York: Vintage Books 2013.

We will also have some material either excerpted on e-class or provided as links.

Weighting of Course:

TENTATIVE Grade Breakdown

Written question submissions (3 at 5% each)	15%
Memoir study.....	20%
Film Study: watch a film, write a critique	15%
Term Paper.....	25%
Final Exam (online, open book).....	25%

Organization of the Course:

The class meets twice weekly for 1.5 hours each time. The structure is a lecture, interspersed with breakout discussions related to questions that come up in lecture, the weekly readings, and questions I might circulate in advance via e-class.

We use the e-class site for several purposes: here I post lecture slides in advance of the week’s lectures, assignment guidelines, readings, and extra information. The final exam is also run through the e-class

site, and is designed for students to write within a 1 -week window to accommodate different schedules and avoid an extra trip to campus.

Course Learning Objectives:

- Learn factual information, including dates, names, key events, geography
- Enhance our writing skills in short and longer assignments
- Learn how to work with memoirs and personal accounts of the war
- Develop historiographical skills including comparing/contrasting historical views
- Improve oral communication skills through in-class debates and discussions