

History 4130
Himes 253
Spring 2017
MW 1:30 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Dr. Brendan Karch
Himes 217F
Office Hours: Mon & Wed 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
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World War II

This course examines selected themes in the study of World War II. It has two main goals: to provide global coverage, and to expose students to new or understudied aspects of the war. There will be only minimal coverage of battles and military technology. Greater focus will be paid to ideology, race, colonialism, occupation politics, civilian experiences, gender, class, and the environment. We will spend significant time addressing the causes of the war and its aftermath. Each class will feature approximately 50 minutes of lecture followed by 30 minutes of discussion.

A note for history majors: This course may count *either* as a non-Western course or a Western history course, but not both.

Assignments and Grading:

- Attendance and Participation (15%): You will be expected to come to class every day prepared (having done *all* readings and assignments), and to contribute to discussions. Positive contributions mean being a good speaker and a good listener. Your contributions should be respectful, add to the discussion, and fit within its flow. You will be graded based on quality more than quantity.
- Pop quizzes (3 x 5%): Over the course of the semester there will be five pop quizzes. These will cover the readings due for that day. Only three of your quizzes will count. If you are absent during a quiz, there are no makeup possibilities. If you are present for more than three quizzes, then your three highest grades will be used.
- First paper (15%): You will receive a packet of primary source documents and be asked to construct an argument (5-6 pages). **Due Mon. 2/13**
- Take-home midterm (15%): A series of essay questions. **Due Fri. 3/3 @ noon** (by e-mail)
- Second paper (15%): You will select a secondary source article or chapter from the syllabus, look through its footnotes, and select at least three other sources from the footnotes to read. You will then construct an argument based on these sources. (5-6 pages) **Due Wed. 4/5**
- Take-home final (25%): A series of essay questions. **Due Tues. 5/2 @ noon** (by email)

All assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale and then weighted as above. Final grades will be calculated as follows: A+ 97% or above | A 93-96.9 | A- 90-92.9 | B+ 87-89.9 | B 83-86.9 | B- 80-82.9 | C+ 77-79.9 | C 73-76.9 | C- 70-72.9 | D+ 67-69.9 | D 63-66.9 | D- 60-62.9 | F 0-59.9

Week 1: Course Introduction

1/11: Myths and Realities of World War II

Week 2: The Thirty Years War?

1/16: No Class – MLK Jr. Holiday

1/18: World War I and the Interwar Order

- Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Ch. 1
- Documents on *Kellogg-Briand Pact*

Week 3: The Path to War

1/23: Japanese Empire

- YouTube Video, “Manchukuo: The Newborn Empire” (13 min)
- Lary, *The Chinese People at War*, Ch. 1
- John Rabe, *The Good Man of Nanking*, Diary Excerpts

1/25: From the Anschluss to Poland

- Weinberg, “Foreign Policy in Peace and War” in Caplan, *Nazi Germany*
- Tooze, “Hitler’s Gamble,” *History Today*, 2006

Week 4: The ‘Last European War’

1/30: Germany and Italy on the Offensive

- Parker, *Second World War*, Chs. 2-3

2/1: Preludes to Genocide (on Poland)

- Horwitz, *Ghettostadt*, Prologue and Ch. 5
- Fischer, “The Katyn Controversy” *CIA Studies in Intelligence*

Week 5: Barbarossa and the Eastern Front

2/6: The War to End all Wars

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 4
- Merridale, *Ivan’s War*, Ch. 4

2/8: War and Civil War in the East

- Snyder, “To Resolve the Ukrainian Problem Once and For All,” *Cold War Studies*
- *Writing the Siege of Leningrad*, Selected Women’s Diaries/Memoirs

Week 6: The Eastern World War2/13: Japan and Pearl Harbor – **First Paper Due**

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 5
- Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming the Pacific War*, pp. 14-45

2/15: War and Race in the Pacific

- Dower, *War Without Mercy*, Ch. 1 + illustrations
- Fujitani, “Right to Kill, Right to Make Live” *Representations*

Week 7: Making and Unmaking Asian Empires

2/20: The ‘Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere’

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 6

- Smith, “Beyond Bridge on the River Kwai” *Intl Labor and Working-Class History*

2/22: Breaking European Empires

- Lebra, *Japanese-Trained Armies in Southeast Asia*, Ch. 1
- Ba Maw, *Breakthrough in Burma*, pp. 261-266, 318-335

Week 8: Mardi Gras Feb 27 – Mar 1 No Class

Mid-term exam due Fri., Mar. 3 @ noon (by email)

Week 9: Hitler’s Empire

3/6: Forms of Imperial Control

- Case, *Between States*, Intro, Ch. 5
- Mazower, *Hitler’s Empire*, Ch. 10

3/8: Vichy France

- Paxton, *Vichy France*, pp. 137-168
- Cohen, “The French Memory and the War,” *NY Times*, 23 Oct 1997

Week 10: The Holocaust

3/13: Barbarossa and the Origins of Mass Murder

- Mazower, *Hitler’s Empire*, pp. 368-391
- Snyder, “Holocaust: The Ignored Reality” *NY Review of Books*

3/15: A European Holocaust

- Mazower, *Hitler’s Empire*, pp. 391-415
- Gross, *Neighbors*, pp. 3-22, 90-110, 143-163
- *Current Affairs Article on Jan Gross and Neighbors*

Week 11: Economies and Environments

3/20: Economics and Resources

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 9
- Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, Ch. 6

3/22: The Environment

- Blackbourn, “The Conquest of Nature and the Mystique of the Eastern Frontier in Nazi Germany” in: *Germans, Poland, and Colonial Expansion to the East*
- Tsutsui, “Landscapes in the Dark Valley” *Environmental History*

Week 12: Societies, Families, Gender

3/27: Home Fronts

- Collingham, *Taste of War*, Ch. 15
- Kennedy, *Freedom from Fear*, Ch. 8

3/29: Women and Gender

- Lower, *Hitler's Furies*, Ch. 5
- Yoshimi, *Comfort Women*, Introduction, Ch. 3

Week 13: War's End

4/3: From D-Day to German Defeat

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 13
- Mazower, *Dark Continent*, Ch. 6

4/5: The Atom Bomb and Japanese Surrender – **Second Paper Due**

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 14
- Bernstein, "The Atomic Bombings Reconsidered" *Foreign Affairs*

SPRING BREAK

Week 14: Peace and Punishment

4/17: Collaborators and Punishment

- Kaplan, *The Collaborator*, Preface, Chs. 8, 13, 14

4/19: Japan Occupied

- Dower, *Embracing Defeat*, Intro, Ch. 2, pp. 121-139

Week 15: Decolonization, Ethnic Cleansing, and Wars

4/24: The Aftermath of Japanese Empire

- Mitter, *Forgotten Ally*, Epilogue
- Cribb & Brown, *Modern Indonesia*, pp. 13-31

4/26: Ethnic Cleansing and Cold War Europe

- Parker, *Second World War*, Ch. 16
- Judt, *Postwar*, Ch. 1

Take-home final exam due Tues. 5/2 @ noon (by email).