

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester II, 1979-80

History 357

THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Mr. Koehl

Course Description:

This is a general course in the history of the Second World War, which will be studied in its worldwide dimensions, beginning with its origins in World War I and the pressures of the revolutionary revisionist powers against the old world order. The main attention will be focused on the six war years of 1939-45 in both the Asian and European theaters. Development of the military struggle itself will receive major emphasis, but the political, social and economic dimensions of the conflict will also be studied. The course concludes with a brief analysis of the postwar settlement, the problems resulting therefrom and the beginning of the Cold War.

Lectures:

There will be fifteen lectures with topics specified in the syllabus. A number of films will be shown and there will usually be some time for questions and discussion after the films. Each student will be assigned to a required discussion section where integration of readings and lectures will be attempted and encouraged.

Written assignments and Exams:

There will be two 75 minute exams, each based on the material covered in the lectures and readings. Each exam will feature a map exercise for 10%, identifications for 15% and an essay (or essays) for 75%. The essay or essays in the final exam will cover the entire course. In addition, each student registered for four credits must prepare a ten page paper based on topics and materials suggested by Esmonde Robertson's Origins of the Second World War, if possible presented orally as well in the four credit section(s).

Three credit option:

Those who register for three credits only will be required to pass both exams and come to class (including discussion) prepared by doing the assigned reading.

Grading system:

Four credits: Discussion 25% Paper 25% Exams 50%
Three credits: Discussion 25% Exams 75%

Required Reading:

Four credits only: Esmonde Robertson, editor, The Origins of the Second World War, St. Martin's Press
All: Guy Wint and Peter Calvocoressi, Total War, Penguin
Norman Rich, Hitler's war Aims, vol. I, Norton
John Toland, The Rising Sun, Bantam
Gordon Wright, The Ordeal of Total War, Harper & Row

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Syllabus

Date	Topic	Reading preparation
T 22 Jan.	no class	
R 24 Jan.	organization	Rich, ch.1-2
T 29 Jan.	film TWISTED CROSS	<u>Total War</u> (TW) I, ch.1-2
R 31 Jan.	L.1 "The Era of Illusions"	Rich, ch.3-5
T 5 Feb.	film TRIUMPH OF THE WILL	TW I, ch.3-4
R 7 Feb.	L.2 "Hitler's Aims"	Rich, ch.6-8
T 12 Feb.	film JAPAN'S CENTURY OF IMPERIALISM	
R 14 Feb.	L.3 "Japanese Imperialism"	<u>Total War</u> (TW) II, ch.1-4
T 19 Feb.	film WAR IN CHINA	
R 21 Feb.	L.4 "The China Tangle"	TW II, ch.5-8
T 26 Feb.	film PRELUDE TO WAR	TW I, ch. 5-10
R 28 Feb.	L.5 "The Origins of World War II"	Rich, ch.9-12
T 4 March	film BATTLE OF BRITAIN	Wright, ch.1-3
R 6 March	L.6 "1940"	Rich, ch.13-16
T 11 March	film JOSEPH GOEBBELS	Wright, ch.4-5
R 13 March	L.7 "Operation Barbarossa"	Rich, ch.17-20
T 18 March	L.8 "Disaster in the Pacific"	TW II, ch.9-11
R 20 March	L.9 "1942"	TW II, ch.12-16
T 25 March	<u>Review Session</u>	
R 27 March	<u>Midterm Exam</u>	
	vacation	
T 8 April	film NIGHT AND FOG	TW I, ch.11-15
R 10 April	L.10 "The Nazi Empire"	Wright, ch.6-7
T 15 April	L.11 "The Japanese Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere"	<u>Rising Sun</u> ; Wright ch.8-9
R 17 April	L.12 "Toward a Second Front"	TW I, ch.16-20
T 22 April	L.13 "The Pacific Offensive"	TW II, ch.17-21
R 24 April	L.14 "Allied Wartime Diplomacy"	<u>Rising Sun</u>
T 29 April	film D-DAY	TW I, ch.21-25
R 1 May	L.15 "The Origins of the Cold War"	Wright, ch.10
T 6 May	films REMAGEN BRIDGE / HIROSHIMA-NAGASAKI	Wright, ch.11
R 8 May	<u>Review Session</u>	TW I, Epilogue; TW II Epilogue