

Lecturers: Dr Alexander Hill and Dr David Wright	Class Time: Tuesday and Thursday 14:00-15:15
Telephone: (Hill) 220 6419; (Wright) 220 6408; or Main Office 220 6401	Location: EDC 280
Office: (Wright) Social Sciences 616, (Hill) Social Sciences 620	Office Hours: (Hill) Monday 10-11 and Wednesday 2-3; (Wright) 11-12 Tuesday and Thursday
Emails: hilla@ucalgary.ca and wrightd@ucalgary.ca	

HTST485 – World War II



Lectures

The lectures for this course will take a broadly chronological look at campaigns and battles of the Second World War, stopping to focus on particular themes such as the war at sea or the war in the air.

Assessment

Two essays and a final test. See pages five and six of this handout.

Reading

Selected reading for particular lectures is given below the lecture titles in the lecture outline.

The course textbooks/set texts are:

David Glantz and Jonathan House, *When Titans Clashed: How the Red Army Stopped Hitler*
Ronald Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun: The American War with Japan*
John Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*

For the Eastern Front, and for setting the Eastern Front in a the broader context, I would also recommend:

Evan Mawdsley, *Thunder in the East: The Nazi-Soviet War 1941-1945*

There is not a textbook/set text for the war in Western Europe and North Africa, and hence the specific reading for these theatres for each lecture in this course outline. For the purposes of the final test it is assumed that students will have read both the course textbooks/set reading above and any other reading assigned for particular lectures.

For the essays the library is well stocked with books on military history, and perhaps particularly so for World War II. For your essays, for which you are being graded not only on what you write but your research, make good use of journals, many of which are available online. Their contents can be searched through a number of journal search engines, one of the best being *Historical Abstracts*, accessible through the library webpages. Footnotes/endnotes in journal articles should prove useful in locating more detailed works. The following link may also be of some use to you when gathering materials for your essays – <http://www.ucalgary.ca/library/subjects/HIST/milithst.htm>.

For advice on accessing electronic and other materials for your essays, the History liaison librarian Mr Clyde will be holding office hours in the department on Wednesdays 10-12 and Thursdays 12-2 in SS639, starting 30th September. Alternatively he can be reached by email at jvcllyde@ucalgary.ca.

Lecture Outline

1. Tuesday 8th September – Introduction and The Greater East-Asia Co-prosperity Sphere (Wright)
2. Thursday 10th September – Europe from the Russian Revolution to the Nazi-Soviet Pact (Hill)

Reading: Alexander Hill, “Stalin and the West”, in Gordon Martel (ed.), *A Companion to International History, 1900-2001* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007), pp.257-268 [Blackboard]
Martin S. Alexander and William Philpott, “The French and the British Field Force: Moral Support or Material Contribution?”, in *The Journal of Military History*, 71 (July 2007), pp.743-772 [Electronic journal]

3. Tuesday 15th September – War in Europe September 1939-April 1940 (Hill)

Reading: Michael Alfred Peszce, *Battle for Warsaw, 1939-1944* (Boulder, Colorado: East European Monographs, 1995), Chapter 2 [Blackboard]
Talbot Charles Imlay, “A Reassessment of Anglo-French Strategy during the Phoney War”, in *English Historical Review*, cxix, 481 (April 2004), pp.333-372 [Electronic journal]

4. Thursday 17th September - The Battle for France, May-June 1940 (Hill)

Eugenia C. Kiesling, “The Fall of France: Lessons from the 1940 Campaign”, in *Defence Studies*, Volume 3, Number 1 (Spring 2003), pp.109-123 [Electronic journal]
Peter Jackson, “Returning to the Fall of France: Recent Work on the Causes and Consequences of the ‘Strange Defeat’ of 1940”, in *Modern and Contemporary France*, Volume 12, Number 4 (2004), pp.513-536 [Electronic journal]

5. Tuesday 22nd September – Japan’s War Against the Western Powers in South- East Asia, 1941-1942 (Wright)

6. Thursday 24th September - The Battle of Britain (Hill)

Reading: Samir Puri, “The Role of Intelligence in Deciding the Battle of Britain”, in *Intelligence and National Security*, Volume 21, No. 3 (June 2006) pp.416-439 [Electronic journal]

[Optional] : Richard Overy, *The Battle* (London: Penguin, 2000)

7. Tuesday 29th September - The War in North Africa 1940-1942 (Hill)

Lucio Ceva, “The North African Campaign 1940-1943: A Reconsideration”, in *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 13, Number 1 (March 1990) pp.84-104 [Blackboard]
John Ferris, “The British Army, Signals and Security in the Desert Campaign, 1940-1942”, in *Intelligence and National Security*, Volume 5, Number 2 (1990), pp.255-291 [Electronic journal]

8. Thursday 1st October - Barbarossa and the Battle for Moscow (Hill)

9. Tuesday 6th October – Pearl Harbour (Wright)

10. Thursday 8th October – The Doolittle Raid and the Battle of the Coral Sea
 11. Tuesday 13th October - Midway (Wright)
 12. Thursday 15th October - From Stalingrad to Kursk (Hill)
 13. Tuesday 20th October – Guadalcanal (Wright)
 14. Thursday 22nd October - North Africa, Sicily and Italy 1943-1944 (Hill)
- Reading: Brian Holden Reid, “The Italian Campaign, 1943-45: A Reappraisal of Allied Generalship”, in *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 13, Number 1 (March 1990), pp.128-161 [Blackboard]
15. Tuesday 27th October – Tightening the noose in the Pacific: February 1943-June 1944 (Wright)
 16. Thursday 29th October – From Kursk to Warsaw (Hill)
 17. Tuesday 3th November – D-Day and the Second Front (Hill)
- John Buckley, “Introduction”, in John Buckley (ed.), *The Normandy Campaign 1944 – Sixty Years On* (London: Frank Cass, 2006), pp.1-10, and at least two of the other chapters (e.g. Copp, Buckley) available on [Blackboard]
18. Thursday 5th November – The European Air War and the Battle of the Atlantic (Hill)
- Marc Milner, “The Battle of the Atlantic”, in *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 13, Number 1 (March 1990), pp.45-66 [Blackboard]
 Philips O’Brien, “East versus West in the Defeat of Nazi Germany”, in *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Volume 23, Number 2 (June 2000), pp.89-113 [Electronic journal]
 Kenneth P. Werrell, “The Strategic Bombing of Germany in World War II: Costs and Accomplishments”, in *The Journal of American History*, Volume 73, Number 3 (December 1986), pp.702-713 [Electronic journal]
19. Tuesday 10th November – Iwo Jima and Okinawa (Wright)
 20. Thursday 12th November – University Reading Day
 21. Tuesday 17th November – The Allied Drive to the Philippines (Wright)
 22. Thursday 19th November – The Fall of Berlin and the Defeat of Nazi Germany (Hill)
 23. Tuesday 24th November – Preparations to invade Japan (Wright)
 24. Thursday 26th November – American submarine warfare in the Pacific (Wright)
 25. Tuesday 1st December – Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The bombings and the debates (Wright)
 26. Thursday 3rd December – War without mercy: The Pacific War as a race war? (Wright)
 27. Tuesday 8th December – Final test

Please note that the above lecture outline is provisional and may be subject to change.

Assessment:

Essay 1	Due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 27 th October in the red box outside the History Department office.	An essay of 2,500 words (the word limit includes references but excludes bibliography) from the selection provided below.	45% of final mark
Essay 2	Due by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday 24 th November in the red box outside the History Department office.	An essay of 2,500 words (the word limit includes references but excludes bibliography) from the selection provided below.	45% of final mark
Final 'test'	Tuesday 8 th December in class.	A multiple-choice computer-marked test covering the whole course.	10% of final mark

In order to pass the course you must complete all three components.

Where applicable, 10% will be deducted for exceeding word limits for a particular question/piece of work, and you will not gain credit for that material beyond the word limit.

10% of the mark awarded will be deducted for every complete week or part thereof during which essays are overdue without prior agreement with the lecturer or due cause (as documented according to university requirements).

Work submitted after the final 'test' will not be accepted and a mark of 0 recorded for that piece of work unless the necessary documentation satisfactory to the university is provided. A mark of 0 for the test will be recorded for failure to attend the test without the above documentation.

From the Registrar's Office:

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

Essay questions:

Essay 1: The War in Europe

- 1) Did Axis success in gaining control over much of Europe in 1939-1940 owe more to Axis successes or Allied failures?
- 2) How important were Allied operations in North Africa and Italy to the defeat of the Axis?
- 3) Should the start of the Soviet counteroffensive before Moscow in December 1941 be seen as the 'turning point' in the war on the Eastern Front?
- 4) Assess the role of airpower on EITHER the Western OR Eastern Fronts in the defeat of Nazi Germany.
- 5) Assess the role played by Allied naval power in the defeat of EITHER Nazi Germany OR Fascist Italy.

In order to score highly on your essay you must:

- *Have been answering the question.
- *Have an argument.
- *Support your argument with evidence/examples.
- *Acknowledge key existing arguments you have read and sources of evidence.

Essay 2:

- 1) Race and the Pacific War
- 2) The attack on Pearl Harbor
- 3) The Americans' island-hopping and leapfrogging strategies
- 4) Tactical errors or shortcomings (Japanese and American) in the Pacific War
- 5) The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- 6) American submarine warfare in the Pacific
- 7) The air war against the Japanese home islands
- 8) Key naval battles during the war
- 9) American code-breaking efforts during the war

Your second essay on one of the above topics should not be descriptive. The reader should be able to identify a purpose to the essay – i.e. your essay must have an argument.

Remember for both essays that sources used have to be acknowledged in your footnotes, and all works in your footnotes should be in your bibliography.

Grading:

All work will be graded as below:

Grade	Percentage equivalent	Description
A+	90-100	From 'outstanding' to 'excellent'
A	85-89	
A-	80-84	
B+	77-79	From 'very good' to 'reasonable' (average)
B	73-76	
B-	70-72	
C+	67-69	From 'reasonable' (average) to 'poor'
C	63-66	
C-	60-62	
D+	57-59	From 'poor' to 'unacceptable'
D	50-56	
F	0-49	

The final grade will be calculated from the percentage marks for each piece of work and not the letter grades for individual components.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not.

As noted in the **Department of History Guide to Essay Presentation**, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in **The University of Calgary Calendar**.

Emergency Evacuation

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Carina McDonald/Social Science Faculty Rep.
Phone: 220-6551/Rm. MSC 251
SAFEWALK/Campus Security: 220-5333