

HIS 387: WORLD WAR II

CID #4553

Fall 2007 Semester

AB IV Rm. 307: Tuesday & Thursday 9:00 -10:20 AM

INSTRUCTOR:

[Dr. Robert B. Bruce](#)

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and by appointment

UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

HIS 387 World War II. A comprehensive study of the World War II period, emphasizing the events leading to the war in Europe, the progress of the war in the entire European theatre, the collapse of the Axis in 1945, the aftermath of the war, and the Cold War. In the Pacific theatre, the course traces the emergence of Japan, the effects of the collapse of the European colonial powers on Japan, relations between the U.S. and Japan, and the outbreak and progress of the Pacific war through the defeat of Japan. Credit 3.

INTRODUCTION AND COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This class will study the causes, course, conduct and implications of World War II, the largest conflict in human history. It will cover major diplomatic, political and military events in both Europe and Asia, and the key military and political leaders of the war. It covers the time period of 1914 - 1945, with an emphasis on the years 1933-1945. The purpose of the course is acquaint students with the military and political history of the Second World War and that conflict's destruction of the old world order, and the new geo-political power structure it gave birth to.

Maps and other supplementary materials will be posted periodically on Blackboard under "Course Materials."

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

John Keegan, *The Second World War*

Erich von Manstein, *Lost Victories*

Ronald Spector, *Eagle Against the Sun*

GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

It is your responsibility to attend class and keep up with your assigned readings. Consequently you will need

to make an extra effort to not miss class and maintain a strict reading schedule or else you will quickly fall behind. You are expected to attend every class but attendance is your responsibility. Therefore you are responsible for all material presented in the classroom whether you were in attendance or not. If you cannot be present for an examination, you must inform me within 24 hours of the scheduled time for the exam that you will not be present AND be able to produce a written excuse from an acceptable outside authority indicating the reasons for your absence. MAKE-UP EXAMS ARE GIVEN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROFESSOR AND THE PROFESSOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE TO ADMINISTER A MAKE-UP EXAMINATION.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn the history of late-19th century and early-20th century Europe
- Students will learn the fundamental military and political history of World War I
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the rise of Adolf Hitler & the Nazi Party in Germany
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the rise of the Japanese Empire
- Students will learn the military, political, economic, and cultural reasons why war erupted in Europe in 1939
- Students will learn the military, political, economic, and cultural reasons why war erupted in Asia in 1937
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the major battles and campaigns of the Second World War in Europe
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the major battles and campaigns of the Second World War in Asia
- Students will learn about the significant military and political leaders of the Axis and Allied Powers
- Students will acquire an in-depth understanding and knowledge of the German Wehrmacht in World War II.
- Students will acquire a deep understanding and appreciation for how the Second World War shaped, and still affects, the world they live in today

COURSE REQUIREMENTS :

There will be a total of three examinations (a Preliminary Exam, Mid-Term Exam & Final Exam) administered by the instructor based upon material covered in classroom lectures, assigned readings in the required textbook and online readings, and audio-visual materials viewed in the classroom.

GRADING

Exam #1 100 pts.

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Exam #2 100 pts.

Exam #3 100 pts.

Total Points Possible: 300 pts.

Grade Scale:

A: 100 - 90% (300 - 270 pts.)

B: 89 - 80% (269 - 240 pts.)

C: 79 - 70% (239 - 210 pts.)

D: 69 - 60% (209 - 180 pts.)

F: 59% or less (239 or less pts.)

COURSE SCHEDULE AND TOPICAL OUTLINE

Date	General Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments	Exams
Week 1 Aug 21 - Aug. 23	The Great Powers & World War I	Keegan, Ch. 1	
Week 2 Aug. 28 & Aug. 30	World War I: 1918 & the Treaty of Versailles Hitler & the Rise of Nazi Germany, 1919 - 1934	Keegan, Ch. 2	
Week 3 Sept. 4 - Sept. 6	European Crisis, 1935 - 1939 World War II Begins, 1939	von Manstein, Ch. 1,2,3	
Week 4 Sept. 11 & Sept. 13	War in Scandinavia, 1939 - 1940 The Battle of France, 1940	Keegan, Ch. 3 von Manstein, Ch. 4,5,6	
Week 5 Sept. 18 & Sept. 20	The Battle of Britain, 1940 The Battle of the Atlantic, 1939 - 1943	Keegan, Ch. 4 & 5 von Manstein, Ch. 7	
Week 6 Sept. 25 & Sept. 27	North Africa & the Balkans: 1940 - 1941	Keegan, Ch. 6,7,8 & 18	EXAM #1 Sept. 27th
Week 7 Oct. 2 & Oct. 4	Operation Barbarossa, 1941	Keegan, Ch. 9 von Manstein, Ch. 8,9,10,11	
Week 8	Stalingrad Campaign, 1942-43	Keegan, Ch.11	

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Oct. 9 & Oct. 11		von Manstein, 12,13	
Week 9	North Africa & Italy, 1942 - 1944	Keegan, Ch. 18,19	
Oct. 16 & Oct. 18	Russian Front, 1943-1944	von Manstein, 14,15	
Week 10	Air War Over Europe, 1943 - 1945	Keegan, Ch. 22	
Oct. 23 & Oct. 25	Normandy & Campaign in NW Europe, 1944	Keegan, Ch. 20,21	
Week 11	The Fall of the Third Reich, 1944-1945	Keegan, Ch. 23	Exam #2
Oct. 30 & Nov. 1			Nov. 1
Week 12	Rise of the Japanese Empire	Spector, Ch. 1, 2, 3	
Nov. 6 & Nov. 8	The China War, 1937 - 1941		
Week 13	Pearl Harbor & the Philippines	Spector, 4,5,6,7,8, 9	
Nov. 13 & Nov. 15	Coral Sea & Midway		
Week 14	Island War, 1942 - 1943	Spector, 10,11,12,13,14	No Class on Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
Nov. 20 - Nov. 22	Battle of Philippine Sea & Saipan		
Week 15	Battle of Leyte Gulf	Spector, 15,16,17,18,19	
Nov. 27 & Nov. 29	Iwo Jima & Okinawa		
Week 16	Air War Against Japan	Spector, 20, 21,22,23	Exam #3
Dec. 4 & Dec. 6			Dec. 6th

COURSE POLICIES

(Your enrollment in this course confirms that you have read these policies and have agreed to abide by them).

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session, arrive on time for class, and only leave when the class is concluded. I understand that on occasion emergencies will arise, however repeated tardiness, leaving class early, or failure to attend will be considered disruptive behavior and will be dealt with accordingly. If you miss class, you are still responsible for all of the material covered in class that day.

University Policy on Student Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. No food of any kind is allowed in the classroom. Cellular telephones must be turned off before class begins, and phones, I-Pods, headphones, and other electronic devices put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from sleeping, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, using tobacco products, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a

directive to

leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy and be permanently removed from the course.

Also See: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Recording of Lectures

It is the policy of this instructor that students may **NOT** record lectures given in class, nor any multi-media material presented in class, in any way, shape or form. Students are welcome to take notes on their personal computer, provided that in doing so they do not disturb other students or the instructor.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university. The SHSU Student Guidelines academic honesty policy states:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

SHSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

ADA Accommodations

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Classroom Visitors:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to enter and remain in the classroom.

Religious Holiday Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holiday, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

Copyright Statement

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