

## HIS 563 Seminar in Military History:

### Germany & World War II

CID #7327

Fall Semester 2007

Sam Houston State University

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Office Hours: AB IV Rm. 451, Tuesday & Thursday 11 AM - 2 PM & by appointment

#### General Course Description:

##### **HIS 563 Germany & World War II**

This course examines the military history of Germany in the Second World War, with an emphasis on the Wehrmacht including the high command as well as the common soldier.

#### Specific Course Description:

HIS 563 Seminar in Military History: Germany & World War II is an intense examination of the military history of the German Armed Forces from 1939 - 1945. The German war machine conducted brilliant military campaigns that resulted in spectacular triumphs that conquered virtually all of Europe. Yet the tides of war eventually turned against them and they suffered a cataclysmic defeat. The officers and men of the Wehrmacht remain a subject of intense interest by scholars and military commanders the world over and this course will allow students to conduct an intensive investigation of this military force.

#### Required Textbooks:

##### Overview Text (Recommended)

Thomas Buell (ed.) *The Second World War: Europe and the Mediterranean*  
Square One Books, 2002 ISBN: 0757001602

##### Main Texts (Required) In Order of Assignment:

B.H. Liddell-Hart, *The German Generals Talk*  
Harper Perennial, 1971 ISBN: 0688060129

Albert Seaton, *The Russo-German War, 1941-1945*  
Presidio Press, 1993 ISBN: 0891414916

Richard Hargreaves, *The Germans in Normandy*  
Pen & Sword, 2006 ISBN: 1844154475

Robert Kershaw, *It Never Snows in September*  
Ian Allen Publishing, 2005 ISBN: 0711030626

Erich von Manstein, *Lost Victories*  
Zenith Press, 2004 ISBN: 0760320543

Heinz Guderian, *Panzer Leader*  
Da Capo Press, 2001 ISBN: 0306811014

Geoffrey Brooks, *Sniper on the Eastern Front: The Memoirs of Sepp Allerberger, Knight's Cross*  
Pen & Sword, 2006 ISBN: 1844153177

Kurt Meyer, *Grenadiers: The Story of Waffen SS General Kurt "Panzer" Meyer*  
Stackpole Books, 2005 ISBN: 9780811731973

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the German Army and Waffen SS in World War II
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the German high command of OKW and OKH in World War II
- Students will acquire an in-depth knowledge of the major battles and campaigns on the Eastern Front from 1941 - 1945
- Students will acquire a detailed knowledge of the major battles and campaigns on the Western Front in 1944-1945
- Students will developed a nuanced understanding of the performance of the German Wehrmacht in World War II
- Students will acquire an in-depth knowledge of the relationship between Hitler and his top generals
- Students will acquire a knowledge of the German soldier's experience in battle on the Eastern Front

#### **Getting Started -- First Steps for this Class:**

1. Contact me via e-mail IMMEDIATELY after you have registered for the course. We will stay in touch primarily through e-mail and Blackboard, and to avoid confusion please USE YOUR SHSU EMAIL ADDRESS throughout the duration of this course. If you do not have one yet, you may contact via email by your current address, but be sure to request a SHSU email account

(free to you as a student) as soon as possible (see step 3).

2. Start purchasing your books ASAP. This is your responsibility and they are listed above in the order they are assigned.

3. Sign up for an SHSU email account-**I do not accept messages from accounts other than SHSU**. I know it's not convenient, but we have to do this due to problems with viruses/worms. Your SHSU email account is the one you will use for the class, to access Blackboard, and it is essential for you to have this to use the databases at [SHSU's Newton Gresham Library](#). To [activate your computer account, click here](#) and follow the instructions. As long as you are registered for this class, you can acquire this account. Then, when you try to enter these databases available to you as a member of the SHSU community, you just type in your user name and password and you're in.

4. I realize that you have outside commitments, other classes, work, family, etc., but in order to successfully complete this course you will have to assign a high priority to it. This course meets on a fairly flexible schedule, but it is also demanding and requires you to exert a considerable degree of self-discipline and self-motivation. The pay-off for this hard work, comes in a rewarding learning experience that should spark new interests in various aspects of history. With that said, though, ***there are no extensions for reviews or papers*** I realize that some professors allow these, and that is fine for their courses. Your continued enrollment in this course indicates that you understand and accept these policies.

## **Assignments:**

### **1. Book Review:**

You will write 3 assigned book reviews of the following books:

1. B.H. Liddell-Hart, *The German Generals Talk*
2. Albert Seaton, *The Russo-German War*
3. Richard Hargreaves, *The Germans in Normandy* **OR** Robert Kershaw, *It Never Snows in September* (\*Student's choice\*)

The book review will be **500-750** words and should have your name, the date, course, etc. at the top of the page and the exact formatting style for the book title, publisher, etc. as seen in the sample review at the "[How to Write a Book Review](#)" page. Make sure your review addresses the following points (go over this like a check list before submitting each review to make sure you've covered these):

1. What is the general subject of the book?
2. What is the author's central argument?
3. What kind of sources does he use to support his thesis?
4. Note the exact formatting of the author, title, publisher, cost, ISBN and use this at the top of your review. (It's the style used in all professional reviews.)

Before submitting your first review, please read the "[How to Write a Book Review](#)" page and note how the reviewer covers these points and formats the book title, publisher, etc.

## **2. Research Paper:**

Students will write a **12-15 page** research paper on the following topic:

The German military was unstoppable from 1939 - 1942, winning one spectacular triumph after another and in the process conquering virtually all of Europe. Yet from 1943 on the Germans began to suffer heavy defeats. The Allied powers methodically drove the Germans from their conquered lands and ultimately invaded and destroyed Germany. Why were the Germans so successful in the early years of the war yet eventually defeated? Your research paper should focus on this theme and address critical factors such as leadership, organization, weapons, tactics, and other vital military issues that influenced the outcome of Germany's war in Europe.

Your sources for the paper **MUST** include **ALL** of the books assigned for this class. In addition, you will find and research in additional primary and secondary sources, with an emphasis on primary accounts. You will submit a preliminary bibliography no later than the date listed in the Course Schedule below, and submit a final bibliography with your research paper. Your bibliography will contain **at least twenty** sources, **twelve** of which **MUST** be primary sources.

Your paper must be typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1" margins all around, numbered pages, Arial or Times New Roman font, and with a cover sheet that includes the following: your name, HIS 563: Germany & World War II, title of your paper, & date. All information must be cited. You should avoid lengthy direct quotations; nothing more than 1-2 lines and only when absolutely necessary. You will also submit a bibliography with your paper. Your bibliography will contain at least **twenty** sources, **twelve** of which **MUST** be primary sources.

### **Guidelines for Formatting Your Research Paper**

All material that is a direct quote or PARAPHRASED (i.e. anything that is not your original idea--remember that it's better to be safe than sorry and fail the course on grounds of plagiarism) must be cited with endnotes. For instructions on the proper format for endnotes, use Kate Turabian's guide *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* or the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition. (I strongly recommend the former).

**WARNING:** Historians use the Chicago-Style and I will not accept another style in your papers. If you do not own a copy of Turabian, buy one now. It's required for this course and it should sit next to your computer along with a dictionary.

Please review the [SHSU Library Distance Learning Service](#) page to see what is available to you as an SHSU online student.

The paper should be 12-15 pages (not including endnotes and bibliography), double-spaced, with one-inch margins, and 12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font.

Please use **endnotes** (NOT footnotes). These begin on a **separate page** at the **end** of your paper, just before your bibliography and it should say "Endnotes" at the top of that page.

Remember to include your **bibliography at the end** of your paper. It begins on a separate page with a heading of "Bibliography." For help on formatting your bibliography, again see Turabian.

The first page of your paper should be a separate title page, including the title of your piece, your name, the date, the name of this course, my name, and the name of this institution, Sam Houston State University.

All pages **MUST** be numbered. The twenty page limit does not include your endnotes or bibliography.

**Online sources are allowed for primary sources only.** You may not use or cite any online secondary sources unless they originally come from a published, print scholarly journal. To be safe, check all online primary sources with me. An online version of a published journal article or an eBook is not considered an "online" secondary source since it was originally in published print form. Don't even think about using Wikipedia; you are far beyond using encyclopedias once you're an upper-level undergraduate, let alone a graduate student. If you have any questions at all about the veracity of an online source, ***check with me first.***

**Any paper containing typos, grammatical errors, or other signs that the author has rushed through the assignment cannot earn better than a B and runs a strong chance of earning a C, at best.** It should take you several drafts to complete this paper and be sure to read through the final draft at least two times before submitting it. You will have put a lot of work into this by the time you are finished--take pride in your writing and avoid sloppy errors.

If you're interested in sending your paper through the SHSU Writing Center to check for spelling, grammar, etc. see their page re: [Distance Learning Students](#) Be sure to let them know that you are using the **Chicago Manual of Style** and that you are one of my graduate students.

If I or one of your classmates receive a virus from your file, you fail the course.

Be sure to read the official course policy regarding plagiarism stated at the bottom of this syllabus. Your enrollment in this course indicates that you understand and accept this policy and punishments for plagiarized work, and all other course policies as well.

### Grading:

Book Reviews: 150 points (3 reviews 50 pts. each)  
Research Paper Bibliography: 25 points  
Research Paper: 125 points

Total Points Possible: 300 points

### Grade Scale:

90 - 99 % A: 300 - 270

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80 - 89 % B: 269 - 240  
 70 - 79 % C: 239 - 210  
 69 % or less: F: 209 or less

General Course Schedule

CLASS WEEK	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
Week 1 Aug. 20 - 24	Purchase Textbooks
Week 2 Aug. 27 - 31	
Week 3 Sept. 3 - 7	
Week 4 Sept. 10 - 14	Review of: <i>The German Generals Talk</i> Due: Sept. 14th
Week 5 Sept. 17 - 21	
Week 6 Sept. 24 - 28	Review of: <i>The Russo-German War</i> Due: Sept. 28th
Week 7 Oct. 1 - 5	
Week 8 Oct. 8 - 12	Review of: <i>The Germans in Normandy</i> OR Review of: <i>It Never Snows in September</i> Due: Oct. 19th
Week 9 Oct. 15 - 19	Directed Research
Week 10 Oct. 22 - 26	Directed Research
Week 11	Research Paper Bibliography Due:

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Oct. 29 - Nov. 2	November 2
Week 12	Directed Research
Nov. 5 - 9	
Week 13	Directed Research
Nov. 12 - 16	
Week 14	Directed Research
Nov. 19 - 23	
Week 15	Directed Research
Nov. 26 - 30	
Week 16	Research Papers Due
Dec. 3	December 3rd, 2007

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 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 holy day, 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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