

**HIST351: The Second World War  
Fall 2012  
R.W. Roberts  
University Hall 223  
rroberts@purdue.edu  
Tues. 11:30-12:30; or by apt.**

**Teaching Assistants:**

Andrew Smith  
Rec 403  
andrewrmsmith@gmail.com  
Tu/Th 12:00-1:00; or by apt.

Andrew McGregor  
Rec 410  
amcgrego@purdue.edu  
Wed. 1:00-2:30; or by apt.

**Overview:**

The two world wars that were fought in the twentieth century shaped and defined today's world. No other events were as important. This course is an in-depth look at the second of those wars, from its origins to its conclusion and legacy. But it is also about how historians, journalists, novelists, filmmakers, and readers have tried to make sense out of the war and give meaning to it. It is important to recognize that the meaning of the war has changed in the last sixty-five years, and that Americans during the hottest moments of the Cold War and the dog-days of the Vietnam War saw World War II in radically different lights. To understand this is to comprehend why the past is never dead and why history is important.

**Books:**

Erik Larson, **In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin**

Robert Leckie, **Challenge for the Pacific: Guadalcanal: The Turning Point of the War**

Randy Roberts, **A Team for America: The Army-Navy Game That Rallied A Nation**

**Requirements:**

Your grade in this class will be based on three exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points. The exams will focus on lectures, readings, and representations of the war. The date of each exam and the readings for each exam will be announced in class. Updates and information will be available on Blackboard Vista so check frequently.

## Grading Scale:

93-100%-A  
90-92%--A-  
87-89%--B+  
83-86%--B  
80-82%--B-  
77-79%--C+  
73-76%--C  
70-72%--C-  
67-69%--D+  
63-66%--D  
60-62%--D-  
00-59%--F

### **Lecture Topics: (Exam dates are subject to change. Any change will be announced in class and on Blackboard Vista.)**

--War Without End and the Lessons of World War I and Versailles  
--The Rise of Dictators  
--The Path to War  
--Blitzkrieg Part One--Poland  
--Sitzkrieg and the War in the North  
--Blitzkrieg Part Two-France  
--The Battle of Britain

#### **First Exam Sept. 20**

--America Debates  
--Barbarossa  
--Pearl Harbor  
--Japan and the World  
--The Allies: Individual Success and Joint Failures: North Africa  
--The War in the West: Sicily, Italy, Germany, and the Atlantic  
--Fighting a Total War at Home

#### **Second Exam Nov. 1**

--The War Against the Jews  
--D-Day  
--The End of Germany  
--The War in the Pacific  
--The Defeat of Japan  
--The Changing Meaning of the War and the Lasting Impact of World War II on the World and American Culture

#### **Final TBA**

### **Class Attendance and Behavior:**

I encourage everyone in the class to get the most out of their tuition dollars and attend regularly. But I will not take roll on a regular basis. I hope that everyone enjoys the class, and to ensure this I expect everyone in class to follow a few rules. Once lectures begin, turn off cell phones, don't browse the internet, put away newspapers, and avoid long discussions with others in the class. Failure to observe these basic rules will impact your grade.

### **Cheating/Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. University Regulations contains further information on dishonesty. Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will be treated as such in class. You are expected to produce your own work and to accurately cite all necessary materials. Cheating, plagiarism, and other dishonest practices will be punished as harshly as Purdue University policies allow. Any instances of academic dishonesty will likely result in a grade of F for the course and notification of the Dean of Students' Office.

### **Students with Disabilities:**

If you need any special accommodations to participate fully in class, please see me as soon as possible. I will keep all discussions confidential as long as the situation permits. Please note that, in order for Purdue University to accommodate your needs, you will need to provide appropriate written documentation and have it on file with Student Services. Students should be aware that Services for Student Disabilities are available at 494-1247 if you need further assistance.

### **Disclaimer:**

In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted once the course resumes on Blackboard or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email or phone.