

History 395: Popular Culture Goes to War
Fall 2012
R.W. Roberts
University Hall 223
rroberts@purdue.edu
Tues. 11:30-12:30; or by apt.

This course will look at World War II through a different lens. It will use the history of popular culture—movies, magazines, novels, sports, music, etc.—to examine American politics, thought, and culture during the war. We will begin and end with one idea: popular culture is a window that looks into the deepest values, fears, and desires of Americans. My goal in this course is to use popular culture to teach research methods. Your goal is to complete a finished research paper of 18-20 pages (5,000-6,000 words), using primary sources and argued at a high level.

Books:

Wayne Booth, et. al., **The Craft of Research**

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

Grading and Requirements:

Your grade will be based on the following:

1. Research paper, including topic and question to be studied, working bibliography, outline, draft, and finished produce. Seventy (70) points.
2. Class participation, including scores on occasional quizzes and participation in discussions. Thirty (30) points.

The following percentage scale will be used to determine your grade:

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

Attendance

Because class participation is required and expected, a missed class will result in the deduction of three points from your total point count.

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 this 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.

Disability Issues

If you need any special accommodations to participate fully in the 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.

Tentative Outline:

Aug. 21—Introduction

Aug. 28—Hollywood Goes to War I

Booth, chapters 1 and 2; reading on Hollywood

Sept. 04—Hollywood Goes to War II

Booth, chapters 3 and 4

Sept. 11—John Wayne's War

Booth, chapters 5 and 6; reading on John Wayne

Sept. 18—Joe Louis' Wars

Paper Topic and Central Question Due (5 points)

Booth, chapters 7 and 8; reading on Joe Louis

Sept. 25—Baseball and Football During the War (*A Team for America*)

Working Bibliography Due (5 points)

Booth, chapters 9 and 10; *A Team for America* (entire book)

Oct. 02—Tin Pan Alley Goes to War

Booth, chapters 11 and 12

Oct. 09—Fall Break

Oct. 16—Individual Meetings on Papers

Booth, chapters 13 and 14

Oct. 23—Individual Meetings on Papers

Booth, chapter 15

Oct. 30—Superman and Donald Duck Goes to War

Outline Due (10 points)
On Line Search Project

Nov. 06—Individual Meeting

Nov. 13—Individual Meetings

Nov. 20—Hard Copy of Rough Drafts Due by 4:00 (20 points)

Nov. 27—Independent Work on Paper and Consultations

Dec. 04—Independent Work on Paper and Consultations

Dec. 11—Hard Copy of Final Papers Due by 4:00 (30 points)