

HIST351: The Second World War

Spring 2020

Professor R.W. Roberts

University Hall 223

rroberts@purdue.edu

Office Hours: Monday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Teaching Assistants

Overview:

The two world wars 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.

Reading Materials:

Jane Caplan, Nazi German: A Very Short Introduction

E. B. Sledge, **With the Old Breed: At Peleliu and Okinawa**

Exams and Grading:

Your grade in this class is based on three exams, and a series of ten out of class prompts. Each exam will be worth 100 points. Each prompt of approximately 100 words will be worth 5 points. The exams will focus on lectures, readings, and representations of World War II. The prompts will focus on lecture and reading material. Total: 350 points.

GRADING STANDARD:

100-98%--A+	88-83%--B	73-70%--C-	59-00%--F
97-93%--A	82-80%--B-	69-67%--D+	
92-90%--A-	79-77%--C+	67-63%--D	
87-89%--B+	77-73%--C	62-60%--D-	

Lecture Topics:

--Introduction to the Era

--War Without End: Adolf Hitler and the Lessons of World War I

- Adolf Hitler and the Lessons of 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
- Barbarossa
- America Debates
- The Rivalry: American and Japan
- Pearl Harbor
- Japan and the World
- The Allies: Individual Success and Joint Failures: North Africa
- The Soft Underbelly: Sicily and Italy
- Fighting a Total War at Home
- The War Against the Jews
- Pacific Actions
- D-Day
- Operation Cobra and Market Garden
- Battle of the Bulge
- The End of Germany
- The War in the Pacific
- Island Hopping
- Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- The Changing Meaning of the War and the Lasting Impact of World War II on the World and American Culture

Class Attendance and Behavior:

I encourage everyone to get the most out of their tuition dollars and attend class regularly. I will track attendance. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After that, three point will be deducted for each absence. According to University policy, the student bears the responsibility for informing the instructor of any absence in a timely fashion, when possible. I hope that everyone enjoys the class, and to ensure this I expect everyone in class to follow a few basic rules. Before each lecture begins, turn off cell phones, put away other reading materials, and avoid long discussions with others in the class. Unless you have a medical reason to use a computer, they are not to be used in class. Failure to observe these basic rules will lessen the classroom experience.

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.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity:

Academic integrity is one of the highest values that Purdue University holds. Individuals are encouraged to alert university officials to potential breaches of this value by either emailing integrity@purdue.edu or by calling 765-494-8778. While information may be submitted anonymously, the more information that is submitted provides the greatest opportunity for the university to investigate the concern.

Accessibility and Accommodations:

If you need any special accommodations to participate fully in class, please see me as soon as possible. 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 the Disability Resource Center (DRC). Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247." <http://www.purdue.edu/drc/faculty/syllabus.html>.

Nondiscrimination Policy, Diversity and Inclusion:

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Executive Memorandum No. D-1, which provides specific contractual rights and remedies.

Mental Health Statement:

If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack, <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>. Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.

If you need support and information about options and resources, please see the Office of the Dean of Students, <http://www.purdue.edu/odos>, for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm).

If you're struggling and need mental health services: Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students.

If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Grief Absence Policy

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). Students will be excused from classes for funeral leave and given the opportunity to complete missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

Violent Behavior Policy

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, violent behavior is prohibited in or on any university facility or while participating in any university activity.

Right of Revision

Final decisions regarding course structure, requirements, and grading rest with the professor, and are subject to change.

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.