

History of World War II (Perspectives in the Social Sciences)

Instructors: Dr. Eric Swedin and Dr. David Ferro
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Office Hours: 4:30-5:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays; 3:30-5:30 on Wednesdays (all at Eric Swedin's Davis office).
Other office hours are available by appointment.

Texts: Antony Beevor, *The Second World War* (Little, Brown and Company, 2012) ISBN-13: 978-0316023740

Class Description and Objectives: World War II is one of the pivotal events of 20th century history. Why did the war happen? How was the war fought? What were the consequences of the war? What was the American contribution? Did the Soviet Union really suffer more than any nation and bear the brunt of fighting the Nazis? Should we have dropped the atomic bombs? Was the war inevitable or could it have all turned out some other way? How did the war shape America and the world we live in? Come find the answers to these questions.

Class participation and discussion is expected.

Grading Policies: Grades will be determined on the following basis:

Quizzes	50%
Presentation	20%
Term Paper	30%

Grades: A: 90 - 100% B: 80 - 89% C: 70 - 79% D: 60 - 69% E: 0 - 59%
(Grades at the high or low ends of these ranges will earn plus and minus grades.)

Quizzes: There will a short quiz every day at the beginning of class. Each quiz will be based on the readings that you were given for that day, or will be given on the content of the previous class's presentations. There may also be a couple of questions from the previous quizzes content.

Presentation:

Each student will read an additional book on the history of WWII for the class, selected from a list to be distributed by the instructors. Each student will give a ten-minute presentation on their book. The presentation will explain who wrote the book, why it was written, the content of the book, and a summary of the argument of the book.

Term Paper: A twelve page double-spaced paper is required on how your personal family history is related to World War II. Tell the story of an ancestor or relative, what they did, what was happening around them, and what the war meant to them. If you have no access to any family stories, genealogy, or other sources, than you can write a paper on any other topic covered in the course. You may turn in an early draft for the instructors to critique and we will return the critiqued draft one week later. The final draft is due on the final day of class. You must use at least ten sources, only half of which may come from the Internet, and you must cite all quotations. The following web sites are useful:

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Style.html>

Cheating Policy: Cheating and deceit are not accepted at Weber State University. Cheating on an quiz or assignment, or turning in someone else's work as your own, will result in an E for the class. You may work together on your assignments and papers, but you must turn in your own work. If you quote from a book, article, or web site, you must properly quote and cite your work. Avoid even the appearance of cheating or plagiarism.

Cell Phones, Texting, and Laptops:

Put your cell phones on vibrate. Try to avoid leaving class to take a call, but an occasional emergency is understandable. There will be NO texting in this class. Laptops or other personal digital tools may be used to take notes or look up material relevant to class discussions. No other uses of laptops will be tolerated.

Students with Disabilities:

Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in Room 181 of the Student Service Center. SSD can also arrange to provide materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats if necessary.

Campus Closure:

In the event of an extended campus closure, please look at your Weber State email in order for instructions on how we will continue the class via email and the Blackboard online course system.

Schedule:

Week	Tuesday	Thursday
August 28	Introduction to class (no quiz)	Readings: Beevor, Introduction, chapters 1-2
Sept 4	Readings: Beevor, chapters 3-5	Readings: Beevor, chapters 6-8
Sept 11	Readings: Beevor, chapters 9-11	Readings: Beevor, chapters 12-15
Sept 18	Readings: Beevor, chapters 16-18	Readings: Beevor, chapters 19-21
Sept 25	Readings: Beevor, chapters 22-24	Film (no readings)
Oct 2	Readings: Beevor, chapters 25-27	Film (no readings)
Oct 9	Readings: Beevor, chapters 28-29	Film (no readings)
Oct 16	Readings: Beevor, chapters 30-32 Student 1 presentation	Readings: Beevor, chapters 33-34 Student 2 presentation
Oct 23	Readings: Beevor, chapters 35-37 Student 3 presentation	Readings: Beevor, chapters 38-39 Student 4 presentation
Oct 30	Field trip to HAFB Air Museum	Guest speaker
Nov 6	Readings: Beevor, chapters 40-41 Student 5 presentation	Readings: Beevor, chapters 42-44 Student 6 presentation
Nov 13	Readings: Beevor, chapter 45 Student 7 presentation	Readings: Beevor, chapters 46-48 Student 8 presentation
Nov 20	Film (no readings)	Thanksgiving
Nov 27	Readings: Beevor, chapter 49 Student 9 presentation	Readings: Beevor, chapter 50 Student 10 presentation
Dec 4	Spare day	Spare day
Dec 11	NO Final Exam	