

**PB:Read-Battle West-1940-1945 - 10608 - HIST 5388 - 110**

Syllabus  
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HH 204H  
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Office Hours By Appointment via email

**Course Overview**

An examination of the era of the Second World War from the Paris Peace Conference and rise of the revisionist powers to the end of World War II. Emphasis is on the war in Europe and the Holocaust but the Pacific War is also treated.

**Course objectives**

1. Understand the reasons for the rise of militarism and dictatorship in the three Axis powers – Germany, Italy, and Japan
2. Understand the factors leading to the early Axis victories and comprehend the reasons for the weakness of the democracies before 1943.
3. Become familiar with the key events of the era and the principal military and political leaders on both sides of the conflict
4. Understand the factors allowing final Allied victory, including Axis blunders and Allied successes. Also realize the economic basis for waging industrial war, as well as its human cost.
5. Understand the relationship between the strategic, operational, and tactical levels of the war.
6. Realize the global nature of the war
7. To the extent it is possible for us, comprehend genocide. Realize that the Holocaust was sponsored by a modern state, had thousands of collaborators throughout Europe, and was carried-out on an industrial scale with industrial methods.
8. Comprehend the legacy of the Second World War for the modern (or Post-Modern) world
9. Assess the role of both morale and materiel in the victories and defeats all sides experienced at some point.
10. Become familiar with the historiography of the subject.
11. Critically evaluate the scholarship on the subject
12. Master the form and style of academic writing.

## Required Textbook

Michael Lyons, *World War II: A Short History*, any edition, Upper Saddle River: Prentice Hall, 2016. Please use either the fourth or fifth editions. The third edition has two additional chapters and a slightly different organization.

## Recommended Textbook

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. *The elements of style* (any ed.). New York: McMillan, 1959.

—A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore

## Course Requirements

There will be two exams, a midterm and a final. The exams are half essay and half multiple choice/true-false. The Final Exam is not comprehensive. The essay portion concerns class lecture and major themes in the readings and the multiple choice questions test specific, detailed knowledge of the text. I will provide a study-guide for each exam with key terms, events, personalities from the chapters covered for that exam (See course schedule). Each multiple-choice/true-false question will involve key terms from the study guide. Questions that more than 2/3s of the class answer wrong will be dropped from the exam.

Lectures and readings complement one another but do not follow exactly the same organization. You are expected to be familiar enough with the readings to apply the material to class discussions. We will not spend class time going over the book, *per se*. Readings and lectures for this course are complementary

Each exam will have two essay questions, students will choose one. The essays will cover material in lectures up to the date of the exam.

The written requirement is a 20-30 page literature review of three books from the attached booklist Specific parameters and grading criteria are below.

## Grading Criteria for Exams

The essay questions are structured to require students to demonstrate mastery of the major events and personalities we cover as they illustrate the major themes of our course. These themes are summarized in the course objectives. At the beginning of each lecture I write key terms on the board for that day, and will expect mastery of those terms if you write an essay on that topic. Grades for essays are based upon the demonstrated depth and breadth of understanding of those elements.

## Literature Review Guidelines

Reviews should be 20 or more double spaced pages and conform to the style of academic reviews.

There is no cover page. Heading is the bibliographical information of the book. Text is double-spaced with **one-inch margins and 12-point type**, usually the default on your word processor. There should be no sub-headings. Your name and TAMUCT should be at the end of your review. **I cannot accept papers in formats other than Microsoft Word.**

**Good style and grammar are expected.** Papers should follow the standards in Strunk and White *Elements of Style*..

You must address the basic questions of author’s thesis, purpose, and objectivity. Be specific and support your conclusions. If the book was a good read explain what made it that way. Appraise the author’s style and extent of research, including an evaluation of sources. Examples or illustrations from the book should be brief paraphrases. As a rule avoid quotes, especially lengthy ones. You need not cite elements from the book with a note. The only occasion for references is if you introduce some other academic review. You should compare your review with another’s work, if at all, only after you have arrived at your own conclusions. Caution is advised in this regard. Plagiarism results in a failing grade and perhaps further action. Be specific and support your conclusions. Appraise the author’s style and extent of research, including an evaluation of sources.

**Grading Rubric for Reviews**

|                            | Missing or late Work - D or Failing                      | Needs Improvement "C"                                 | Meets Expectations "B"  | Exceeds Expectations "A"  |
|----------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Format</b>              | Citation is incorrect or missing. Appropriate length     | Incomplete Citation. Too Brief                        | Meets length expectations. Complete Citation                    | More than adequate length with no problems with citation                                |
| <b>Style and Mechanics</b> | Missing or Not readable                                  | Serious style and grammar flaws. Poor word choice.    | No major style and grammar problems or major word-choice errors | Excellent style and grammar. Excellent word-choice                                      |
| <b>Content</b>             | Missing, not on approved material, late, or plagiarized. | Few insights, poorly supported. Inadequate vocabulary | Good insights with supported conclusions. Adequate vocabulary   | Great insight, depth. Higher thinking and vocabulary. Excellent support for conclusions |

**Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:**

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Literature Review: | 200 points |
| Midterm Exam:      | 50 points  |
| Final Exam:        | 50 points  |
| Participation      | 100 points |
| Total:             | 400 points |

Final grades will be computed according to the following scale:

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| A = 90-100% | (360-400 points) |
| B = 80-89%  | (320-359 points) |
| C = 70-79%  | (280-319 points) |
| D = 60-69%  | (240-279 points) |
| F = 59-0%   | (240-0 points)   |

### Class Schedule

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| Jan 14   | Introduction,<br>Legacy of World War I, Paris Peace Conference (Chapters 1-2)                                   |
| Jan 21   | MLK Day   |
| Jan 28   | Rise of Dictators (Chapter 3)<br>Rise of Dictators  |
| Feb 4    | Rising Sun (Chapter 4)<br>Military Developments, Munich   |
| Feb 11   | <i>Blitzkrieg und Sitzkrieg</i> (Chapter 5)<br>Norway (Chapter 6)   |
| Feb 18   | Battle for France (Chapter 7)<br>Battle of Britain (Chapter 8)  |
| Feb 25   | Barbarossa (Chapter 9-10)<br>Moscow, Holocaust("Chapter 11)   |
| Mar 4    | <b>Midterm Exam</b> , Multiple Choice will cover <b>Lyons Chapters 1 to 12.</b>                                 |
| Mar 11   | Spring Break  |
| Mar 18   | Pearl Harbor, Coral Sea – Midway – Guadalcanal (Chapter 12-15)<br>Stalingrad (Chapter 16)                       |
| Mar 25   | Torch (Chapter 17)<br>Sicily – Italy (Chapter 18)<br>Italy  |
| April 1  | Battle of the Atlantic (Chapter 19)<br>Air Power, War Economies (Chapter 20-21)<br>D-Day, Normandy (Chapter 22) |
| April 15 | The Bulge, Kursk, (Chapter 23)<br>China (chapter 24)  |
| April 22 | Battle for Berlin<br>End of the <i>Reich</i>  |
| April 29 | Collapse of Japan, Aftermath (Chapter 25)   |
| May 6    | <b>Final Exam, Lyons 13-26. Literature Review Due by 11:59</b>  |

**Note: Although it is unlikely, the instructor may make modifications to this syllabus at any time.**

### **Approved Books, Choose 10**

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| Evans            | <i>The Third Reich at War</i>              |
| Alistair Horne   | <i>To Lose a Battle</i>                    |
| Earnest May      | <i>Strange Victory</i>                     |
| David Glantz     | <i>When Titans Clashed</i>                 |
| Chris Bellamy    | <i>Absolute War</i>                        |
| Antony Beevor    | <i>D-Day, Second World War</i>             |
| Max Hastings     | <i>Overlord</i>                            |
| Dennis Showalter | <i>Rommel and Patton</i>                   |
| Robert Citino    | (any of his on the German Army in WWII)    |
| Rick Atkinson    | <i>An Army at Dawn, Guns at Last Light</i> |
| Richard Overy    | <i>Why the Allies Won</i>                  |
| Korda            | <i>Wings Like Eagles</i>                   |
| Ryan             | <i>Bridge Too Far</i>                      |

### **University Policies and Information**

#### **911 Cellular: Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas**

911Cellular is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email, text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in 911Cellular through their myCT email account.

In an effort to enhance personal safety on the Texas A&M University – Central Texas (TAMUCT) campus, the TAMUCT Police Department has introduced Warrior Shield by 911 Cellular. [Warrior Shield](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html] can be downloaded and installed on your mobile device from Google Play or Apple Store.

Connect at [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Texas-AM-Central/alert-management] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in 911Cellular, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

## UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

### **Drop Policy.**

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop\_Request\_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

### **Academic Integrity.**

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel), [https://tamuct.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/tamuct-student-conduct-panel]. If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout\_id=0].

### **Academic Accommodations.**

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion at (254) 519-5797. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be

treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/access-inclusion.html].

### **Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students.**

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

### **Tutoring.**

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at [deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu](mailto:deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu).

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive FREE online tutoring and writing support. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

### **University Writing Center.**

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday

from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-on-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WCOOnline](#). In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at [bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu](mailto:bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu) if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

### **University Library.**

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#) [<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].