

HIST 5340 Directed Reading, Europe
World War II in Europe
Dr. Jerry W. Jones

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Heritage Hall 204H
519-5446

Course Description

This course focuses on the most critical battles of the European war from the fall of France and the Low Countries to the titanic battles of the Eastern front, the battles in the West, and final destruction of the Third Reich. Other topics include military developments between the wars, wartime diplomacy, and the conflict's immediate aftermath and implications for Europe and the World.

Course objectives

1. Analyze and compare Allied and *Wehrmacht* tactics and combat methods.
2. Examine the relationships of political leaders with military chiefs and general staffs.
3. Evaluate military strengths and weaknesses of the belligerents.
4. Appraise the strategies of the principal powers based on practical war aims and political and military reality.
5. Determine the essence and origins of the initial German military superiority, French paralysis, and Russian resilience.
6. Assess the role of both morale and materiel in the victories and defeats all sides experienced at some point.
7. Become familiar with the historiography of the subject.
8. Critically evaluate the scholarship on the subject
9. Master the form and style of academic writing.

Required Text

Richard Evans. *The Third Reich at War*. New York: Penguin Books, 2008

Recommended Text

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

Course Requirements Requirements

There are two essay exams, a midterm and a final. The exams will cover the lectures/discussions in the course. Your grade will be based on the level of detail and depth of comprehension displayed in your essay.

Students will read Nine (9) books from the reading list (see below). This includes the one required title and eight elective books. Student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore, but the university bookstore will have the required title available. Most titles are available in the university library. All are available from online vendors.

Students are expected to be able to discuss the books they have read in detail.

Criteria for awarding participation credit

Participation credit for the course is a reflection of student performance in the discussions on particular book, and includes student familiarity with the readings, ability to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the books (Style, depth of research, strength of thesis, objectivity), and ability to appreciate the book's contribution to the literature of the period. Although the format of discussions is casual, you are being evaluated on the depth of knowledge you display and your mastery of the reading. Simply expressing unsupported opinions will not meet the requirement.

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 books. 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 Texas A&M University should be at the end of your review. **I cannot accept papers in formats other than Microsoft Word.** Submit papers as an email attachment. I will return graded papers to via email as an attachment.

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. As a rule avoid quotes, especially lengthy ones. In grading I will consider if the paper covers the topic adequately and appropriately, is the topic appropriate to the assignment/course, is the level of thought, logic, analysis, reasoning, and vocabulary appropriate to the level of the course. **Good style and grammar are expected.** Papers should follow the standards in Strunk and White *Elements of Style*.

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)

Booklist

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>Stalingrad</i>
Antony Beevor	<i>Fall of Berlin, 1945</i>
Antony Beevor	<i>DDay</i>
Antony Beevor	<i>Ardennes, 1944, The Battle of Arnhem</i>
Max Hastings	<i>Overlord,</i>
Dennis Showalter	<i>Rommel and Patton, Armor and Blood</i>
Robert Citino	<i>Path to Blitzkrieg, Death of the Wehrmacht, The Wehrmacht Retreats, The Wehrmacht's Last Stand.</i>
Rick Atkinson	<i>An Army at Dawn</i>
Sean McMeekin	<i>Stalin's War</i>
Alexander Hill	<i>The Red Army and the Second World War</i>

Schedule

26 Aug.	Introduction: "The Long War"
2 Sept.	Lecture: "the Path to Blitzkrieg"
9 September	Lecture: "Lost Victories"
16 September	Lecture: "The Tide Turns"
23 September	Lecture: " <i>Gotterdammerung</i> "
30 September	Midterm Exam , Evans discussion.
7 October	Dr. William Nance, Jr from the US Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth.
14 October	Choice Book 1
21 October	Choice Book 2
28 October	Choice Book 3
4 November	Choice Book 4
11 November	Veterans Day, no class
18 November	Choice Book 5-6
25 November	Thanksgiving, no class
2 December	Choice Book 7-8

9 December **Final Exam. Paper Due at 11:59:59**

University Boiler Plate:

WARRIOR SHIELD

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield 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 Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/police/911cellular.html>] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, 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 the Drop Request Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[<https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2Fsubmit%2FForm%2Fstart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612>].

Faculty 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. Once you submit the completed 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. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. 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://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

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].

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, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information, please visit our Access & Inclusion Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

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 Student Affairs [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these requirements and guidelines online, 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, on a remote online basis. Visit the Academic Support Community in Canvas to view schedules and contact information. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, success coaching, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@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 online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

University Writing Center: Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (A&M–Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M–Central Texas students. For the Fall 2021 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WOnline at <https://tamuct.mywconline.com/>. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

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 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams 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>].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Wellness and Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the Title IX webpage [<https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/bit>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.