

The University of Western Ontario

History 2179
The Two World Wars

Fall 2013 – Winter 2014

Dr. A. Iarocci

Lectures: Wed, 3:30 – 5:30, KB K-106

Office: Lawson Hall 2250

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 2:00 – 3:00, 5:30 – 6:30

(appointments not required during these hours)

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Course Objectives

History 2179 is a full-year study of the First and Second World Wars. The course revolves around key themes such as military operations and strategy, the social impact of modern warfare, leadership and command in wartime, technology and logistics in modern warfare, and the evolution of collective/public memory during and after the World Wars.

The fall term explores the First World War – known at the time simply as the Great War – a conflict that witnessed intensive violence and social dislocation. The First World War incorporated modern machine technologies to an unprecedented degree on the battlefields and in supporting roles on the home fronts. Nations participated in the effort at great cost in lives and material wealth.

The winter term explores the Second World War, a conflict without parallel in modern history for its violent intensity and geographic scope. Combat on the land, on the seas, and in the skies ranged from virtually every corner of Europe to the heart of the Soviet Union, and from the steaming jungles of Southeast Asia to the icy Aleutian Islands in Alaska. Tens of millions of men and women served in uniform. By the summer of 1945, military and civilian fatalities were counted in the tens of millions. Centuries of cultural heritage lay in ruins. It was to take decades to rebuild.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- identify and explain the significance of key personalities, campaigns, and technologies from the First and Second World Wars
- analyze and compare national and military strategic decisions of various belligerent nations (and some neutral nations) in both World Wars
- identify important controversies and debates in the scholarship on the World Wars
- recognize the global character of the World Wars, as well as their legacies

Lectures and Readings

We will meet for lectures each Wednesday afternoon. The first part of lecture will run for approximately 45 to 50 minutes, followed by a brief pause for conversation, and perhaps a soda or other refreshment. The second part of the lecture will continue for another 45 minutes. Because this is a lecture course with an evaluation scheme based entirely on examinations, it is crucially important that students attend every lecture, as the instructor will discuss issues and themes which may not be fully assessed in the survey textbooks.

Students who truly wish to succeed in this course must be prepared to invest sufficient time reading and analyzing the course textbooks outside of normal classroom hours – two to three hours per week would be the minimum amount of time to budget. Students can take best advantage of the textbooks by reading each week's selections and actively drawing connections with themes and questions raised in the corresponding lecture. The textbooks are designed as surveys; they offer a wide range of information, but only in limited depth. As such, they must be used in conjunction with the lecture content.

Examinations in this course are not based simply upon the knowledge of true/false facts. **Do not become tangled up in trivial details from the textbooks.** Instead, ask broad interpretational questions of the text. For example, rather than trying to memorize German war production statistics from the Stevenson text (see below), ask larger questions, such as 'what does Stevenson reveal about the German war economy?' or 'was the German war economy operating at high efficiency?'

In sum, there is no substitute for regular attendance and diligent reading every week. Dr. Iarocci encourages students to ask questions in class, and to visit during office hours as much as possible and necessary.

The required course text for the fall term is:

David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy* (New York: Basic Books, 2005).

The required course texts for the winter term are:

Williamson Murray and Allan Millett, *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War* (Cambridge: Belknap, 2001).

Ronald Story, *Concise Historical Atlas of World War Two* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Examinations

There will be four examinations in this course.

In the fall term, students will write a mid-term examination in class (worth 20% of the course grade) and a final examination (worth 30% of the course grade) during the December exam period. **The December exam is cumulative for the first term.**

Again in the winter term, students will write a mid-term examination in class (worth 20% of the course grade) and a final examination (worth 30% of the course grade) during the April exam period. **The April exam is cumulative for the second term only.**

On each of the examinations students will choose from a selection of essay and short-answer questions. The essay questions will test analytical skills, while the short-answers will test the ability to contextualize key persons, concepts, and events. Sample examination questions will be provided before each exam. **There are no multiple choice, true/false, or fill-in-the-blank examination questions in this course. The exams are not designed to test mastery of factual details or memory of trivia, but rather to encourage students to engage analytically with controversial historical questions that do not have simple correct answers.**

Students are encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns about examination format and design with Dr. Iarocci *before* the first mid-term is written in October.

For all medical and non-medical issues that might warrant accommodation with regard to examinations or lecture attendance, please report to academic counseling.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following link: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Fall Term Lecture and Reading Schedule

(Note: all fall term readings are from Stevenson's *Cataclysm*)

Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Selections
Week 1 11 September	1. Course Introduction; Studying the Wars 2. Causes of War; Outbreak of War	xv-xix; Chapter 1
Week 2 18 September	1. Indecision in 1914 2. Static Warfare	Chapters 2, 3
Week 3 25 September	1. Armies and Peoples at War 2. Fighting on a Shoestring, 1915-16	Chapters 4, 5
Week 4 2 October	1. Attrition in 1916: Somme 2. Attrition in 1916: Verdun	Chapter 6
Week 5 9 October	1. A Global War? 2. A Modern War?	Chapters 7, 8 (also review Chapter 4)
Week 6 16 October	1. War at Sea 2. War in the Air	Chapters 9, 10
Week 7 23 October	Mid-term Examination	Written in K-106 during class hours
Week 8 30 October	1. Leadership and Command 2. Recording the War	Chapter 11
Week 9 6 November	1. Strategy and Operations, 1917 2. A History of Violence	Chapters 12, 14
Week 10 13 November	1. The United States at War 2. German Spring Offensives, 1918	Chapters 13, 15
Week 11 20 November	1. Open Warfare, July-November 1918 2. Armistice and Peace	Chapters 16, 17, 18
Week 12 27 November	1. Remembering the War 2. Legacy and Conclusions	Chapters 19, 20, 21
Week 13 4 December	No lecture scheduled – reserved as a slip day or for examination review	

Winter Term Lecture and Reading Schedule

(Note: all winter term readings are from Murray and Millet's *A War to be Won* and Story's atlas.)

Date	Lecture Topics	Readings
Week 1 8 January	1. Interwar Period and Origins of the War(s) 2. Armies and Peoples at War	M & M, 1-43, 143-168, 579-605 Story, 1-17, 72-79
Week 2 15 January	1. Blitzkrieg (?), 1939-40 2. The Battle of Britain	M & M, 44-63, 64-90 Story, 18-25
Week 3 22 January	1. The Mediterranean, 1940-42 2. Barbarossa	M & M, 91-109, 110-142, 262-273 Story, 28-29, 34-39
Week 4 29 January	1. The War in the Pacific, 1941-42 2. Social and Industrial Mobilization	M & M, 169-233, 527-553 Story, 80-87
Week 5 5 February	1. The Battle of the Atlantic 2. The Strategic Air War	M & M, 234-261, 304-335 Story, 26-27, 48-49
Week 6 12 February	Mid-term Examination	Written in K-106 during class hours
Week 7 19 February	READING WEEK – no class	
Week 8 26 February	1. Victory in North Africa 2. Stalingrad to Kursk	M & M, 273-303 Story, 30-33, 40-43
Week 9 5 March	1. The Italian Campaign 2. Constructing Fortress Europe	M & M, 374-387 Story, 46-47, 50-51
Week 10 12 March	1. Operation Overlord 2. The Battle of Normandy	M & M, 411-434 Story, 52-55
Week 11 19 March	1. Northwest Europe, 1944-45 2. The United States at War	M & M, 434-445 Story, 58-61
Week 12 26 March	1. Collapse of the Third Reich 2. Holocaust	M & M, 387-410, 446-483 Story, 62-69
Week 13 2 April	1. The Pacific and Atomic Warfare, 1943-45 2. Legacies of Victory and Defeat	M & M, 336-373, 484-526, 554-576 Story, 88-99, 100-103

SUPPORT SERVICES

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca