

The University of Western Ontario
HISTORY 2177B
The Two World Wars
Winter 2019

Contact

Dr. Alex Souchen

Lectures: Wednesdays, 12:30-2:30pm

Office: LWH 2245

Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00pm or by appointment

Email: rsouchen@uwo.ca

Course Description

History 2177B is a general survey course aimed at students with an interest in expanding their knowledge of the First and Second World Wars. The course will consider these conflicts as part of a thirty-year crisis from which the contemporary world emerged. The course will focus on military operations and grand strategy, leadership and command, technology and logistics, the social and environmental impacts of total war, industry and the home front, and the construction of public memory during and after the World Wars.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and explain the significance of key individuals, campaigns, events, and technologies from both World Wars
- Analyze and compare the national and strategic decision-making of various belligerent countries during both World Wars
- Identify and analyze important controversies, debates, methodologies, and perspectives within the historical scholarship
- Assess the global character of the World Wars and the political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental factors that contributed to their outcomes
- Evaluate the short- and long-term causes and consequences of the World Wars
- Trace the continuities and changes between the First and Second World Wars

Course Materials

Texts:

1. Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2007). ISBN 9780199205592
2. Gerhard Weinberg, *World War II: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2014). ISBN 9780199688777

Evaluation

HIS2177B is an exam course. There are only two exams: one in-class mid-term covering the First World War and its aftermath, and the final exam covering the Second World War and its aftermath. The final exam will also contain general questions involving material from the entire course. Therefore, the final exam will be longer and count more toward the final grade.

Each exam will contain a mixture of short answer and essay questions that evaluate student understanding of course materials, including lectures and readings.

In-Class Mid-Term Exam: 40% - 13 February 2019 (Week 8)

Final Exam: 60% - TBD

Class Schedule

	Topic	Readings
Week 1 – January 9	Course Introduction	
Week 2 – January 16	Causes of War	Howard, Chapters 1 & 2
Week 3 – January 23	Early War, 1914-1915	Howard, Chapters 3 & 4
Week 4 – January 30	War of Attrition, 1916-1917	Howard, Chapters 5 & 6
Week 5 – February 6	Total War, 1917-1918	Howard, Chapter 7
Week 6 – February 13	MID-TERM	
Week 7 – February 20	READING WEEK	

	Topic	Readings
Week 8 – February 27	Postwar Settlement, 1919-1939	Howard, Chapters 8 & 9
Week 9 – March 6	Axis Rising, 1937-1941	Weinberg, Chapters 1 & 2
Week 10 – March 13	Allied Recovery, 1941-1943	Weinberg, Chapter 3 & 6
Week 11 – March 20	War of Annihilation, 1939-1945	Weinberg, Chapter 4 & 5
Week 12 – March 27	Home Fronts at War, 1939-1945	Weinberg, Chapter 7
Week 13 – April 3	Allied Victory and Aftermath, 1944-1946	Weinberg, Chapter 8
Week 14 – April 10	Memory, Legacies, and Popular Culture	

Additional Statements

Academic Offences:

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Accessibility Office:

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 519 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation. Information regarding accommodation of exams is available on the Registrar's website:
www.registrar.uwo.ca/examinations/accommodated_exams.html

Medical Issues:

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. 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 should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

Students must see the Academic Counsellor and submit all required documentation in order to be approved for certain accommodation:

http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/medical_accommodation.html

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 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.

Scholastic Offences:

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 web site: www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Support Services:

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Use of Electronic Devices:

Electronic devices may be used for classwork only. No electronic device will be permitted during tests and exams.

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.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Heidi Van Galen, Administrative Officer, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84963 or e-mail vangalen@uwo.ca.