

HISTORY 2177A
The Two World Wars
Fall/Winter 2022-23
Monday, 6:30–8:30 pm, SH 3345
in-person

Instructor: Dr. A. Iarocci

Office Hours: Monday, 4:45–6:15 pm
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This is a draft syllabus. Please see your course OWL site for the final syllabus.

Course delivery with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic

The intent is for this course to be delivered in-person but should the COVID-19 landscape shift, the course will be delivered on-line asynchronously. The grading scheme will not change. The course will return to an in-person mode of delivery when the University and local health authorities deem it safe to do so.

Course Description:

This survey course is aimed at expanding students' knowledge of the World Wars as part of a larger, collective cataclysm. It considers these conflicts as part of a thirty-year crisis out of which the contemporary world emerged, fundamentally different from what might have been projected had they not occurred.

Antirequisite(s):

History 2179

Course Syllabus:

History 2177B is a comparative study of the First and Second World Wars, including their causes and consequences. The course revolves around a series of key themes such as military operations and strategy, the social and cultural impact of modern warfare, imperialism and colonialism, leadership and command, technology and logistics, and the evolution of collective/public memory during and after the World Wars.

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 war destroyed four empires, and it fostered several new nation states.

The Second World War is unparalleled in modern history for its intensity of violence and geographic scope. Combat on the land, at sea, and in the air ranged from virtually every corner of Europe to the heart of the Soviet Union, and from the jungles of Burma to the mountains of the Aleutian Island chain. Tens of millions of men and women served in uniform – many millions more supported their efforts on the home fronts. By the summer of 1945, military and civilian fatalities were counted in the tens of millions. Centuries of cultural heritage lay in

ruins. The stage was set for a new Cold War that was to dominate geo-politics throughout the second half of the twentieth century.

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 and assess salient controversies and debates in the scholarship on the World Wars

-explain the global character of the World Wars, as well as their legacies]

Lectures and Readings

We will meet for lectures each Monday evening. The first part of each lecture will run for approximately 45 to 50 minutes, followed by a brief pause for conversation and refreshment. The second part of the lecture will continue for about another 45 minutes. Because this is a lecture course with an evaluation scheme based entirely on tests and examinations, it is crucially important that students attend every class, as we will explore issues and themes which are not 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 the classroom – two to three hours per lecture, on average, would be a reasonable amount of time to budget. Students can take best advantage of the textbooks by reading each day'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.

Tests and 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 simply trying to memorize German war production statistics, ask larger questions, such as 'what do available production numbers 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 day. Dr. Iarocci encourages students to ask questions in class, and to visit regularly during office hours.

Course Materials:

The required course texts are:

Michael S. Neiberg, *Fighting the Great War: A Global History* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005).

R.A.C. Parker, *The Second World War: A Short History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001).

Students who wish to read about the World Wars in greater depth may consult the following titles, although these are not required reading for the course.

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

Richard Overy, *Why the Allies Won* (Pimlico: London, 2006).

Methods of Evaluation:

There are two examinations in this course. Students must write both examinations in order to pass the course.

Mid-term = 40% (written in-class, 17 October)

April Final Exam = 60% (**cumulative for the full term**, date and location to be set by registrar)

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 simply 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 answers. Success demands intellectual effort. Students are encouraged to discuss any questions or concerns about the test/examination format and design with Dr. Iarocci before the first exam.

Accommodation for missed tests/midterms:

Students who are permitted to write a deferred exam must do so during one of the two designated make-up slots scheduled for the term (see below). The instructor will not organize a make-up time slot on the basis of student convenience.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online make-up tests.

For in-person classes, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Important Dates](#).

IMPORTANT: In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via OWL. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Counselling. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Date	Lecture Topics	Readings
Week 1 12 September	1. Course Introduction; Studying the Wars 2. Origins of the Wars	Neiberg, Introduction Parker, 1
Week 2 19 September	1. Seeking Decisive Battle, 1914 and 1940 2. Miracles	Neiberg, 1, 3 Parker, 2, 3
Week 3 26 September	1. The Last Frontier: The Wars in the East 2. Total War	Neiberg, 2, 8, pp. 111-22 Parker, 4, 9, 11, pp. 106-114
Week 4 3 October	1. Strategic Air Power 2. Submarine Warfare	Neiberg, pp. 123-39, 288-98 Parker, 10, pp. 95-98
Week 5 10 October	Thanksgiving	
Week 6 17 October	Mid-term Exam (in class) 1. Coalition Warfare (recorded lecture) 2. Leadership/Command (recorded lecture)	Neiberg, pp. 280-88 Parker, 8, 15
Week 7 24 October	1. Empires at War 2. Fighting on the Peripheries	Neiberg, pp. 95-111, 140-49, 298-305 Parker, pp. 98-106
Week 8 31 October	Reading Week	
Week 9 7 November	1. Imperial Japan and the Asia Pacific War 2. Amphibious Warfare	Parker, 5, 6, 12
Week 10 14 November	1. Attritional Warfare, 1916-17 2. Normandy to the Rhine, 1944-45	Neiberg, 6, 7, 9, 10 Parker, 13
Week 11 21 November	1. Genocide 2. Occupation: A Morality Study	Parker, 17
Week 12	1. Defeating Germany, 1917-18 and 1944-45	Neiberg, 12, 13

28 November	2. Defeating Imperial Japan	Parker, 14
Week 13	1. Restoring Peace, 1918 and 1945	Neiberg, Conclusion
5 December	2. Legacies of Total War	Parker, 16, 18

Use of Electronic Devices:

Students will not have any electronic devices on their persons while writing examinations.

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History Course Must-Knows document,

<https://www.history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/Docs/Department%20of%20History%20Course%20Must-Knows.pdf>,

for additional information regarding:

- Academic Offences
- Accessibility Options
- Medical Issues
- Plagiarism
- Scholastic Offences
- Copyright
- Health and Wellness