

A Motto for us all:

"It is no use saying 'We are doing our best.' You have got to succeed in doing what is necessary."

- Winston Churchill

Professor: Anita Shelton
Office: CH 2546
Phone: 581-3310; 6989
e-mail: cfas@eiu.edu
Office Hours: T/Th 11:00-12:00; W/F 10:00-11:00

This course is devoted to the extraordinary six years between 1939 and 1945 when the entire world was drawn into and consumed by a war so vast, so complex, and so destructive that it gave a new meaning to the World War I term, "Total War." Our overriding objective in this course is to gain some understanding of the origins, course, and impact of this "total" war by studying it from various perspectives (including military, diplomatic, ideological, social, cultural and scientific), using a variety of sources, including primary and secondary written sources, cartoons, posters and documentary and feature films. For your research paper, I will be asking you to study changes in perception and understanding of the war over time and from different perspectives. There is a separate handout for this.

Note: If you have a documented disability please let me know as soon as you can (certainly before the first midterm) so that I may arrange for appropriate accommodation.

Required Books (available at Textbook Rental Service):

Omer Bartov, *Hitler's Army; Soldiers, Nazis and the War in the Third Reich*
Paul Fussell, *Wartime: Understanding and Behaviour in the Second World War*
John Keegan, *The Second World War*
Primo Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz*
Michael Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*
Eugene B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed; At Peleliu and Okinawa*

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory. However, I recognize that occasionally an absence is unavoidable (including, perhaps, my own!). Therefore, I allow you up to three absences during the semester, no questions asked, no explanations desired. If you have a serious medical problem or emergency which will cause you to miss class on more than three occasions, please come and talk to me. Otherwise, I will lower your final grade by an entire grade point (e.g., from 3.0 to 2.0) if you exceed three absences. If you will be absent due to an official university function, please use one of your three allowed absences to cover it.

Grading: All written work assigned below must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Midterm I:	15%
Midterm II:	15%
Research Paper:	25%
Film Commentaries:	10% (5% each)
Final Exam:	25%
Participation:	10%

Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1: 8/23-25 Introduction: Total War and Ideology
Reading: Keegan, "Every Man a Soldier," pp. 10-30; handouts in class: excerpts from *Mein Kampf*, "The Doctrine of Fascism" and "Japan's War Aims" for discussion on Thursday, 8/25.

Week 2: 8/30-9/1 Diplomatic and Political Origins of World War II
Reading: Keegan, "Fomenting World War," pp.31-51; handout in class: excerpts from Iris Chang's *The Nanking Massacre*
Movie: "The Triumph of the Will" (German)

Week 3: 9/6-8 The War in the West, 1940-43
Reading: Keegan, "The War in the West, 1940-43," pp. 53-123; and **Bartov, *Hitler's Army, entire***, for discussion on Thursday.
Movie: "Das Boot" (German)

Week 4: 9/13-15 The War in the East, 1941-43
Reading: Keegan, "The War in the East, 1940-43," pp. 124-237
Movies: "Enemy At the Gates;" "Battle of Russia"

Week 5: 9/20-22 The War in the Pacific, 1941-43
Reading: Keegan, "The War in the Pacific, 1941-43," pp.238-307
Movie: "Bridge on the River Kwai"

***** **Midterm 1: 9/22*******

Week 6: 9/27-29 Propoganda Wars
Reading: **Fussel, *Wartime, entire***, for discussion on Thursday
Movies: "The Propoganda Wars" (excerpts); Frank Carpra's "Why We Fight" (excerpts)

Week 7: 10/4-6 The Wizard War
Reading: TBA, on reserve

Week 8: 10/11-13 Homefront
Reading: TBA – guest lecturers will assign
Movie: “Hope and Glory” (English); Frank Capra’s “The Negro Soldier”

Week 9: 10/18-20 Resistance Movements and Clandestine Warfare
Handouts in class
10/22: 7;00 p.m. CH 1255 Movie: “Kanal” (Polish)

Week 10: 10/25-27 10/26: Catch-up and/or Review Day

***** **Midterm 2: 10/27** *****

Week 11: 11/1-3 The War in the West, 1943-45
Reading: Keegan, “The War in the West, 1941-43,” pp. 308-447
Begin Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz* ; Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*
Movie: “Casablanca” (U.S.)

Week 12: 11/8-10 The War in the East, 1943-45
Reading: Keegan, “The War in the East, 1943-45,” pp. 448-533.
Continue Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz* ; Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*
Movie: “The Shop on Main Street ” (Czech)

***** **Research Paper due: 11/10*******

Note: If you want to use your paper from this class for your Writing Portfolio, you must revise it after I critique it and return it to you, and submit the revised version to your portfolio. Please refer to Electronic Writing Portfolio rubric for evaluation standards.

Week 13: 11/15-17 The Final Solution
Reading: **Levi, *Survival at Auschwitz*, entire; Marrus, *The Holocaust in History*, entire**
Movie: “Night and Fog” (French)

Week 14: 11/29-12/1 The War in the Pacific, 1943-45
Reading: Keegan, “The War in the Pacific, 1943-45,” pp. 536-588; and **Sledge, *With the Old Breed: at Peleliu and Okinawa*, entire**
Movie: “Fireflies” (Japanese)

Week 15: 12/6-8 Significance of the War

Reading: Keegan, "The Legacy of the Second World War," pp. 588-596; handout: "Just War Theory"

Final Exam: Monday, 12/12 at 8:00-10:00

Please note: I reserve the right to make changes in the syllabus over the course of the semester if it seems necessary to me to do so. I will make clear any and all such changes.