

HTST 485 – World War II
Department of History, University of Calgary
Summer 2017
ES 054 | Saturday, 0900 – 1420

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Course Description:

Despite innumerable studies, the Second World War remains a major source of historical inquiry. This, in part, is due to its far-reaching impact. The war transformed the national, international, technological, military, and social landscape of the world. Unfortunately, this course cannot explore all these important aspects of the war. Instead, this course will examine the origins, major events and developments, as well as the consequences of the Second World War primarily through the lenses of grand strategy and decision-making. The aim is to provide a basic understanding of the war's major events and its global legacy, as well as to reflect on its continued importance in our collective consciousness.

Course Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Identify important events, figures, and developments in the Second World War and describe their significance.
- Explain key themes of the Second World War and assess their historical context
- Analyze national and strategic decisions of primary belligerent states
- Discuss and debate controversies in the scholarship of the Second World War
- Assess and interpret primary historical sources
- Implement correct historical methodologies, such as source analysis, critical reasoning, evidence-based argumentation, and correct citation

Course Text:

Mawdsley, Evan. *World War II: A New History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

Additional readings will be posted each week in D2L. These readings must be completed before class as they will serve as the basis for in-class discussions.

Assessments:

Research Proposal, Bibliography, and Primary Source Review: 15% (Due 22 July)
Research Essay: 35% (Due 12 August)
In-Class Participation: 15% (2.5% a week, evaluated throughout semester)

Final Examination: 35% (To be scheduled by the Registrar)

Assignment due dates listed are the **latest date which an assignment may be submitted. Students are strongly encouraged to **hand in their assignments early**. For example, if the research proposal is submitted week 2, it will be returned week 3. Similarly, if the essay is submitted week 5, the student will get it back at the final class and will know their final grade going into the exam.

Students are responsible for ensuring their assignments are submitted. For the proposal and essay, students should check that “submitted” is selected in D2L.

Research Essay: Students are required to write an **8-10 page** research essay. Students will select their research topics and may write on any aspect of the Second World War, excluding biographical essays and regimental histories. The essay must be **12-point Times New Roman** font, **double-spaced**, with **1-inch margins**, and use proper **Chicago style** footnotes and bibliography. Grades will be deducted for improper citation. Students must adhere to the Department of History’s essay guidelines set out in [The History Student’s Handbook](#). The essay must contain at least at a minimum of **5 peer-reviewed monographs**, or its journal article equivalent (**1 monograph = 3 articles**), and **one primary source**. Primary sources should complement and enhance the analysis. Students are strongly encouraged to use more sources than the minimum. Websites and the course textbook are not permitted. Paper copies are due in-class by 12 August, at the latest.

Research Proposal, Bibliography, and Primary Source Review: In advance of their research essay, students must submit a research proposal. The proposal should outline the essay topic and provide a tentative thesis statement. Students should also include a working bibliography, with the minimum number of sources (5 monographs or the journal article equivalent), using proper **Chicago style citation**. The proposal must also include a brief description of their chosen primary source, including an assessment of its value and its limitations. The proposal and primary source review cannot exceed **three pages** in length, excluding the bibliography, and must adhere to the same formatting guidelines as the research essay (double-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). A list of potential resources for primary sources will be posted in D2L. A physical (paper) copy of the proposal must be submitted no later than 22 July.

Participation: Given the format of this course, student participation will be an important component. Since there are only six classes, attendance is mandatory. Unexcused absences will lower a student’s participation grade. To engage effectively each week, students must do the weekly readings posted in D2L. In-class activities may vary in this course, but two forms that will be directly assessed are group discussions and student-written exam questions:

Group Discussion: The class will be divided into groups of 4 to 6 students. Each week, students will be provided with a handout of key questions/issues the group is to discuss based on the readings posted in D2L, which students must read critically. Each discussion a different member of the group will act as group leader (each group member must serve as the leader at least once). As the leader, they will guide the discussion and be responsible for completing the handout. The format of the group discussions will vary

throughout the course to include, for example, debate, group discussion, and role-playing. The goal is to create a supportive and low stakes environment for students to learn how to discuss with their peers, learn from one-another, and to actively engage with course material. The groups may change halfway through the semester.

Exam Questions: Each class, students will be given time to think about and write potential exam questions based on that week's material (readings, lecture, and discussion). This will include one potential essay question and two significance questions. Students must submit their questions with a brief answer key at the end of each week. Questions will be assessed on how thoroughly and thoughtfully they engage with and reflect that week's material. The best questions will be used on the final exam. This will be assessed on a Pass/Fail basis.

Final Exam: The final exam will contain two components: significance questions and essay questions. As previously stated, these questions will be based on the questions provided by students throughout the semester. Students must answer four significance questions (whereby the explain the person, thing, or event, and describe its historical significance) and two essay questions (one from each half of the course). Student responses to the exam must be based both on lecture material and course readings. The final exam will be scheduled by the registrar between 18 and 21 August.

Course Schedule:

Week 1 (8 July): Course Introduction and Origins of the Second World War
Readings: Mawdsley, 1-51, 74-103

Week 2 (15 July): The European War, 1939-1942
Readings: Mawdsley, 104-187 and D2L readings

Week 3 (22 July): Origins of the Pacific War and the Pacific War, -1942
Readings: Mawdsley, 52-73, 188-213 and D2L readings

Week 4 (29 July): The Pacific War, 1942-1944, and the North African and Italian Campaigns
Readings: Mawdsley, 214-247, 267-273, 284-319 and D2L readings

Week 5 (5 August): The European War, 1943-1945
Readings: Mawdsley, 320-405 and D2L readings

Week 6 (12 August): Japanese Surrender, the Atomic Bomb, the Holocaust, New International Order, and the Origins of the Cold War
Readings: Mawdsley, 158-163, 406-437, 438-451 and D2L readings

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

For updates and notifications, follow our departmental twitter @ucalgaryhist

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email artsads@ucalgary.ca. For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email artsads@ucalgary.ca, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

Writing:

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

Writing Support:

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit www.ucalgary.ca/ssc.

Copyright:

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Departmental Grading System:

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook* (http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.

- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS). The SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected grounds other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>

Other Useful Information:

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.
- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.
- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.