

HIST 485

The Second World War

UNIVERSITY of Calgary

DR. AARON PLAMONDON

WINTER 2015

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Class: TR 3:30-4:45, RM ST 131

Office: SS 615

Office Hours: I will be available after every class or by appointment.
Andre Wiley will hold regular office hours before every class in SS 607

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the causes, courses and consequences of the Second World War. The scale of the death toll in the war is almost unimaginable, even today in a world grown used to death and destruction. The war caused over 50 million deaths, a horrific number augmented by the terrifying events of the Nazi death camps where 12 million people met their deaths. The war saw the advent of new and terrible weapons of destruction, such as the mass bombing of civilians in cities, culminating in the unleashing of the atomic bomb over Japan. This course aims to understand the war from its origins to its influences on our world through lectures and the use of visual material including: pictures, maps, and films.

Students will be expected to be well prepared to engage in class discussion. This will mean being familiar with the material, such as assigned readings and the textbook. Debates will be held often where students must choose a side to argue within one of the many historical debates discussed concerning the war. This will teach the student how the Historical discipline is often interpretation over fact and how to make historical arguments based on evidence.

COURSE RESOURCES

Required Texts:

- Keegan, John. *The Second World War*. (New York: Penguin, 1989).
- Ronald Story. *Concise Historical Atlas of WW2 - The Geography of Conflict* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2006).

Assignments, Exams and Grading

Midterm (Tuesday Feb 9)	20%
Final Paper (Due Last day of class - April 12)	50%
Final Exam University Scheduled and you must be present for the exam. Vacations, employment, etc. are not valid reasons for a student to receive a deferred examination.	30%

Historiographical Essay

How to cite sources is often confusing for a student writing a History paper for the first time, but the rules are simple, and they are all clearly explained online and on Blackboard:

A guide on how to write a History paper is also available online at:

<http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook.pdf>

This assignment will require the student to choose a topic and become familiar with what's been written on the subject, which is called the Historiography. Once that is done, you will formulate an informed interpretation/position on the topic and place it within what Historians have written already. Your thesis will place you on a side within the debate and you will use the evidence that the other historians have put forth as your evidence. You must choose which are the more compelling arguments and why. Essentially I want you to have a clear thesis, analyze the current historical literature on the topic, and then tell me where you fit into it, supported by evidence. This must be done without writing 'I think' - you must use direct statements to take a position and defend it.

We will discuss and practice the formulation of a thesis many times in class and how you will structure your paper around it.

Essays are to be 10 typed pages in length, 12 pt Font, Times New Roman, double spaced, standard margins, complete with bibliography and footnotes.

At least 10 major books and articles on the selected topic must be consulted. You must use footnotes (Chicago School style), not endnotes.

- Avoid wordiness, metaphors, informal or colloquial language, rhetorical questions, unsupported observations or assumptions, first person statements ('I think'), contractions ('didn't') and the passive voice.
- Perhaps most importantly you must EDIT your work. THIS MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PART OF A PAPER - REVIEW AND EDIT. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT IT IS HIGH QUALITY FIRST TIME OUT.

Internet sources are not allowed unless cleared by me.

Late Policy

If an emergency arises, please speak to me immediately and in advance if possible. The standard will be the loss of half a letter grade per day late
Computer emergencies are not valid

Course Exams

There will be two tests on the course material, the midterm and the final. Tests will be in class and will consist of definitions, short answer, and essay style.

The tests will always have three sections, and there will always be choices. You do not have to do every question on the test paper, but select those that you know best. The first section will be definitions – you must explain what the term is and why it is significant for one mark.

Ex: Lebensraum – `Living space to the East` meant for Aryan Germans. This was significant as it was one of the ways for the Nazi`s to justify their national expansion. (1 mark)

The **second section** will consist of short answer questions where I will be asking you to tie together themes from the material. They will be out of 4 and you will also have choices.

Ex: What were four different causes put forth by historians regarding the outbreak of the Second World War (4 marks)

The **final section** will be an analytical essay. In this question I am looking for a clear demonstration that you understand what happened and your interpretation as to why.

Critically analyze Hitler`s choice to invade Russia and discuss EQUALLY its pros and cons. Finish with which argument, for or against, you feel is the most compelling and why. (8 marks)

All Copies of exams and final papers must be kept by the student until the end of the semester in case a document is misplaced.

COURSE SCHEDULE

The course schedule outlined below is a **tentative** guideline that we **may** cover on particular dates. While the intention is to follow this as closely as possible, our progress will reflect class interest and extra time will be given to some concepts.

WEEK 1

Introduction: End of WWI

Introductory seminar: Will the world always be at war?

WEEK 2

Rise of the Nazis and the nature of Totalitarian states, Interwar Military Strategy, the Origins of the War, and the invasion of Poland

Readings: Keegan pgs Foreward-47

Seminar: What was the most significant causes of the Nazi Rise to Power and WWII?

WEEK 3

Invasion of France, Battle of Britain, and Battle of the Atlantic

Readings: Keegan 47-123

Seminar: Battle of Britain

WEEK 4

The European War: Operation Barbarossa and the Invasion of Russia

Readings: Keegan 126-237

Seminar: What were Germanys other options in 1941?

MIDTERM

WEEK 5

War in the Pacific: Part I Pearl Harbour to 1943

Readings: Keegan 238-278

WEEK 7

The Dieppe Raid and German Defeats in the West: Africa, Italy

Readings: Keegan 320-368

Seminar: Dieppe

WEEK 8

The Normandy Campaign and the Liberation of Europe Part I

Canadian Involvement in the War

Readings: Keegan 310-319, 369-414

Seminar: What it takes to be a Commander

WEEK 9

German Defeats in the East: Stalingrad to Berlin

Readings: Keegan 279-290, Strategic Bombing 415-433, Kursk Onward 450-481, The Road to Berlin 503-533
Seminar: Was strategic bombing a success?

WEEK 10

End of the Normandy Campaign

Readings: Keegan, 436-447, Resistance and Espionage 483-502

WEEK 11

War in the Pacific: Up to Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the Japanese Surrender

The War at Home

Readings: Keegan 290-307, The Defeat of Japan 537-598

Seminar: Should the Atomic bomb have been used?

WEEK 12

The Holocaust

Computer policy:

Laptops may be used in class, as long as they are not disruptive to other students.

Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, 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, Social Sciences 102, 403-220-3580, or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

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:

Need help coming up with a thesis statement? Confused about the proper way to use footnotes? Just want to ask someone about your written assignment for this or any other history class? The Department of History offers small-group and individual writing support for all students registered in a History class from some of our top graduate students. Check with your instructor for the scheduled weekly drop-in times, sign-up for one of the writing workshops, or arrange to meet with our writing tutors individually. More information about this program will be posted on the Department of History web site: hist.ucalgary.ca.

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. 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 coursepack 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 (SS 656). 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*, 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:

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) 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 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_0.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.

Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.

Please also familiarize yourself about the following topics by consulting the information at these links:

Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>

Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

Safewalk: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

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>

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