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Note: my policy is to reply to all e-mails within 24-48 hours; if you have not received a reply after that time frame, please contact me again (your message may have been filtered or overlooked).

Introduction

Welcome to History 4495, World War Two in Europe. This is a 4000 level Baccalaureate Writing Course which focuses on the lead up to, the conduct, and the aftermath of WWII in Europe. Among the main areas of focus will be:

1. The rise of fascism and communism in the 1920s and 30s, in the context of the aftermath of WWI.
2. The reasons for German military dominance from 1939-1943.
3. The reasons for the German collapse after 1943
4. The Holocaust and its connection to the War.
5. The moral and ethical dilemma of the bombing war over Germany
6. Resistance to German occupation
7. The end of the War and its connection to the Cold War

We will be considering a range of secondary and primary sources which focus on Germany, Italy, France, Eastern Europe and beyond.

Course Goals
At the end of this course, you should be able to:
1. Explain the connections between the aftermath of WWI and the rise of Communism and Fascism
2. Compare the similarities and differences of Communism and Fascism.
3. Explain the central thesis of Timothy Snyder’s Bloodlands
4. Explain the central aims of German military domination of Europe and Soviet Russia.
5. Recall the stages of German success and then failure on the battlefield
6. Explain the causes and phases of the Holocaust, and its connection to the War
7. Understand the implications of the bombing of German civilians
8. Explain the connections between the end of the War and the beginnings of the Cold War

Writing:
There are three writing assignments, all of them substantial in length (at least ten pages utilizing both primary and secondary sources) You will have the opportunity to rewrite your first two papers for a higher grade. Each of the paper assignments is worth 100 points. Each day that they are late is 10 points. They will be due in a dropbox on e-learning. I prefer that they be in .doc or .docx formats because I insert detailed comments in the text, though I will also accept .rtf and .txt. I DO NOT ACCEPT PAGES. If you have no other options, please submit pages docs as a .pdf. I will also give you detailed information on what is expected of you in these papers, and how these expectations correlate to your grade on them. You will be graded by deducting points for various inadequacies, counting backwards from 100. Each deduction will be explained in a separate document. In some cases, papers that are unacceptable for this level of coursework will be returned with no grade and I will simply ask you to start over. We will also spend time in class discussing writing and its requirements. As a general rule, the writing assignments will be based on the class readings, and some use of outside sources will be required as well.

Final Exam
You will be given a take home exam, which will be due at the end of the semester. This is worth 100 points. It is cumulative, and written, not multiple choice. You will receive this on the last day of class and will have one week to finish it.

Class participation
You have a class participation grade of 100 points. You are graded differently for lectures and discussions: for lectures, you must show up on time, and behave respectfully during lecture. This means no laptops or other electronic or wireless devices unless I give you permission. No sleeping, talking, or other distracting behavior. You can earn a maximum of 4 points for each lecture. For discussions, you must come on time and exhibit good behavior; you must also bring your reading materials and have them out so I know you have them, you must bring your answers to the discussion questions and have these out and visible, and you
must participate in the discussions actively. You can earn a maximum of 4 points per discussion. There are 14 lectures and 13 discussions, and this equals more than 100 points (108 to be exact)—the extra 8 points are your free unexcused absences; you can therefore earn extra credit for showing up for all class periods.

**Grading**

There is therefore a total of 500 points you can acquire (508 points if you come to every class). To determine your final grade, I simply double your total points and convert that to the University’s grading scale, which is:

- 100-93 = A
- 92-88 = BA
- 87-83 = B
- 82-78 = CB
- 77-73 = C
- 72-68 = DC
- 67-60 = D
- Under 60 = E (Failing)

So for example if your total grade were a 450, you would have a 900, or, a 90, which equals a BA as a final grade.

**Required readings (for sale in the WMU bookstore):**

- Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*
- Jörg Friedrich, *The Fire: The Bombing of Germany, 1940-1945*
- Vasily Grossmann, *Life and Fate*
- Marc Bloch, *Strange Defeat: A Statement of Evidence Written in 1940*
- Art Spiegelmann, *Maus I&II*
- Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*
Schedule of Lectures and Readings

Week One
Monday, September 14:
Intro
Lecture: World War One and its Legacy

Week Two
Monday, September 21:
Lecture: The Rise of Communism and Fascism
Lecture: Inside the Third Reich

RECEIVE FIRST PAPER TOPICS

Week Three
Monday, September 28:
Reading: Bloodlands chs. 1-6
Lecture: From Operation White to Operation Yellow

Week Four
Monday, October 5
Discussion: Bloch, Strange Defeat
Lecture: The Battle of Britain

Week Five
Monday, October 12:
Lecture:
FIRST PAPER DUE IN DROPBOX; RECEIVE SECOND PAPER TOPICS

Week Six
Monday, October 19:
Lecture: The Battle of Britain / Arthur Harris and the Bombing War
Discussion: Friedrich, *The Fire* Chs. 1-3

Week Seven
Monday, October 26
Activity: Churchill and Harris, War Criminals?
Lecture: Operation Barbarossa / Discussion if time: Snyder, *Bloodlands* Chs. 7-10

Week Eight
Monday, November 2
Lecture: The Holocaust, pt. 1
Discussion: Speigelman, *Maus* I

Week Nine
Monday, November 9:
Lecture: Stalingrad
Discussion: Grossman, *Life and Fate*

SECOND PAPER DUE IN DROPBOX; RECEIVE THIRD (FINAL) PAPER TOPICS

Week Ten
Monday, November 16:
James Young
Lecture: The Holocaust, Pt. 2
Discussion: Spiegelman, *Maus II*

**Week Eleven**
Monday, November 23:
Lecture: From Sicily to D-Day
Lecture: The Battle of Berlin

**Week Twelve**
Monday, November 30:
Discussion: Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*
Lecture: Memories and Aftermaths

**Week Thirteen:**
Monday, December 7:
Film screening: *Downfall*

**FINAL PAPER DUE; ALL RE-WRITES DUE; RECEIVE FINAL EXAM QUESTIONS**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14: FINAL EXAMS DUE IN DROPBOX BY 11:59 PM