

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 33233 World War II

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition
and HIST 11203 Civilizations of the World since 1500

Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A study of the causes, conduct, and impact of the Second World War.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Identify the conditions in interwar Europe that allowed fascism to flourish.
2. Assess Japan's domestic political situation and how it influenced foreign policy.
3. Describe American views on international affairs after World War I.
4. Describe life in Stalin's Soviet Union.
5. Assess the failure of appeasement.
6. Identify the key reasons for early German victories in the war.
7. Assess Japan's decision to go to war with the United States.
8. Explain the reasons behind the Allies' ability to turn the war in their favor.
9. Assess the historical explanations for the ultimate Allied victory.
10. Evaluate the arguments for and against using the atomic bomb.
11. Construct a valid historical interpretation of the importance of World War II on the course of history in the twentieth century.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will examine both primary and secondary sources and evaluate opinions of other historians regarding the causes and conduct of the war. Using their findings, students will develop their own explanations for the major issues of the conflict in research papers and examinations.

Communication Skills (written and oral)

Students will relate their findings from individual research and course readings through both written assignments and in class discussions. All written assignments will follow proper formats established by the profession.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will be able to explain why World War II was a “world” war. Students will identify how the war impacted Africa, the Middle East and Asia, including the role of the Holocaust in bringing about the creation of Israel. Students will also evaluate how the war accelerated the ending of the major European empires.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. The Impact of Versailles
- B. Rise of Fascism
- C. Stalin’s USSR
- D. Appeasement
- E. Japanese Expansion
- F. American Isolationism
- G. Blitzkrieg
- H. The Winter War
- I. Fall of France
- J. Battle of Britain
- K. Italian Expansion
- L. The Balkan Campaign
- M. Operation Barbarossa
- N. Pearl Harbor
- O. Axis Ascendancy
- P. Turning Points
- Q. North African Campaign
- R. Soviet Counteroffensives
- S. Island Hopping
- T. D-Day
- U. The Fall of the Third Reich
- V. The Atomic Bomb
- W. Visions and Reality of a Postwar World