

History 01:512:242

World War II

Fall 2018

Course Synopsis

Instructor: Richard Grippaldi, Ph.D.
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Mondays and Thursdays, 8:10 – 9:30am
Murray Hall 211

Course Description: This is a study of the causes, course, and aftermath of World War II, with particular emphasis on the place of American culture and foreign policy within world politics.

In addition to discussing American grand strategy and the course of the war in both Europe and the Pacific, the class will consider such topics as the United States' mobilization for war; roles of women and minority groups in the war effort; the use of submarine and strategic air warfare; and the use of nuclear weapons against Japan.

Special Permission Numbers: The enrollment capacity of the course is fixed at the number of desks in the classroom. When the course closes, there literally will be no place for additional students to sit. DO NOT ASK FOR A SPECIAL PERMISSION NUMBER.

Course Readings: The following books are required. These can be purchased from the campus bookstore, or special-ordered from your local bookstore or Internet bookseller.

Kennedy, Paul. *Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned the Tide in the Second World War*. New York: Random House, 2013. ISBN 9780812979398

Murray, Williamson, and Allan R. Millett. *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2000. ISBN 9780674006805

Sledge, E. B. *With the Old Breed, at Peleliu and Okinawa*. New York: Random House, 2007. ISBN 9780891419198

Walker, J. Samuel. *Prompt and Utter Destruction: Truman and the Use of Atomic Bombs against Japan*, revised ed. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. ISBN 9780807856079

Assignments: Students will complete a midterm examination, worth 22 percent of their course grade; a final examination (28 percent); two short papers (10 percent each); and a course project/paper (20 percent). Class attendance (8 percent) and participation (2 percent) will also count towards the course grade.

Key Dates

October 1	Short Paper #1 due
October 25	Midterm Examination
November 19	Short Paper #2 due
December 3	Written component of course project due
Final Exam Period, date & time to be determined	Final Examination

Questions? Students with interest in, or questions about, the course are encouraged to contact the instructor.