

History 425: World War Two
Spring 2016
Wednesday, 6.30-9.15pm
NIU Rockford Campus

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Dawson

Office Hours: By appointment before and after class

E-mail:

Course Description:

WWII has been described as “total war” because of the ways states mobilized entire populations in the war effort. In the process, individual rights largely disappeared in democracies as well as authoritarian regimes as civilians as well as military personnel were expected to deny themselves for the sake of the war. This course is about the global nature of WWII and the varied experiences of those who fought and worked as well as those who were imprisoned, occupied or enslaved. Throughout the semester we will discuss readings, films and documentaries as we learn about the human costs of war and the ideologies that prompted ordinary men and women to do extraordinary things or become brutal killers.

Required Reading:

- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* Harper Perennial; Reprint edition (April 24, 1998)
- Mark Klempner, *The Heart Has Reasons: Dutch Rescuers of Jewish Children During the Holocaust* Night Stand Books; Updated edition (November 15, 2012)
- Yoshimi Yoshiaki (Author), Suzanne O'Brien (translator) *Comfort Women* Columbia University Press (July 15, 2002)
- Lizzie Collingham, *The Taste of War: WWII and the Battle for Food* (Penguin, 2013)
- Sean Kennedy, *The Shock of War: Civilian Experiences 1937-1945*, University of Toronto Press, Higher Education Division (April 1, 2011)
- Various Articles as assigned

Books are available on Amazon, in the University Bookstore or at the Village Commons Bookstore.

Course Requirements:

- Two book reviews (2-3 pages each) of Mark Klempner, *The Heart Has Reasons: Dutch Rescuers of Jewish Children During the Holocaust* and Yoshimi Yoshiaki (Author), Suzanne O'Brien (translator) *Comfort Women* (15% each)
- One bibliography of at least 25 sources on a topic of your choice related to the course (15%)

- One research presentation on a topic of your choice related to the course (25%)
- One take-home final (30%)

Grading Scale:

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|---------------------------|----------------|
| A | 93% and above |
| A- | 90--92.9% |
| B+ | 87—89.9% |
| B | 82—86.9% |
| B- | 79—81.9% |
| C+ | 77—78.9% |
| C | 74--76.9% |
| There is no C minus grade | |
| D | 70—73.9% |
| F | 65.9 and below |

Academic Honesty:

Good academic work must be based on honesty. The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offense. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are responsible for plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources without identifying and acknowledging those sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students responsible for, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, including cutting and pasting from an internet source without correctly citing the source OR directly or indirectly quoting from a written source without correctly citing the source, cheating on a quiz, or examination, will receive a grade of F for the course and will be reported to the University Authorities.

A faculty member has original jurisdiction over any instances of academic misconduct that occur in a course which the faculty member is teaching. The student shall be given the opportunity to resolve the matter in meetings with the faculty member and the department chair. If the facts of the incident are not disputed by the student, the faculty member may elect to resolve the matter at that level by levying a sanction no greater than an F for that course. The faculty member shall notify the student in writing whenever such action is taken, and the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct shall receive a copy of the Academic Misconduct Incident Report indicating final disposition of the case, which will be placed in the student's judicial file. In all matters where the charge of academic misconduct is disputed by the student or if the faculty member feels a sanction greater than an F in the course is appropriate (such as repeated offenses or flagrant violations), the faculty member shall refer the matter to the Office of Community Standards and Student Conduct making use of the

Academic Misconduct Incident Report. Additional sanctions greater than an F in a course can be levied only through the University Judicial System. With regards to finding the student either responsible or not responsible for his or her action, the ruling of the Judicial Hearing Board shall be binding. In cases where there is either a finding of responsibility or an admission of responsibility by the student, any recommendations by the hearing board regarding the course grade are non-binding on the instructor, who remains solely responsible for assigning a course grade, consistent with the policies set forth in the course syllabus.

Classroom Behavior:

Each participant in the course, staff and students, will respect the right of every individual to voice opinions, offer information, & reflect on readings whether or not she/he agrees with what is expressed. Please refrain from personal conversations for the duration of the class time. You will be asked to leave the classroom if you participate in behavior that distracts the instructor or other students.

Special Needs

If you are a student with a disability, please let me know in the first week so that we can design strategies that best suit your learning needs.

Weekly Meetings Schedule and Required Reading:

- 3 Feb** Introductions
- World War One: Winners, Losers and Legacies
- Leni Riefenstahl, *Triumph of the Will*
- Reading: Kennedy, *The Shock of War*, p. 1-12 and Collingham, *The Taste of War*, p. 1-88
- 10 Feb** Prelude to Global War: The Spanish Civil War, Abyssinia and the Occupation of Manchuria
- The World at War Series, Vol. 2 *Banzai: Japan 1931-1942*
- Class discussion of Collingham
- Reading: Collingham, *The Taste of War*, p. 89-154, Kennedy, *The Shock of War* p.13-48
- 17 Feb** Nazi Germany, Blitzkrieg and the Jewish Question
- Unlikely Allies: *Shanghai Ghetto*
- Reading: Klempner, *The Heart Has Reasons*, p1-100.

- 24 Feb** The Fall of France, the Occupation of Holland and the Battle of Britain
The Battle of Britain
Class discussion of Collingham
- Reading: Klemptner, *The Heart has Reasons*, p. 101-end.
- 2 Mar** Pearl Harbor and the Mobilization of the U.S.A
The World at War Series, Vol. 2 *On Our Way: U.S.A. 1939-1942*
Class discussion of Klemptner
- Reading: Collingham, *The Taste of War*, p. 155-218
 - **Book Review #1 due in class today**
- 9 Mar** The British Empire at War: Famine, Defeat and Uprising
Class discussion of Collingham
- Reading: Collingham, *The Taste of War*, p. 219-166, Kennedy, *The Shock of War*, p. 49-79
- 16 Mar** **Spring Break—no class**
- 23 Mar** **Research Week—no class**
- Reading: Browning, *Ordinary Men*, p. 1-100
 - **Bibliography due in class today.**
- 30 Mar** War in the East: Civilian Internment and Prisoners of War
Paradise Road
- Reading: Browning, *Ordinary Men*, p. 101-end
- 6 Apr** The Eastern Front: Stalingrad and the Beginning of the End
Enemy at the Gates
- Reading: Yoshiaki, *Comfort Women*, p. 1-99
- 13 Apr** Women and War: The United States, Japan and Canada
- Reading: Yoshiaki, *Comfort Women*, p. 100-end
- 20 Apr** Enigma, the Manhattan Project and the end of War
The Imitation Game
Class discussion of *Comfort Women*
- **Book Review #2 due in class today**

- Reading: Kennedy, p. 81-108.

27 Apr Research Presentations in Class Today

4 May War Criminals, Welfare States and the Cold War: Legacies of WWII

The Relief of Belsen

Class discussion of Kennedy

- Reading: Collingham, p. 268-316, Kennedy, p. 111-141.

11 May **No class meeting. Final exams due to instructor by 6.30pm via e-mail.**

Congratulations! You did it!