Fall 2012

HITO 133
War and Society: The Second World War

Room: Peterson 102
Time: Monday/Wednesday  5:00 – 6:20
Instructor: Ryan Zroka
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Office Hours: Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00, or by appointment
Course Website: http://rzroka.wordpress.com/

Course Summary

The Second World War is one of the most heavily studied events in modern history. Hundreds of books on the war are published each year. The history of the war, however, is most often told “from above” -- that is, focusing on the decisions of the most important military and political leaders. These sorts of histories have many strengths. They allow us to gain an overall impression of how the war unfolded, and to see how events fit together. But these histories also leave many things out. In particular, they tell us little about how the war affected the many ordinary individuals who were a part of it. This course aims to bring the experiences of these ordinary people to light.

The larger aim of the course is not simply to catalog the sufferings of ordinary men and women -- though such sufferings should not be forgotten. Rather, the aim is to understand the place of ordinary individuals in the larger story of the war. How were their lives shaped by their experiences in wartime? And how did these experiences lay the foundation for more far-reaching social and cultural changes? How, we also ask, did the choices of these individuals shape the larger history of the war? How did their beliefs and preferences influence the decisions of their leaders -- and how did they alter or resist policies with which they disagreed? How and why were they a party to acts of violence and murder? It is these kinds of questions that will guide our discussions in this course.
Assigned Texts and Readings:

There are two assigned texts for the course, which are available at the UCSD bookstore:

*Hitler's Army*, by Omer Bartov  
*Slaughterhouse-Five*, by Kurt Vonnegut

In an effort to reduce textbook costs, all the other readings are available in electronic format, either as an e-reserve through library, or through another website, as noted on the syllabus. Articles on e-reserve can be accessed at http://reserves.ucsd.edu. The password is rz133.

To view most of the online readings from your home computer, you will need to have set up a UCSD web proxy server. If you need instructions on how to do this, see libraries.ucsd.edu/proxy (Setting this up is actually a snap, it takes only a minute or two).

Assignments and Course Requirements

Midterm Exam (35%)

The midterm exam will be in take-home format. It will consist of several short essay questions. The questions will be distributed on Monday of week five (October 29th). The exam will be due on Monday of week six (November 5th).

Analysis of a First-Person Account (15%)

This assignment will require you to examine a first-person account of the war – either a diary, collection of letters, or an oral account. You will do a 2-3 page write-up, based on your analysis. This will be due on the last day of lecture, which is Wednesday December 5th. Complete instructions for the assignment will provided in a separate handout. They are also posted on the course website.

Final Exam (50%)

There will be an in-class final examination, given on Thursday, December 13th. The final exam will consist of a short essay and long-essay questions.
Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

**Week One**

Monday, October 1st -- Depression and Extremism: The Origins of the Second World War
Readings: “The Great Inflation” and “The Culture Wars,” by Richard Evans (e-reserve)

Wednesday, October 3rd -- The Outbreak of War and the German Blitzkrieg
Readings: No Readings

**Week Two**

Monday, October 8th -- The Widening War
Readings: “Survival Strategies in Leningrad during the First Year of the Soviet German War” by Richard Bidlack (e-reserve)

Wednesday, October 10th -- The Soldiers’ War
Readings: “The Black Ways of War,” by Catherine Merridale (e-reserve)
   “Chickenshit, an Anatomy,” and “The Ideological Vacuum,” by Paul Fussel (e-reserve)

**Week Three**

Monday, October 15th -- Why Do They Fight? Soldiers’ Morale and Motivation
Readings: Hitler’s Army, by Omer Bartov

Wednesday, October 17th -- Soviet Society at War
Readings: "Living and Surviving in Occupied Minsk" by Ute Gartenschlaeger (e-reserve)

**Week Four**

Monday, October 22nd -- British Society at War
Readings: Selections from Living Through the Blitz, by Tom Harrison (e-reserve)

Wednesday, October 24th -- American Society at War
Readings: "Westward the Course of Empire," by Alistaire Cooke (e-reserve)

**Week Five**

Monday, October 29th -- Allied Bombing
Readings: "Protection" by Joerg Friedrich (e-reserve)
_Midterm Exam Distributed_
Wednesday, October 31st – Nazi Society at War
Readings: No Readings

Week Six

Monday, November 5th – The Holocaust
Readings: “One Day in Jozefow,” by Christopher Browning
Midterm Exam Due

Wednesday, November 7th – Eastern Europe under Nazi Occupation
Readings: preface to The Bloodlands, by Timothy Snyder

Week Seven

Wednesday, November 14th – Western Europe under Nazi Occupation
Readings: "Resistance, Reprisals, and Community in Occupied France," by Robert Gildea
(available at jstor.org)

Week Eight

Monday, November 19th – The Destruction of the Third Reich and the End of the War
Readings: Selections from Backing Hitler, by Robert Gellately (e-reserve)

Wednesday, November 21st – Reordering Europe
Readings: “Societies of the Uprooted,” by Richard Bessel (e-reserve)

Week Nine

Monday, November 26th – The Costs of War
Readings: "Something has Gone Wrong Inside my Head," by Alan Allport (e-reserve)

Wednesday, November 28th – War and Social Change
Readings: Selections from Russia After the War, by Elena Zubkova (e-reserve)

Week Ten

Monday, December 3 – Cultural Responses to the War
Readings: Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut

Wednesday, December 5th – Remembering the War
Readings: “The Past is Another Country,” by Tony Judt
(e-book http://quod.lib.umich.edu/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=acls;idno=heb04986)
Finals Week

Thursday, December 14\textsuperscript{th} – Final Exam (7:00 – 9:50 pm)