

BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM
World War II, The European Theatre
HIST 5003 SYLLABUS

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Nature of the Course:

The class is a study of the military, political, and social prosecution of World War II by the leading combatants. It is a special opportunity for students to gain hands-on experiences and insights in one of the great international cities of the world, London. Students will have access to vestiges of the last great war (1939-1945), be it classic tanks, planes, or war sites. Both the National Archives and the Imperial War Museum have unmatched archival source material over the conflict. Finally, the course is divided into 1/3 lecture by the professor of record; 1/3 guest lectures; 1/3 on-sight visits.

Tentative Schedule:

AM - Class Orientation
PM - Free Time

AM - World War II: An Introduction
PM - Causes of World War II

AM - Duxford Aviation and Land Warfare Museum
PM - Visit to Cambridge and US War Cemetery

AM - The Fall of Western Europe
PM - National Army Museum

AM - Battle of Britain
PM - Battle of Atlantic

AM - North Africa and the Balkans
PM - Tour of the Houses of Parliament

AM/PM - Visit to Bletchly Park - all day

AM- The Russian Front
PM - The National Archives

AM - Visit to Parliament
PM - Britain During the War

AM - Imperial War Museum
PM - HMS Belfast

AM/PM - D-Day Museum, Dover - all day

AM - Invasion of Normandy
PM - RAF Museum, Hendon

AM - The Final Solution
PM - Research Time

Mini-Break:

AM - Visit to World War II Cabinet Rooms
PM - Research Time

AM - The Final Defeat of Germany
PM - Research Time

EXAM*

*Adjustments may have to be made regarding schedule.

Field Trips:

Historical field trips form an integral part of the class. In order to get a feel for history, it is necessary to visit World War II related sites, across England. These would include Duxford Air Base, the Cabinet War Rooms, Bletchly Park, Parliament, and the D-Day Museum at Dover.

Readings:

Graduate students are required to read two WWII –based monographs. In turn, they will write two book reviews over the readings.

Research Paper:

Graduate student will produce a twenty page paper based in part on primary source material drawn largely from the British National Archives. Topics will be chosen in conjunction with the Professor of Record who will aid in the research. The Research Paper will be due until October 1.

Grading:

Graduate Students will take an essay based final exam. The material will be drawn from the lectures, discussions, and field trips. The exam will be 50% of the final grade. Another 40% will deal with class participation.