

BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM
WORLD WAR II, THE EUROPEAN THEATRE
HISTORY 4933

Dr Dirk Lindemann

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Nature of the Course:

The class is a study of the military, political, and social prosecution of WWII by the leading European 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.

Course Objectives:

- To develop an understanding of the variegated and sometimes complex activities and relationships of the various belligerents and their leaders
- To spur critical thinking and lively discussion over the major events and controversial issues of the war.
- To develop an appreciation of the unique British wartime predicaments and how the nation came to meet and overcome those challenges.
- To further develop one’s research skills concerning primary resource documents at the British Archives.

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 WWII related sites, across England. These would include Duxford Air Base, the Cabinet War Rooms, Bletchly Park, Parliament, and the D-Day Tunnels and Museum at Dover.

Readings:

Students are expected to complete a number of readings for the course. Students will read a monograph on a particular aspect of the war. In turn, they will write a book review over the readings during their time in London.

Research Paper:

Each student will produce a ten to fifteen 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 not be due until October 1.

Exam and Grading:

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.

Class Participation:

Class attendance is mandatory. Each un-excused absence will result in the reduction of a final letter grade. Discussion and questions are encouraged during each session. Finally, students will be held accountable for all material present in class.

History 5003 – Graduate Level

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 students 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 on October 1.

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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 Bletchley 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