

History 451/551: The United States and the Second World War

Winter 2008

MW 12:00-13:20

Professor: Glenn Anthony May (gmay@uoregon.edu)

Office hours: MW 13:30-15:00 (381 McKenzie)

Note: Be sure to read the next three sentences carefully. I have discovered over the years that some students sign up for this course under the incorrect impression that it deals exclusively with diplomatic history. In fact, about half of the content is diplomatic and about half is military. If you are not interested in military history, you would be wise to take another course.

Content: This course focuses on the role of the United States in World War II. After examining the causes of U.S. entry into the conflict, it surveys military and diplomatic developments from Pearl Harbor to Hiroshima. While the course devotes primary attention to the United States, the policies and perspectives of America's allies and antagonists are examined as well.

Format: The class will meet twice a week. Most of those sessions will be devoted to lectures, but there will be a number of discussions of assigned readings, and, if time permits, a film or two.

Reading: The following books are required and can be purchased at the U of O Bookstore:

1. W. Murray and A. Millett, A WAR TO BE WON
2. Robert Dallek, FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT AND AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY
3. John W. Dower, WAR WITHOUT MERCY
4. Gavan Daws, PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE

Course Requirements: There will be a few quizzes, a short (5-page) paper, and a final exam. The final will not be cumulative: it will cover only those topics dealt with after the midterm. I give make-up exams and grant incompletes only in extraordinary circumstances.

Both exams will be essay tests. The final will not be cumulative; it will deal only with topics covered since the midterm.

Calculation of Final Grades: Midterm, 25%; Paper, 25%; Final, 25%; Class performance (including participation in discussions), 25%.

Paper: Information about the paper will be forthcoming. It will be due on March 3, 2008.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READING ASSIGNMENTS, ETC.

Part I--Chronological period covered: 1933 to mid-1943

Readings assigned for Part I:

1. Murray and Millett: skim 1-142; read carefully 143-303.
2. Dallek, 78-405.
3. Dower, ix-200.

M	Jan.	7	Orientation: Ends and Means of Nazi Germany
W	Jan.	9	Retreat from Isolationism in Europe (1)
M	Jan.	14	Retreat from Isolationism in Europe (2)
W	Jan.	16	Road to Pearl Harbor (1)
M	Jan.	21	*NO CLASS: MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY
W	Jan.	23	Road to Pearl Harbor (2)
M	Jan.	28	Pacific Theater
W	Jan.	30	Discussion of Dower, <u>War Without Mercy</u> , through p. 200
M	Feb.	4	North Africa; Sicily
W	Feb.	6	Diplomatic Problems
M	Feb.	11	***MIDTERM (covering all lectures, required readings, discussions, etc. up to this point in the course)

Part II--Chronological period covered: mid-1943 to Autumn of 1945

Readings assigned for Part II:

1. Murray and Millett, 304-576.
2. Dallek, 406-538.
3. Dower, 203-317.
4. Daws, entire book.

W	Feb.	13	European Theater (1)
M	Feb.	18	European Theater (2)
W	Feb.	20	Pacific Theater (1)
M	Feb.	25	Pacific Theater (2)
W	Mar.	27	The Bomb
M	Mar.	3	**Discussion of Daws, <u>Prisoners of the Japanese</u> . Papers are due!!
W	Mar.	5	Diplomacy with the Soviets (1)
M	Mar.	10	Diplomacy with the Soviets (2)
W	Mar.	12	Diplomacy concerning the Jews

FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, March 18, 2008, 10:15 a.m. The final covers all lectures, reading assignments, discussions, etc. in Part II of the course.