

**IS 123 World War II**  
**Europe Semester, Fall 2020**  
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**Major Themes for 2020 Europe Semester**

Technology  
War and Peace  
Global Narratives in Literature  
Current issues in Europe

**Overview of Course**

World War II had its roots in the end of the first World War (the war to end all wars) and left its imprint on the rest of the century (Marshall Plan, formation of Israel, the Cold War and the atomic age). We will study WWII chronologically with an emphasis on the European campaign but will include the lead-up to war, the war in the Pacific and the aftermath of the war. But as we travel through the di/F.00000912 0 612 792 retpm

## **Topics**

Topics for reading, writing, and discussion will include:

- Treaty of Versailles
- Hitler's rise to power in Germany
- Chamberlin's peace agreement at Munich
- Invasion of Poland
- The Failure of the Maginot Line and the Fall of Belgium and France
- Battle of Britain
- America first: the isolation movement
- Russia and the two Front War
- Lend-Lease and the U-Boats of the North Atlantic
- Code Breaking
- Pearl Harbor and Midway
- Charles deGaulle, Jean Moulin and the French Resistance
- The Holocaust and the Wannsee Conference
- Rommel and the North Africa Campaign
- From D-Day to the Battle of the Bulge
- Island hopping in the Pacific: Iwo Jima and Okinawa
- The Manhattan Project: Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- The Yalta Conference
- The Marshall Plan: rebuilding the defeated nations
- The formation of Israel
- The Cold War and the Atomic Age

## **General Education**

This course satisfies the General Education requirement "Thinking Historically." The

In this course there will be an emphasis on distinguishing primary from secondary sources and, as noted below, one of the papers should emphasize primary sources.

**Primary Reading List:**

**Richard Overy. *Why the Allies Won*, 1995**



unity or disunity? Analyze the choices they made: were they wise, how else could they have proceeded? Don't just focus on what happened but why.

World War II: A chronology of the war: Here, either individually or in small groups, different phases of the war will be investigated (i.e. U-boats, codebreaking, invasions, the underground, Navy, Air Force, Manhattan project, or life in the nations, political decisions being made, etc.....). We will start with the inter-war period from WWI to WWII and go through the Cold War. There will be three essays total. Two of the essays will be roughly 1-3 pages (depending on how many writers) while the third will be an extended essay (2-6 pages, or roughly two pages per person). They will