**The United States and the Second World War**

**BBN-AME17-322.24**



**Course Description:** The aim of this course is to examine the participation of the United States in the single greatest military conflict in human history. From its transition to superpower during the 1920s and a return to isolationist tendencies to active military engagement in two theaters of war, the course will focus not only the combat of the American armed forces in the war but the sacrifices and social changes that the war brought upon on the home front as well. Furthermore, this class with discuss the rise of political ideologies in post-WWI states that resulted in war on global scale and the aggressive actions of these states that plunged the world into chaos.

**Attendance:** Come to every single class on Microsoft teams. The university allows you to miss three classes, if you miss four you fail for the entire semester. I take a note of all late students. Three late occasions equal one missed class. It adds up very quickly, so arrange your matters accordingly. It is your responsibility to know how many classes you have missed and how many times you have been late. I will not remind you at every class.

The rules of class etiquette apply even on Microsoft teams. If I see you using your phone in class you will be marked absent. That includes taking notes. Please refrain from checking your email or Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc during class. If you attend my lectures while laying down in bed that’s an absence. If I find you not paying attention during class and looking at other stuff on your chosen piece of technology you will be sent out of the room. If your mind is not on the class there is no reason for you to be there, bothering others who want to pay attention and learn. And please keep your pets at bay and absent from the lectures. Too, too many cat sighting last semester.

**Expectations**: You will attend all scheduled lectures, as any information that is discussed in lectures or presentations is viable for the midterm and final. All assigned reading will be done in advance of the class, as any information found there will also appear on the mid-term and final.

**Evaluation:**

-1,000-1,500 word essay on a topic regarding the conflict. This essay can tactical, biographical, political, or social in nature. – 20%

-Mid-Term Exam – 30%

-End of Term Final Exam - 50%

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| **Date** | **Topic of Lecture** |
| **Sept. 10** | **Us and the World Between the Wars – 1920s** |
| **Sept. 17** | **Us and the World Between the Wars – 1930s** |
| **Sept. 24** | **A World at War (1939-1941)** |
| **Oct. 1** | **An End to Isolationism - America Enters the War** |
| **Oct. 8** | **Combat at Last: North Africa and the Boot** |
| **Oct. 15** | **Battle for the Atlantic: Convoys vs. the Wolfpacks** |
| **Oct. 22** | **Mid-Term Exam** |
| **Oct. 29** | **No Class (Fall Break)** |
| **Nov. 5** | **Attacking Fortress Europe: From the Beachhead to Berlin** |
| **Nov. 12** | **The End of the Reich and V-E Day** |
| **Nov. 19** | **The Pacific Theater – The Sleeping Giant Awakes** |
| **Nov. 26** | **McCarthy Returns and America Tightens the Noose: Island Hopping** |
| **Dec. 3** | **Taking the Fight to Japan: The Home Islands Under Siege** |
| **Dec. 10** | **Unleashing Hell and a New Age of War: Japan Capitulates** |

\* The Final Exam in this Class will be on Moodle and will be administered the week following the last lecture. I will give updates to this as we get closer.