

HIST 6601.601  
 Spring 2011  
 Liberal Arts Lounge  
 Th 6:00 – 8:45 pm  
 Office Hours: Th 5:00 – 7:00 pm or by appointment  
 Tel: 504-28-3223 e-mail: [gjbischo@uno.edu](mailto:gjbischo@uno.edu)

Dr. Günter Bischof

## ***New Perspectives on the Era of World War II***

Interest in World War II has seen a tremendous revival recently around the world. 50-year anniversaries and the opening of the Holocaust Museum have kept the fascination with this brutal war alive in the U.S. In New Orleans it surely is due to the opening of the National D-Day Museum. In Switzerland, Germany and Austria international and American demands for restitution to victims of Swiss banking practices and survivors of the holocaust and forced laborers have kept the war alive in the press. Japanese refusal to confront its World War II crimes have upset formerly occupied nations throughout East Asia.

This course wants to cover some exciting recent writings on World War II. We want to read some major World War II biographies but also the lives of some local soldiers. Major crimes against humanity are another important subject matter as are ending the war and early postwar occupations as well as memories of the war.

### **Course Readings**

- Jeffrey Herf. *The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press Pb. 2006
- Ian Kershaw. *Hitler: 1935-945: Nemesis*. New York: W.W. Norton Pb 2001
- Simon Sebag Montefiori. *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar*. New York: Vintage pb 2003
- Christopher R. Browning. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*. New York: Harper Perennial Pb 1993
- Joanna Burke. *An Intimate History of Killing: Face to Face Killing in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Warfare*. New York: Basic Pb 1999
- Paul Fussell. *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*. New York: Oxford University Press Pb 1990
- Elisabeth Mullener. *War Stories: Remembering World War II*. Baton Rouge: Berkley Tade Pb 2004
- John W. Dower. *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor/Hiroshima/9-11/Iraq*. New York: W.W. Norton
- William I. Hitchcock. *The Bitter Road to Freedom: The Human Cost of Allied Victory in*

*World War II Europe*. New York: Free Press Pb 2008

Ronald H. Spector. *In the Ruins of Empire: The Japanese Surrender and the Battle of Postwar Asia*. New York: Random House Trade Pb. 2007

Konrad H. Jarausch. *After Hitler: Recivilizing the Germans, 1945-1955*. New York: Oxford University Press Pb 2006

Richard Breitman and Norman J.W. Goda, *Hitler's Shadow: Nazi War Criminals, U.S. Intelligence, and the Cold War*. Washington: National Archives 2010  
<http://www.archives.gov/iwg/reports/hitlers-shadow.pdf>

### **World War II Histories to Be Reviewed**

- Gerhard Weinberg. *A World At Arms: A Global History of World War II*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Cambridge: Cambridge UP 2005
- Norman Davis. *Europe at War 1939-1945: No Simple Victory*. New York: Pan Pb 2007
- Williamson Murray & Allen Millett. *A War to Be Won: Fighting the Second World War*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press 2001
- Gordon Wright. *The Ideal of Total War*. New York: Waveland Press 2007
- Martin Gilbert. *The Second World War: A Complete History*. Rev. Ed. New York: Holt Pb 2007
- John Keegan. *The Second World War*. New York: Penguin 2005
- Richard Overy. *Why the Allies Won the War*. New York: W.W. Norton 1997
- Ronald H. Spector. *Eagle Against the Sun: The American War With Japan*. New York: Vintage Pb 1995.
- David Kennedy. *The American People in World War II Freedom from Fear Part 2* (The Oxford history of the United States, vol. 0. New York Oxford UP 1999.
- Donald L. Miller. *The Story of World War II*. Revised, expanded, and updated from the original text by Henry Steele Commanger. New York: Simon and Schuster 2002.
- Timothy Snyder. *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*. New York: Basic Books 2010

### **Grading**

2 Papers	60 %
Class participation	40 %

### **Attendance Policy**

Students have to attend ALL class lectures; unexcused absences will result in one grade drop per unexcused absence; a class can only be excused by contacting the instructor in advance (phone or e-mail)

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism (including copying work from the Internet!), tampering with academic records and examinations, falsifying identity, and being accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information. The Code is available online at [http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial\\_code\\_pts.htm](http://www.uno.edu/~stlf/policy%20Manual/judicial_code_pts.htm).

## Students with Disabilities

Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services (UC 260) each semester and follow their procedures for obtaining assistance.

## Student Learning Objective

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to

- ◆ Understand how the major theaters of war related to each other
- ◆ Have a basic understanding for what motivated the fighting soldiers in the field and how the brutality of war affects individuals for their entire lives
- ◆ Comprehend the enormity of the Hitler's genocidal regime, the brutality of Japanese militarism, and how the victorious democratic nations too were increasingly drawn into unethical practices during this most destructive war ("war without mercy")
- ◆ Appreciate the surge of *World War II war crimes* and their (non)persecution after the war
- ◆ Understand a *biographical* approach to World War II – both major political figures and the common soldier and civilian
- ◆ Develop a basic sense of major *historiographical* developments
- ◆ Understand how the *legacies and memories* of World War II powerfully linger – and affect individuals and nations -- to this day

## ***WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS***

Jan 20            Introduction of Themes

Hand out World War II History Textbooks

Choose World War II History for Review at End of the Semester

- Jan 27      **George Windell Distinguished Lecture Series, National WW II Museum, 7 pm**  
 Jeffrey Herf, Professor of History, University of Maryland, College Park  
*"Nazi Propaganda and Policy toward North Africa and the Middle East During World War II and the Holocaust: New Research about Old Questions"*
- Fri Jan 28      **Guest Lecture: Extra Session with Dr. Jeffrey Herf** on his book  
 READ: *The Jewish Enemy: Nazi Propaganda during World War II and the Holocaust*
- Feb 3      **3:30 pm: Meet at the National World War II Museum's Louisiana Pavilion**  
**Archivist Lindsey Barnes and Staff of the NWWIIM will give an introduction to the special collections and archival holdings**
- BIOGRAPHY I**  
 READ: Kershaw. *Hitler: 1935-945: Nemesis*
- Feb 10      **BIOGRAPHY II**  
 READ: Montefiori. *Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar*
- Feb 17      **WAR I: The "Greatest Generation"?** American Soldier in World War II  
 READ: Dower. *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor/Hiroshima/9-11/Iraq*  
 Fussell, *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*
- Feb 24      **WAR II : War = Killing**  
 READ: Burke. *An Intimate History of Killing: Face to Face Killing in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Warfare*
- Mar 3      **Guest Lecture: Dr. Marline Otte, Tulane University**  
 War and Photography  
 READ:
- Mar 10      **Spring Break – No Class**
- Mar 17      **WAR III: World War II in New Orleans**  
**Guest Lecture: Elisabeth Mullener**  
 READ: Mullener. *War Stories: Remembering World War II*

**Paper I Due (8 pages):** The National World War II Museum as a Repository of American Soldiers' Personal Papers – Choose one

collection and write a biography of an American WW II Soldier

**Background Reading:** Robert Janous. “‘The War Comes First’: Lt. Col. Francis Carroll Grevemberg and the Development of a World War II Antiaircraft Artillery Officer,” UNO M.A. Thesis 2010

### **Brief Class Presentation of Papers**

- Mar 24      WAR CRIMES I: The Holocaust  
 READ: Browning. *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*
- Mar 31      The American Conquest of Hitler’s “Fortress Europe” and Its Impact on the Local Civilian Populations:  
 READ: Hitchcock. *The Bitter Road to Freedom: The Human Cost of Allied Victory in World War II Europe*
- Apr 7      War and Occupation & Liberation: The Japanese Empire after Defeat:  
 READ: Dower, *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor/Hiroshima/9-11/Iraq Spector, In the Ruins of Empire: The Japanese Surrender and the Battle of Postwar Asia*
- Apr 14      The Third Reich after Defeat: Postwar in Germany  
 READ: Jarausch, *After Hitler: Recivilizing the Germans, 1945-1955*
- Apr 21      **Guest Speaker: Dr. Allan Millett, UNO**  
*The Writing of World War II History Textbooks*
- Apr 28      WAR CRIMES II: The U.S. & Nazi War Criminals  
 READ: Breitman/Goda, *Hitler’s Shadow: Nazi War Criminals, U.S. Intelligence, and the Cold War*  
<http://www.archives.gov/iwg/reports/hitlers-shadow.pdf>
- Paper II Due (8 pages):** Analysis of World War II History Textbook: Pros & Cons? Themes & narratives missing?
- May 5      Memories and Lessons of World War II  
 READ: Dower, *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbor/Hiroshima/9-11/Iraq*

Günter Bischof , “Victims? Perpetrators? "Punching Bags" of European Historical Memory? The Austrians and Their World War II Legacies, *German Studies Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (Feb. 2004): 17-32

John Bodnar , “Saving Private Ryan and Postwar Memory in America,” *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 106, No. 3 (June 2001): 805-817