

HSTR 115: The Second World War

BJC McKercher, FRHistS

TWF: 12:30-1:20 PM

Office: CLE B226

Office hours: TWF: 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM

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Course Description:

This course examines the history of the Second World – its origins, course, and ending. Apart from its important military dimension on land, air, and sea, this war had other equally crucial elements: intra-allied diplomacy, the development of war aims, the question of ideology versus national interest, economics and finance, race, the impact of fighting on societies in Europe and East Asia, and the importance of personality and policy. Unlike the First World War, the Second was a truly global struggle, a total war that proved especially lethal to civilian populations. Understanding how and why it was fought and the policies that the war lords in each major belligerent Power pursued is fundamental to the course of international relations history in the twentieth century.

Requirements:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----|
| 1. Research Proposal and Bibliography | due 31 January 2020 | 15% |
| 2. Research Paper | | |

double-spaced text) to explain the research
 research paper. It must include an initial
 of course, as you research and write the
 e; if you decide to change your topic, no
 ne so that we can go over it and ensure

s in length, including notes (about 10 to
 – I will not

¹ The bibliography – which must be included – is not part of the word count. It can be on any topic you want in terms of the general subjects

covered in the course. If you have any questions or seek clarification on any issue dealing with the term papers, please see me. My office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM. But if these times are difficult for you, I can make special arrangements to see you at any time.

I want you to treat these papers seriously. Not only do they allow you to write about an issue you find interesting, they will give you an opportunity to think, research, and write in a historical way. If possible, although this might be difficult in some instances, I would like you to use . Primary materials are documents like diaries, letters, official despatches, telegrams, speeches, newspapers, and so on written at the time. Our Library here is amongst the best in Canada in its holdings of such materials, many of which have been published in book form. If you feel especially adventurous, you might wish to look at microfilm, but I leave this to you. Late papers will be penalized 5% for each day.

Exams:

The final examination will be in essay format and will draw upon material from lectures and readings. Examination grades will be determined by the directness, pertinence, and comprehensiveness of each answer. Makeup examinations will be possible only in cases of a documented medical or family emergency.

Readings

It is up to you to read the sections of the textbook that relate to the topics covered in lectures. Our text is Gerhard Weinberg,

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Topic 7 Meeting the Crisis: The Phoney War and Anglo-French-German Relations,
October 1939-

Topic 27 Cross-