

Syllabus

Course title History of the Second World War

Course Code

Course Status Faculty of Humanities, MA

Course Duration One Semester

ECTS Number of Credits – 5, Contact Hours – 45.

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Course Goals World War II is the most tragic page in the human history. 50 million people, much more than in any other war, were killed during the Second World War. The course will help you to understand what were the reasons of the Second World War, who were guilty in undoing the war, how did they come to power, etc. Want to find answers on these and many other questions regarding the Second World War? Then you are in a right place. You will learn the course of war, the basic operations, wartime diplomacy among the anti-German coalition. This course also will help you meet other goals, like an ability to inquire, think and analyze, an understanding of human behaviour.

Course Preconditions Knowledge of English

Course Format Distance Learning

Week #	Lectures/Exams	Reading Materials
Week 1	Lecture 1: Introduction	
	Lecture 2: After the First World War a) Versailles Treaty and creation of the Versailles system; b) Situation in Germany; c) Italy: Revival of Imperial Ideals; d) The Soviet Dilemma; e) Britain and France after the World War I; f) Isolationism in the USA.	Winston S. Churchill. The Gathering Storm. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1948, pp. 3-37. E-reserve in the library

	<p>Lecture 3: Situation in the Far East</p> <p>a) Japan goals. The “Tanaka Memoranda”;</p> <p>b) Attack on Manchuria. Establishment of the Puppet Government;</p> <p>c) Reaction of League of Nations;</p> <p>d) Further Aggression in China;</p> <p>e) The Conference at Brussels.</p>	<p>Frederick W. Marks III. Wind Over Sand: The Diplomacy of Franklin Roosevelt. Athens: University of Georgia Press, c1987, pp. 40-76. E-reserve.</p>
Week 2	<p>Lecture 4: Hitler’s Rise to Power</p> <p>a) Foundation of the National-Socialist German Workers’ Party;</p> <p>b) The “Beer Hall Putsch”;</p> <p>c) Rebirth of National-Socialists as a Political Force;</p> <p>d) Hitler’s Party – the Major Party of Germany;</p> <p>e) Hitler’s Appointment as a Chancellor of Germany;</p> <p>f) Last Steps towards Absolute Dictatorship (the Reichstag Case, the Night of Long Knives).</p>	<p>Winston S. Churchill. The Gathering Storm, pp. 52-71, 94-102. E-reserve.</p>
	<p>Lecture 5: Hitler’s First Steps at the International Scene</p> <p>a) Germany’s Rearmament;</p> <p>b) Hitler’ First Try to Anschluss Austria. Mussolini’s Opposition;</p> <p>c) Plebiscite in Saarland;</p> <p>d) Anglo-German Naval Agreement;</p> <p>e) Remilitarisation of Rhineland.</p>	<p>Joachim C. Fest. Hitler. Translated from the German by Richard and Clara Winston. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1974, pp. 487-499. E-reserve.</p>
	<p>Lecture 6: Aggression Begins</p> <p>a) Italo-Abyssinian War and World’s Reaction;</p> <p>b) Civil War in Spain. Germany and Italy Becoming Allies. Creation of Axis;</p> <p>c) The Anti-Comintern Pact;</p> <p>d) Anschluss of Austria.</p>	<p>Joachim C. Fest. Hitler, pp. 499-505, 543-550. E-reserve.</p>
	<p>Lecture 7: Policy of Appeasement</p> <p>a) The Sudet Crisis;</p> <p>b) Chamberlain – the Main Appeaser;</p> <p>c) Conference in Munich. Hitler’s Diplomatic Victory;</p> <p>d) The Seize of Czechoslovakia by Hitler in March 1939;</p> <p>e) Polish Guarantees.</p>	<p>Telford Taylor. Munich: The Price of the Peace. New York: Doubleday & Company, 1979, pp. 1-34. E-reserve.</p>

Week 3	<p>Lecture 8: The Nazi-Soviet Pact. The beginning of the War</p> <p>a) British-French-Soviet Negotiations in 1939; b) German-Soviet Negotiations; c) August 23, 1939 Pact. d) Gliwice (Gleiwitz) Incident and the Beginning of the War.</p>	
	<p>Lecture 9: War in Poland, Winter War in Finland and the Phoney War in the West</p> <p>a) Collapse of Polish Army; b) Formal War in West; c) Soviets overtaking Eastern Poland; d) September 28, 1939 Soviet-German Agreement; e) Soviet "Agreements" with Baltic States, Finns' Refusal; f) "Winter War"; g) Germans taking Denmark and Norway.</p>	Keegan, pp. 44-51; Henri Michel. The Second World War. New York: Praeger, 1974, pp. 29-40, 70-79. E-reserve.
Week 4	<p>Lecture 10: End of the Phoney War. The Collapse of France</p> <p>a) German Decision to outflank Maginot Line; b) Invasion of Holland and Belgium; c) French Mistakes; d) The Dunkirk Evacuation; e) Change of Government in France; f) Armistice; g) Division of France. De Gaulle Movement Established in London.</p>	Keegan, Chapter 3, pp. 54-87.
	<p>The First Midterm Exam (Lectures 2-10)</p>	
	<p>Lecture 11: The Battle of Britain</p> <p>a) Churchill's Decision to Continue Fight; b) Lend-Lease; c) Operation "Sea-Lion"; d) The "Blitz"; e) Britain Victorious in Air; f) Failure of Invasion Plans.</p>	Keegan, Chapter 4, pp. 88-102.

Week 5	<p>Lecture 12: War in Balkans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Mussolini's Greek Venture; b) Greek Counter-Offensive; c) The Yugoslav Resistance; d) Germans Crushing Yugoslavia and Greece; e) The Battle of Crete. 	Keegan, Chapters 7 and 8, pp. 142-172.
	<p>Lecture 13: The Beginning of German-Soviet War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Hitler's Decision; b) Stalin's Decision; c) German Plans; d) Soviet Plans; e) Last Days before War; f) Surprise German Attack on June 22, 1941. 	Keegan, pp. 127-141; Albert Weeks. Stalin's other war: Soviet grand strategy, 1939-1941. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002, pp. 84-110. E-reserve.
	<p>Lecture 14: The First Phase of German-Soviet War – June-December 1941. The Formation of Grand Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) German Blitzkrieg; b) Britain and the USA – Soviet Allies; c) The Atlantic Conference; d) Fall of Kiev; e) Battle for Leningrad; f) Germans Approaching Moscow; g) The Soviet Counter-Offensive. 	Keegan, pp. 180-210.
	<p>Lecture 15: Situation in the Far East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Roosevelt's policy toward Japan; b) Hull-Nomura Negotiations; c) Japan and Soviet Union. April 13, 1941 Pact; d) Japanese Plans; e) Roosevelt's Expectations; f) Pearl-Harbour. 	Frederick W. Marks III. Wind Over Sand: The Diplomacy of Franklin Roosevelt. pp. Athens: University of Georgia Press, c1987, pp. 77-119; Joseph E. Persico. Roosevelt's Secret War: FDR and World War II espionage. New York : Random House, c2001, pp. 134-156. E-reserve.

Week 6	<p>Lecture 16: War in Pacific – December 1941-May 1942</p> <p>a) Battle for Philippines; b) The Conquest of Malaya and Singapore; c) The Conquest of the Dutch East Indies; d) The Burma Campaign; e) Creation of Japan’s Defensive Perimeter.</p>	Keegan, pp. 256-267.
	<p>Lecture 17: War in Africa – April 1941-October 1942</p> <p>a) Warfare from April to November 1941; b) Auchinleck’s Attack; c) Rommel’s Counter-Offensive; d) Tobruk; e) Egypt in Danger; f) Alexander and Montgomery – New British Commanders; g) Pause at El-Alamein. Preparations for the Decisive Battle.</p>	Keegan, pp. 320-344.
Week 7	<p>Lecture 18: The Second Front Now!</p> <p>a) Arcadia Conference; b) London Talks; c) Soviets’ Demand. Molotov’s Journey; d) Roosevelt’s Promise and Soviet-British Agreement; e) The Second Washington Conference f) Decision to Invade Northern Africa; g) Churchill’s visit to Moscow and Talks with Stalin.</p>	Winston S. Churchill. The Hinge of Fate. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1951, pp. 472-502. E-reserve.
	<p>Lecture 19: Warfare at the Eastern Front during 1942 (till November)</p> <p>a) German Spring Offensive; b) German Plans for the Decisive Victory in East; c) Summer Offensive. The Soviets at the edge of Defeat; d) Beginning of Partisan warfare; e) German Occupation in the USSR.</p>	Keegan, pp. 220-234.

	<p>Lecture 20: Europe under German Rule</p> <p>a) German Rule in Poland; b) German Rule in Czechoslovakia; c) Germans in France, Netherlands and Belgium; d) German Rule in the Soviet Union; e) Jewish Question. The “Final Solution”; f) Germans and the Balkan Countries; g) Germany and Its Satellites.</p>	H. Michel. The Second World War, pp. 258-292. E-reserve.
Week 8	<p>The Second Midterm Exam (Lectures 11-20)</p> <p>Lecture 21: The Battle of Stalingrad</p> <p>a) Soviet Preparations for Counter-Offensive; b) Soviet Attack Begins; c) German Sixth Army Encircled; d) Manstein’s Offensive. Its Failure; e) Paulus’ Army Surrenders; f) The Importance of the Soviet Victory.</p>	H. Michel. The Second World War, pp. 394-414. E-reserve.
	<p>Lecture 22: Operation “Torch”. Allied Victory in Africa</p> <p>a) Allied Plans. Preparation for Torch; b) Battle of El-Alamein; c) Invasion; d) German Occupation of Vichy France; e) Darlan Problem; f) Final Battles in Africa. Surrender of Axis Forces.</p>	H. Michel. The Second World War, pp. 376-394, 487-494. E-reserve.
	<p>Lecture 23: Warfare at the Eastern Front during 1943. Battle of the Kursk</p> <p>a) Soviet and German Spring Offensives; b) Operation “Citadel”; c) Soviet Counter-Offensive; d) Prokhorovka Battle – the Greatest Tank Battle in World History; e) The Soviet Autumn Offensive; f) The German Counter-Offensive and Its Failure.</p>	Keegan, pp. 450-483.

Week 9	<p>Lecture 24: Anglo-American War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Conference at Casablanca. Unconditional Surrender Principle Adoption; b) Allied Plans; c) The Sicilian Campaign; d) The Fall of Mussolini; e) The Conference at Quebec; f) The Italian Surrender; g) War in the Italian Peninsula. 	H. Michel. The Second World War, pp. 507-534. E-reserve.
	<p>Lecture 25: The Tehran Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparations for the First Summit; b) Moscow Conference; c) The Cairo Conference; d) Opening of Conference at Tehran; e) The Second Front Question at the Conference; f) Results of the Conference; g) Churchill and Roosevelt in Cairo Again. Eisenhower Appointed as a Supreme Commander. 	
Week 10	<p>Lecture 26: War in the Pacific in 1942-1943</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Battle of Midway; b) Guadalcanal; c) The Defensive Strategy of the Japanese; d) Allied Offensive Strategy; e) The Island War; f) Operations at Solomon Islands and New Guinea. 	Keegan, Chapters 14 and 16, pp. 268-279, 290-310.
	<p>Lecture 27: Warfare at Italian Front – January-June 1944</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Allied Plans; b) Anzio. General Lukas' Fatal Mistakes; c) Battle of Mount Cassino; d) The Salo Republic; e) Rome Taken at Last; f) Division of Italy. 	Keegan, pp. 344-369

	<p>Lecture 28: Operation Overlord – Invasion in Normandy</p> <p>a) Preparations for the Landing; b) German Preparations c) The Operations of Disguise; d) D-Day; e) The Battle of Normandy; f) Establishment of the Western Front.</p>	Keegan, Chapter 20, pp. 369-395.
Week 11	<p>Lecture 29: The Liberation of France</p> <p>a) The Battle of France; b) Falaise; c) Operation “Dragoon”; d) The Liberation of Paris; e) Rhone Campaign; f) The Autumn Offensive; g) Coming Close to the “Siegfried Line”.</p>	Keegan, Chapter 21, pp. 396-414.
	<p>Lecture 30: The Eastern Front in 1944</p> <p>a) Soviet Winter Offensive and the End of Leningrad Blockade; b) Changing of the German Strategy; c) Soviet Spring Offensive; d) Soviets Attacking Finland; e) Operation “Bagration”; f) Warsaw Uprising. Stalin’s Decision to Stop Offensive and Allow Germans to Stifle a Rebellion; g) Soviet Advances in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary; e) Yugoslavian Partisans Liberating Most Part of Country.</p>	Henri Michel. The Second World War, pp. 569-594. E-reserve.
	<p>The Third Midterm Exam (Lectures 21-30)</p>	
	<p>Lecture 31: Diplomatic Relations during 1944</p> <p>a) The Second Quebec Conference; b) Polish Problem; c) Churchill’s Second Visit to Moscow; d) Balkans Divided; e) Talks about Poland; f) Decisions in Moscow; g) Determining the Place of the Second Summit.</p>	

Week 12	<p>Lecture 32: War in the Pacific in 1944</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The US Plans; b) The Siege of Rabaul; c) The Naval Battle of Marianas; d) The Battle of Leyte; e) The War in China; f) The Reconquest of Burma. 	Keegan, Chapters 29 and 30, pp. 536-560.
	<p>Lecture 33: Germany Facing Agony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) German Opposition to Hitler; b) The Plot of July 20, 1944; c) Repressions After Assassination Attempts; d) Germany's Secret Weapons; e) Seeking for the Escape. 	Henri Michel. The Second World War, pp. 655-667. E-reserve.
Week 13	<p>Lecture 34: German Counter-Offensive in Ardennes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The German Plans; b) Offensive Begins; c) Americans Retreating; d) Battle for Bastogne. Patton's Rescue Mission; e) The Allied Counter-Offensive; f) Results of the Battle. 	Keegan, Chapter 23, pp. 436-449.
	<p>Lecture 35: Soviet Offensives in Poland and Hungary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Soviet Preparations; b) Soviet Offensive in Poland. The German Disaster; c) German Offensive in Hungary; d) Soviet Counter-Offensive; e) The Seizure of Budapest by the Soviet Troops. 	Keegan, Chapter 27, pp. 503-515.
	<p>Lecture 36: Conference at Yalta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparations for the Second Summit; b) Churchill and Roosevelt in Malta; c) Polish Question on Conference; d) Reparations Dilemma; e) Questions Concerning New International Organization; f) Soviets and War with Japan; g) Results of the Conference. 	

Week 14	<p>Lecture 37: Final Days of War in Italy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) German Attempts to Negotiate with Allies; b) The Berne Incident; c) Allied Offensive; d) Partisan Warfare; e) Execution of Mussolini; f) German Capitulation. 	<p>Herbert Feis. Churchill, Roosevelt, Stalin: The War They Waged and the Peace They Sought. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1957, pp. 583-596. E-reserve.</p>
	<p>Lecture 38: End of War in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparations of the Last Offensives; b) Crossing Rhine. The Remagen Bridgehead; c) Soviets Taking Vienna; d) Break-up of Western Front; e) Churchill's Plan to Take Berlin. Eisenhower's Refusal; f) The Battle of Berlin; g) German Surrenders at Rheims and Berlin. 	<p>Keegan, Chapter 28, pp. 516-535; Henri Michel. The Second World War, pp. 690-705. E-reserve.</p>
	<p>Lecture 39: The Potsdam Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Preparations for the Conference; b) Matters of Dispute; c) The Polish Problem; d) The Fate of Germany; e) The Atomic Diplomacy; f) Unexpected Results of British Elections. Change of the British Delegation; f) Ultimatum of Japan. 	<p>Henri Michel. The Second World War, pp. 706-721. E-reserve.</p>
Week 15	<p>Lecture 40: End of War in Pacific. The End of The Second World War</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Reconquest of the Philippines; b) Iwo Jima; c) Seizure of Okinawa; d) Atom Bombardments of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; e) Soviet Campaign against Japan; f) Japan Surrender; g) The Results of the Second World War 	<p>Keegan, Chapters 31 and 32, pp. 561-587.</p>
	<p>Final Exam (2 academic hours)</p>	

Attendance is required. Material covered in class will not necessarily duplicate material covered in the assigned readings. Students will get 5 points for the attendance. Every week students will have quizzes (except if it is the midterm exam week). The quiz will consist from 10 questions with multiple-choice answers (one point for the correct answer) plus 10 questions without multiple-choice (two points for the correct answer). You will be permitted to make up a missed quiz only in case of illness or emergency. Student can receive maximum 30 points during one quiz. Student can get maximum 15 points if he (she) will have 60% or more of total available points at the end of semester. Students, who get 40-60%, will receive 10 points for the quizzes. Those ones, who receive 20-40% will get only 5 points. No point will be given to the student who scores less than 20% in quizzes. At the same time, students, who will actively participate in the discussions will get 10 points. Students will have three essay-type midterm exams. Each student has to write Essay on one question, at least one and a half page length (different questions for everyone) during the midterm exams. Essay questions will be taken from syllabus. Each midterm exam will cost 5%. The final exam will be a multiple-choice test – 40 questions with four answers each (one point for the correct answer).

Evaluation

Attendance 5%

Quizzes 10%

First midterm exam 15%

Second midterm exam 15%

Third midterm exam 15%

Final exam 40%

Reading

John Keegan. The Second World War. New York, 1991.

Results

The course will give an insight about the Second World War to students. At the same time, it will broaden their vision of world and will help to understand the world historical processes. Their analyzing skills will improve, as well as their ability to write down their thoughts. They will also get acquainted with the historiographical writings.