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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Arts and Humanities

MILH555

WWII: Politics, Political Leadership and Diplomacy

Credit Hours: 3

Length of Course: 8 Weeks

Graduate students are encouraged to take required or core courses prior to enrolling in the seminars, concentration courses or electives.

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Course Description (Catalog)

This course is an in-depth study of the politics, political leadership, and diplomacy that defined the Allied and Axis Powers of the United States, Great Britain, Russia, Germany, Italy, and Japan before, during, and after World War II. Topics address the factors that facilitated their rise to power the key political structures, relations, and personalities; the

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inter-relations among political elites; and the diplomatic and military efforts employed by the powers as they postured against each other and the rest of the world during the war.

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Course Scope

The primary focus of the course will be the leadership of each nation and the political systems in place from the end of WWI through the conclusion of WWII. A great deal of attention will be paid to the internal personalities, the workings and structure of each leader's domestic leadership and the political interaction with other powers. Students compare and contrast key political leaders in relation to the enormity of the war effort. Special emphasis includes political and diplomatic situations, social, military and economic relationships.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate the relevant literature related to the history of the Allie and Axis Powers.
- 2 Analyze and interpret the content of leadership styles, characteristics, actions and behaviors of the nations' political leadership and domestic political structures.
3. Devise and evaluate the historic arguments of the military, diplomatic and foreign policy cooperation or coordination between the nations and their leaders.
4. Evaluate the effectiveness and impact of the Allied and Axis alliances in terms of their strategic vision, operational effectiveness, and tactical acumen.
5. Research, construct, and present a persuasive, original research paper of selected topics on an aspect of the Allied or Axis Powers.
6. Identify and assess the implications of the Nuremberg Trial for the Allies/Axis both legally and politically.

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Course Delivery Method

This course delivered via distance learning will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday evening of the week as noted and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups through a threaded forum), examination, and individual assignments submitted for review by the Faculty Member). Assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Required Readings

Barnhart, Michael A. *Japan Prepares for Total War: The Search for Economic Security, 1919-1941*. Cornell: Cornell University Press, 1987

Knox, MacGregor, *Mussolini Unleashed 1939-1941: Politics and Strategy in Fascist Italy's Last War*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, reprint edition, 1999.

Millett, Allan R. and Williamson Murray. *A War to be Won: Fighting the Second World War, 1937-1945*. Harvard University Press, 2001.

Stoler, Mark A. *Allies and Adversaries: The Joint Chiefs, the Grand Alliance, and U.S. Strategy in World War II*. The University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

Weinberg, Gerhard. *Germany, Hitler and World War II: Essays in Modern German and World History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

Additional Resources

- Marius, Richard. *A Short Guide to Writing about History*. NY: Longmans, 1999.
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003.
- Turabian, Kate L. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. *Purchase is highly recommended.*

- [Turabian Citation Guide Online](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)
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IMPORTANT NOTE: The Department of History and Military Studies requires conformity with the traditional University of Chicago Style Manual and its Turabian offshoot. Citations will follow traditional endnote or footnote attribution. Do not use parenthetical (MLA) variation.

Copyright/Fair Use Notice: Electronic readings may be provided by way of licensed materials in the Online Library, but also in keeping with Fair Use exemptions for educational purposes under U.S. Copyright Law.

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Evaluation Procedures

Forums:

Overview: Review the Forum question, think critically, answer one of the questions, and respond to two of your classmates and to my follow-up question. Attempt to complete your question by Thursday to give your classmates and myself time to respond during the same week. Replies are due by Saturday.

Format: Using paragraphs of 200-250 words, answer the Forum question. When you post an answer to the Forum question, points will be given only for the discussion portion of the grade. Submit at least two substantive “reply” posts to others students of 100-150 words, and a third reply post to my follow-up question on your post of 100 -200 words. Substantive replies go beyond “I agree,” or ‘I see your point.’ Effective responses relate course readings, theory, research, or personal experience to the discussion topic.

Grading Criteria: This assignment will be graded on adhering to the above format and the following provisions: Try to tie your analysis into the readings for the week in direct ways (such as citing a key phrase). I do not want a summary of the readings by any means, but this can improve and support your argument. The ultimate goal is for you to address the readings in a critical way (positive or negative). Cite a key phrase, analyze intent, sources, structure, thesis, and apply this to your own ideas about the subject. This means including an in-text citation for any section of the text or another source used for developing ideas and including a full reference citation for all sources below the post. An in-text citation includes the publisher(s) name and the year of publication; for a direct quote the page number should also be included. **See Resources** for Forum Grading Rubric.

Submission: **Access the “Forums” link on the course navigation menu. Make your postings in the text area for your classmates to read.**

Research Paper Proposal

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Overview: Provide a short explanation of a historical question, working thesis, and preliminary **annotated bibliography** for your research paper.

Subject: The topic of your research paper must be a major concept, event, or person pertinent to the Politics, Leadership and Diplomacy of the Allied or Axis Powers. Once you pick a topic, develop a good historical question and thesis statement. Gather at least SIX academic sources for your preliminary bibliography to support your thesis. Your sources should contain primary documents if at all available and articles from EBSCO and JSTOR to supplement secondary source monographs. An example topic from ancient history might be Alexander the Great. For instance, "Why did the Persians fail to defeat Alexander the Great?" The example thesis might be: "The lack of heavy infantry coordination was a major cause of the Persians' defeat." With this thesis, you then review the historical record to demonstrate the validity of your thesis.

Grading Criteria: This assignment will be graded on the proposed topic for the research paper, the historical question posed, preliminary thesis statement, and preliminary annotated bibliography. **See Resources** for Research Paper Proposal Grading Rubric.

Format: The Research Paper Proposal will be 3 text pages long using Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced throughout.

Submission: Access the "Assignments" link on the course navigation menu and submit your Research Paper Proposal.

Book Review

Overview: Complete one scholarly book review (approximately 1400-1500 words respectively, plus a bibliography - focus on concise, content - heavy writing) related to your research paper topic.

Subject: You should seek out a book related to our content for the week or your final research project (a major concept, event, or person associated with the World War II: Politics, Political Leadership, and Diplomacy). The purpose of this assignment is to introduce you to some of the original published history that can serve as a model for your own research. For this assignment you must select an article published in a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal that contains footnotes or endnotes citation. Some examples of these are the *Journal of Military History*, *International Review*, *Diplomatic History*, *Journal of American History*, and the *American Historical Review*.

WWII History and World War II Magazine are NOT scholarly publications and should not be selected for this assignment.

Grading Criteria: The scholarly article review will be graded according to the following essential elements: 1) brief synopsis of the subject material; 2) brief synopsis of the article's central themes; and, 3) analysis of the primary/ secondary sources utilized and the historical significance of the scholarly article. **See Resources** for Grading Rubric.

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Format: The book review will be 3 text pages long (no more than 1500 words) using Times New roman 12 point font and be double-spaced throughout include a cover page with your name, author, article title, and publication, volume number, and date. Your review should have a substantive introduction and conclusion.

Style: The scholarly review must be written as a “historical narrative.” Transitions from one paragraph to another should be facilitated through strong topical and transitional sentences. Do not create sub-titles, number, or double-space between paragraphs.

Submission: Access the “Assignments” link on the course navigation menu and submit your Scholarly Book Review.

Research Paper

Overview: Complete a research paper on one of the major concepts, events, or people associated with the Politics, Leadership and Diplomacy of the Allied and Axis Powers.

Subject: The topic of your research paper must be approved by the instructor. Your research paper must reflect your own original thoughts, even though the issues may have been previously presented elsewhere.

Grading Criteria: The research paper will be graded according to the following essential elements: 1) **introduction** providing a thesis statement; 2) **body** providing a discussion of central themes supported by primary/secondary sources; 3) **conclusion** drawing together the themes of the paper in a succinct, organized, and persuasive manner; and, 4) **citations** that are properly annotated as footnotes or endnotes. **See Resources** for Grading Rubric.

Format: The research paper will be 6-7 text pages (2000-3000 words) using Times New Roman 12 point font and double - spaced throughout. The cover page, bibliography, footnotes/endnotes do not apply as text pages. Include a cover page with the title of the paper and your name. The title of your paper should accurately reflect the content of your paper’s text. The research paper must include a bibliography of at least six academically critical sources. If there is a question about whether a source meets the academic criteria, contact the instructor. The student is encouraged to use as many sources as appropriate and to incorporate primary sources and articles along with other secondary sources. However, a huge bibliography will not compensate for a weak or poorly-constructed paper. Review the “Citation and Reference Style” section of this syllabus.

Submission: Access the “Assignments” link on the course navigation menu and submit your Research Paper.

Graded Instruments	Points	Percentage
Discussion Forums 1-8	50 each	30% total
Research Paper Proposal	100	5%
Scholarly Book Review	200	15%
Research Paper	300	30%
Total Points	1000	100%

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Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University's [grading scale](#).

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Course Introduction Germany and the Nazi System: Background to the war.	LO-1: Class introductions and course overview LO-2: Identify the value of studying the Politics, Leadership and Diplomacy of the Allied and Axis Powers. (CO-1)	Readings: <i>A War to Be Won</i> : chapters 1-5 Lesson 1 Course Intro Lesson 1 Read: <i>Japan Prepares for Total War</i> chapters 1-4 website: The Great War http://www.pbs.org/greatwar/ BBC History World War II	Forum #1: Virtual Introduction and Response To Weekly Topic. See Forums for specific Instructions Week 1 Forum Background to War
2	Preparation for the War	LO-1: Evaluate the performance of the Allied and Axis	Lesson 2 Read:	Week 2 Forum

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		Powers in the first years of the war. (CO-1, CO-2, CO-3, CO-4)	<p><i>Germany, Hitler & WW II:</i> chapters 12-15</p> <p><i>Japan Prepares for Total War:</i> Chapters 7-10</p> <p><i>Mussolini Unleashed: Introduction</i> Chapter 1</p> <p>Website BBC History World War II http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worl</p>	<p>Respond to one of the weekly topics.</p> <p>Research Paper Proposal is due.</p>
3	Defining the Anglo-American Relationship	LO-1: Evaluate the British perspective of the American role in a wartime alliance. (CO-2, CO-2, CO-3)	<p>Lesson 3</p> <p>Read: <i>Allies and Adversaries:</i> chapters 1-6</p> <p>Website: Winston Churchill http://www.winstonchurchill.org/ Franklin D. Roosevelt http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pr_e_sidents/32_f_roosevelt/index.html</p>	Week 3 Forum: Respond to one of the weekly topics
4	Allies v. Axis: The Strength of Alliance Scholarly Article Review due	<p>LO-1: Compare and contrast the two major alliances, including their values and strategic goals, as well as their relative strengths and weaknesses. (CO-1, CO-2, CO-3, CO-4)</p> <p>LO-2: Employ skills of research,</p>	<p>Lesson 4</p> <p>AMU Online Library</p>	Week 4 Forum: Respond to one of the weekly topics.
5	The War Continues	LO-1: Appraise the schools of revisionist thought on the final stages of the War.	<p>Lesson 5</p> <p>Read: <i>Allies and Adversaries:</i> chapters 7-11 <i>A War to Be Won:</i> chapter 6</p> <p>Website</p>	<p>Week 5 Forum: Respond to one of the weekly topics</p> <p>Book Review due</p>

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			Joseph Stalin: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/stalin_joseph.shtml	
6	The Pacific War	LO-1: Assess the military and political strategy and ultimate failure of the Japanese empire. (CO-2, CO-3, CO-4)	Lesson 6 Read: <i>A War to be Won:</i> chapters 7-10 <i>Japan Prepares for total War:</i> chapters 11-14	Week 6 Forum Respond to one of the weekly topics
7	The End of the War	LO-1: Assess the decision to drop the bomb to end the War. Evaluate its effectiveness. (CO-1, CO-2, CO-3, CO-4)	Lesson 7 Read: <i>A War to Be Won:</i> chapters 11-Epilogue Website: Harry S. Truman http://www.trumanlibrary.org/	Week 7 Forum Respond to one of the weekly topics
8	Nuremburg Trial	LO-1: Examine and evaluate the implications of the Trials for the Allies/Axis both legally and politically. (CO-6)	Lesson 8	Week 8 Forum: Respond to one of the weekly topics. Research Paper is due

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

[Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)

[Plagiarism Policy](#)

[Extension Process and Policy](#)

[Disability Accommodations](#)

Writing Expectations

Describe your writing expectations.

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Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the APA Format as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University. Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the citation style cited in the APA Format.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Tutor.com:** AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. [Tutor.com](http://tutor.com) connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

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Turnitin.com

Faculty may require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. In some cases professors may require students to use Turnitin.com. Typically the course professor will establish a Turnitin.com access code for his/her classes. If the code has not been established, those who wish to use Turnitin.com may ask their professor to establish the code.

Special Note to Faculty: Please be certain to provide accurate directions and to set up the functionality appropriately.

Selected Bibliography

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