

CUMBERLAND UNIVERSITY

COURSE SYLLABUS

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|---|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Course Title: World War II | | |
| Course Prefix & Number: HIST 238 | Section Number: 01 | Semester: Fall 20244 |
| Semester Credit Hours: 3 | Loc: VIS Lawlor Room | Schedule: MW 11:00-12:15 PM |
| Required Course Materials: Lyons, Michael J., <i>World War II: A Short History</i> (5th edition) Prentice Hall, 2010 (ISBN: 978-0-205-66056-8) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase/Rent from the bookstore or from Amazon. <i>Any further readings for this course will be added to Canvas if needed.</i> | | |

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| Name of Instructor: | Dr. Miguel Angel Chavez |
| Telephone Number: | 615.257.4402 |
| E-mail Address: | mchavez@cumberland.edu |
| Office Hours: | Labry 230 - MW 8:30-11 AM / TR 9:30-11 AM and 12:30-1:30 PM |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines World War II - the causes, events, and outcomes of the deadliest conflict in human history. We will examine the roots of the war in the 19th century movements of nationalism and radicalism, before looking at how the fallout of the First World War led to the resentments that fueled the Second World War.

This course will look at the war not just within the context of political, military, and diplomatic history, but also the cultural and societal effects brought on by the conflict. We will examine the main participants in-depth, but also look at lesser-known players in the conflict. We will also examine the roots of antisemitism that led to Holocaust, as well as the war of conquest brought on by the idea of *lebensraum*. We will examine how the Allies ultimately prevailed against the Axis Powers, leading to the downfall of Germany, Italy, and Japan. Finally, we will see the legacy of the war since 1945.

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, and audio-visual presentations. Students are expected to take notes and participate in discussions in class and on Canvas.

COURSE OBJECTIVES AND OUTCOMES

At the successful completion of this course, students will come away with an understanding of what history is and the various ways historians practice it as a discipline through the study of the Second World War. Students should appreciate the magnitude of the conflict and the importance of cause and consequence in historical actions. Using primary and secondary

sources, students will be required to think and write critically and logically about historical events and themes.

The goal of any study of history is more than just for enjoyment but is to also understand the past and its relevancy to today, and to analyze the past critically so that they become better-informed citizens and historical actors in the present and the future.

GRADING

| # of Graded Course Elements | Graded Course Elements | Percentage or Point Values |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2 | Exams | 40% |
| 1 | Essay Assignment | 20% |
| Various | Short Response Papers and Homework | 20% |
| 1 | Book Review | 10% |
| | Attendance and Participation | 10% |

Exams: There will be **two exams (a midterm and final)** over the material discussed in class as well as any assigned reading. The exams will include questions (e.g. multiple choice, true-false, matching key terms, short answers) and an essay. Each exam will be count towards 20% of your course grade, or 40% in total.

- **Final Exam Bypass (Optional):** In lieu of taking the final exam, students can give a lecture (for the *entire* class period) on a specific theme or topic. This is a great opportunity to practice your teaching and presentation skills! But this option is only limited to a few students.

Writing Assignment: There will be **one essay assignment** during the semester. It will require the student to write a critical essay on a historical topic. The paper will be **at least 2000 words at length** (8-10 pages), typed, double-spaced. Papers must be turned in both digitally and by paper copy in class. Late papers will be penalized -10 points per every day late. The writing assignments will be 20% of the course grade.

Homework and Class Assignments: Homework assignments will primarily be done on Canvas, consisting mainly as quizzes or short response papers (1-2 pages). Other activities in-class assignments can be implemented if needed. These assignments will constitute 20% of your grade. The two lowest grades will be dropped and will not impact your final homework grade.

Book Review: There will be **one book review** during the semester. It will require the student to write a critical essay on a historical topic. The paper will be **at least 750 words at length**, typed, double-spaced. Papers must be turned in both digitally and by paper copy in class. Late papers

will be penalized -10 points per every day late. The writing assignments will be 10% of the course grade.

Attendance and Participation: Students will be expected to attend class daily and arrive on-time. Roll will be taken every meeting, as per Cumberland University policy. Participation in class discussions is also necessary. This will count 10% of your grade.

Extra Credit: While nothing is set in stone, I may plan on providing extra credit assignments throughout the semester to add 2-3 points on your exam grade. This will include attending on-campus talks or writing additional response papers (1-2 pages). I will announce extra credit opportunities if available.

A = 100-93 / A- = 92.9-90 / B+ = 89.9-87 / B = 86.9-83 / B- = 82.9-80 / C+ = 79.9-77 / C = 76.9-70 / D+ = 69.9-67 / D = 66.9-60 / F = 59.9-0

The last day to drop or add a course without a penalty is Sept. 3. Last day to withdraw from a course with a “W” is Sept. 23. Last day to withdraw with a “WP” or “WF” is on Nov. 4.

<http://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/Current-Catalog/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Registration-Policy/Drop-Process>

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to follow all rules and regulations found in the “Academic Integrity Policy” section of Cumberland University’s 2024-2025 Catalog:

<https://cumberland.smartcatalogiq.com/en/Current/Current-Catalog/Academic-Affairs/Academic-Integrity-Policy>

Further, students are to live up to the *Cumberland Creed*: “Academic honesty is essential to effective learning. Therefore, we as seekers of knowledge hold these as our core values: personal integrity, individual worth, critical and independent thinking, discipline, community responsibility and accountability.”

Academic integrity violations include (but are not limited to): **plagiarism, cheating, re-submissions of prior assignments, using AI programs** (e.g. Chat GPT), and **damaging and destroying academic material**. **Violations will result in a grade of zero for the given assignment. Violations will be reported to the Dean of Students, to the Vice President for Academic Affairs and/or the Provost.**

You will be given the opportunity to re-do the assignment for partial credit. **Additional violations will result in an automatic F for the course grade.**

Cite your sources carefully when writing! Remember to use quotation marks when quoting from a primary or secondary source. Do not copy-and-paste information from Wikipedia or the textbooks and pretend it is your own work. Do not lend your writing to your classmates: numerous cases of plagiarism have been reported by that method.

TECHNOLOGY USE IN THE CLASSROOM

I highly recommend you take your lecture notes on paper. However, given the needs of students with accessibility issues to use laptops and recorders, I will allow students to use laptops and tablets for note taking. But do not be disruptive with your technology use. In addition, do not use your smartphone in class. If you end up distracted and miss part of the class, that's ultimately your responsibility.

STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CONCERNS

As we are all aware, the COVID-19 virus continues to circulate in our communities. At the same time, other communicable illnesses are also present. Members of the Cumberland University community are asked to help maintain a campus that is safe for all by undertaking appropriate health precautions. We encourage community members to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and to practice good hygiene, including frequent handwashing.

If you do experience symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or other ailments, we encourage you to seek medical attention through the University Health Services (healthservices@cumberland.edu) or your personal health provider. Students may be excused from class attendance with a note from University Health Services or a private health provider, though anyone receiving an excused absence will continue to be responsible for completing all required course assignments.

For further guidance on how to respond to COVID-19, please review the University's statement on health protocols at: <https://www.cumberland.edu/coronavirus/current-health-protocols/>.

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COURSE SCHEDULE – HIST 238: World War II

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

Textbooks:

- WWII = *World War II: A Short History*

Week 1 – Aug. 26 to Aug. 30

Orientation / Nationalism in the Nineteenth Century

Reading(s):

- Get started on WWII, Ch. 1 and 2
- *Optional*: "The Peace" in [Geoffrey Wawro, *The Franco-Prussian War*](#).

Homework: Introduction Thread on Canvas (due Sept. 4)

Week 2 – Sept. 2 to Sept. 6

Antisemitism / World War I's Impact

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 1 to 3
- Corydon Ireland's "The Pogrom that transformed 20th century Jewry" – [The Harvard Gazette](#)

Homework: None!

Labor Day – Sept. 2 – School Holiday (No classes)

Week 3 – Sept. 9 to Sept. 13

1919-1939 - The Rise of Fascism and Europe's Interwar Years

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 4
- Read:
 - Mussolini, "The Doctrine of Fascism" at [San Jose State University](#).
 - Entry for the 1935 Nuremberg Race Laws at the [USHMM](#).
 - "The Munich Pact" on [Yale Avalon Project](#).

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Sept. 11)

Week 4 – Sept. 16 to Sept. 20

1937-1940: The Second Sino-Japanese War / Germany's invasion of Poland / Phoney War

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 5, Ch. 6
- Read:
 - "Hitler's Address to the Reichstag, 1 September 1939" – [Avalon Project](#)
 - Robert Wilson's letters from Nanjing – [Yale Divinity School](#)
 - First and third Polish testimony regarding the invasion of Poland of 1 Sept. 1939 – [Zwangsarbeit Archiv](#)
- Homework: Short Response Paper on Canvas (due Sept. 18)

Week 5 – Sept. 23 to Sept. 27

1941: The Phony War / Lend Lease / Fall of France

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 7, 8, and 9
- Read:
 - FDR's Address to the White House Correspondents' Association on Lend Lease Aid (Mar. 15, 1940) – [Miller Center](#)
 - "The Battle of France, September 1939–June 1940" in [Julian Jackson, De Gaulle](#)

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Sept. 25)25

Week 6 – Sept. 30 to Oct. 4

1941-42: Operation Barbarossa / The Holocaust (pt. 1) / Japanese Offensive of Late 1941

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 10 and 11

Homework: Short Response Paper on Canvas (due Oct. 2)

Week 7 – Oct. 7 to Oct. 11

1941-43: 1941-43: The United States in WWII / The Pacific War / India and Africa in WWII The United States in WWII / The Pacific War / India and Africa in WWII

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 12 to 15

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Oct. 9)

Mid-Term Exam – October 14**Week 8 – Oct. 14 to Oct. 18**

1942-43: 1942-43: Case Blue / North Africa / Stalingrad

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 16 to 18

Homework: Short Response Paper Short Response Paper on Canvas (due Oct. 16)

Week 9 – Oct. 21 to Oct. 25

1943-44: 1943-44: Italy / German Setbacks / Strategic Bombing / the Homefront Italy / German Setbacks / Strategic Bombing / the Homefront

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 19 to 21

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Oct. 23)

Week 10 - Oct. 28 to Nov. 1

1943-44: Japan's Offensives / The Pacific War 1943-44: Japan's Offensives / The Pacific War / The United States

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 24

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Oct. 30)

Week 11 – Nov. 4 to Nov. 8

1944-45: 1944-45: D-Day / Operation Bagration / the Philippines / Latin America in WWII D-Day / Operation Bagration / the Philippines / Latin America in WWII

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 22

Homework: Short-Response Paper Short-Response Paper on Canvas (due Nov. 6)

Week 12 – Nov. 11 to Nov. 15

1944-45: The Holocaust (pt. 2) / Fall of Nazi Germany

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 23

Homework: Quiz on Canvas (due Nov. 13)

Week 13 – Nov. 18 to Nov. 22

1945: 1945: Japan's Defeat and Rebuilding the World

Reading(s):

- WWII, Ch. 25 25

Homework: Short-Response Paper on Canvas (due Nov. 20)

--- Nov. 25 to Nov. 29 - THANKSGIVING BREAK! NO CLASSES 🍷 ---

Week 14 – Dec. 2 to Dec. 6

Postwar: Legacy of the Second World War

Reading(s):

- WWII, "Aftermath"
- Tony Judt, *Postwar*, Ch. 1, "Legacy of War"
- Tony Judt, *Postwar*, Ch. 1, "Legacy of War"

Homework: None! Study for your final exam!None!

Last Day of Classes – Dec. 6

Final Exam: Monday, Dec. 9 – 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM Exam 3 – Dec. 8 (10:30 AM to 12:30 AM)

CAMPUS SUPPORT

Disability and Accessibility: Students with a disability can register with the Office of Accessibility, located in Labry Hall 226, to discuss the possibility of accommodations. Once registered and approved, an electronic copy of the accommodations will be sent to the student and the professor. Students are encouraged to register for accommodations early in the semester. The Office of Accessibility can be reached by phone (615-547-1286), by email (mcurtis@cumberland.edu), or in person (Labry Hall, room 226). For more information, please visit: <https://www.cumberland.edu/accessibility/>.

Counseling: The University Counseling Center is in Labry Hall 225. Appointments for individual personal counseling sessions, which may be in-person or virtual, can be scheduled by calling or emailing Eddie Christian at 615-547-1397 and echristian@cumberland.edu, or by emailing Sandy Fields (virtual appointments only) at sfields@theratribe.com. The Counseling Center website also contains additional information that may be helpful: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-counseling-services/>.

Library: The Doris and Harry Vise Library is very helpful in your studies for obvious reasons. The regular Fall 2024 hours of the library are:

Sunday 5 to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.; and Friday 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The library website can be very useful as well: <https://library.cumberland.edu/home> - scroll down to "Quick Links" to find the Vise Library Catalog and other resources. If you need help from off campus, please call the library at 615-547-1299 or email: library@cumberland.edu.

Computer Labs: There are computer labs available to students, faculty, and staff, located in the basement of Labry Hall. There are also selected workstations available in the University Library and above the atrium on the second floor of Labry Hall, as well as on the second floor of Memorial Hall and in the Learning and Career Commons. If you have problems with any of these computer workstations, printers/copiers, or have other account issues, please submit an IT Service Request by emailing support@cumberland.edu. Student passwords can be reset by visiting: <https://cams3.cumberland.edu/rptool/index.html?s=1>

Academic Support: The Office of Student Retention and TN Promise Support exists to offer encouragement, support, and guidance as you navigate life at CU. Among other services, they can offer referrals to the Office of Student Success (Tutoring and Writing Center) as well as the Counseling Center and the Office of Accessibility, when needed. This office houses three academic coaches, who can offer one-on-one sessions to help with things like time management, study skills, etc. Additionally, TN Promise students will receive reminders about important deadlines and requirements from this office. Contact Student Retention and TN Promise Support by visiting LCC 202, calling 615-547-1206, or emailing: retention@cumberland.edu.

Student Success: The Office of Student Success is located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 122. This office oversees tutoring and testing services for all actively enrolled Cumberland University students, including the Writing Center (LCC 116) and subject-based academic tutoring labs that are widely available. You can sign up for individual tutors in most CU courses or small group sessions for foundations courses as well. Virtual tutoring sessions are also available for online students. You can visit LCC 122 or LCC 116 directly or email OfficeofSTudentSuccess@cumberland.edu or call 615-547-1238 for a referral. Additional information is also available on the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/academics-2/office-of-student-success/>

Career Services: The Office of Career Services, located in the Learning and Career Commons, room 225, supports students and alumni in the development and achievement of career decisions and goals. Services are provided to all Cumberland students and graduates and include: Self-Assessment and Career Planning, Internship and Job Postings, Resume and Cover Letter Review, Graduate School Preparation, and Career-Related Workshops.

Remember to check out the Cumberland App and the website *HireCU* at <https://cumberland-csm.symplicity.com/> for part-time, full-time, and internship job opportunities! For more information or to schedule an appointment, contact the Career Services Director, Dixie Rury, by phone (615-547-1308) or via email (drury@cumberland.edu) or visit the website: <https://www.cumberland.edu/office-of-career-services-and-internships/>

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