The Second World War

Course title: The Second World War

Name of Instructor: Dr. Daniel Uziel

Number of Credit Points: 4

Time Course is offered: Fall Semester. Wednesdays 2:00-6:00

Course description

Since the end of the Cold War the historiography of WWII has changed significantly. New sources as well as new perspectives - sometimes using novel inter-disciplinary approaches – help us to create a deeper and more balanced history of the largest armed conflict in history. In this course we will examine the modern history of WWII through different prisms, including the central role of culture in warfare and its memory.

Course requirements

- Active participation and reading the weekly reading items.
- A 3-page analytical essay on one of the reading items marked with a *.
  Should be submitted by 31 December 2016.
- A term paper (around 10 pages) or a seminar paper (25-30 pages) on a topic approved by the teacher. The deadline for term paper submission is 27 February 2017; for seminar paper: 20 June 2017.

Final Grade

Term/Seminar paper: 50%
Essay: 30%
Active participation: 10%
Course outline and reading

1) **Introduction: New Histories of WWII**
   "Kevin W. Farrel,"Recent Approaches to the German Army of WWII: Is the Topic more Accessible after 65 years?", in: *Global War Studies*, 7 (2), 2010, pp.131-156.

2) **The Great War – WWI and its Aftermath**

3) **Warming-up the Engines – Armed Conflicts of the 1930s**

4) **The Axis – Interests, Plans, Preparations**

5) **Blitzkrieg – Germany’s Conquests, 1939-1941**

6) **The End of the Empire: Great Britain in WWII**

7) **Hitler turns East I: Plans and Preparations for Operation Barbarossa**
   
   **Führer's Directive No.21: Barbarossa, 18/12/1940.**
   
   **Annex to Führer's Directive No.21: Barbarossa, 13/3/1941.**

8) **Hitler turns East II: The Campaign in the East until the End of 1941**

9) **December 1941: The Turn of the Tide**

10) **Sidshow: The War in the Mediterranean**

11) **Economies and Industries at War**

12) **The Home Front: Societies in WWII**

13) **Science and Scientists in the Service of War**

14) **The Great Alliance: Leaders, Leadership and Cooperation Mechanisms**

15) **Airpower – Aerial Warfare and its Consequences**

16) **Operation Blue – The German Offensive in the East, 1942**

17) **The Long Retreat – Germany’s defeat in the East**

18) **Invasion: The Allies return to Western Europe**

19) **“To end the war until Christmas” – The Liberation of Europe**

20) **Rise and decline of the Rising Sun**
Weinberg, Gerhard, *Germany, Hitler*, pp.205-216.

21) The End on the Horizon – Preparing for the Postwar Era

22) Victory and Crisis – The End of Germany and the beginning of the Cold War

23) The Bomb – The Genesis of the Nuclear Era

24) War and Memory