

**HISTORY 3295W  
WORLD WAR TWO IN THE MOVIES  
MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY  
SUMMER ONLINE (1A-1B 6 weeks), 2009**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Prof. Andy Gaskiewicz

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**COURSE WEBPAGE:** <http://blackboard.mansfield.edu>

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:** This course analyzes how the Second World War is represented in feature films. We will look at twelve paired films on various aspects of World War II, from the Battle of Britain to Hitler's last days in the bunker, and see how the representation of these events has changed over time. Critical thinking and writing skills will be stressed and improved in this course by way of papers, take-home exams, and primary source readings.

**GENERAL EDUCATION:** This course has been approved for inclusion in the Humanities block of General Education. In this course, you will learn and apply critical thinking and writing skills, as well as develop knowledge of how movies on the Second World War have shaped our understanding and perception of it

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Hughes-Warrington, Marnie. History Goes to the Movies. Studying History on Film. Routledge, 2007.

Numerous full text articles on each of the films we shall watch. Articles will be linked into blackboard.

Students will be required to get a NetFlix account for the duration of the course.

**ASSIGNED READINGS:** All assigned readings are mandatory. They will be discussed online and covered on exams.

**ONLINE DISCUSSION:** We will have online discussions on a weekly basis, running from Monday AM to midnight Sunday, using the Blackboard Course Management System. **In total, on-line discussion makes up 40% of your course grade, or 400 points.** Discussion takes place in on-line threaded discussion forums on Blackboard (click on the "Discussion" button.) Each forum has a question (or set of questions) you must respond to. Due to the volume of responses, I will only respond occasionally and as I see fit. Discussion forums will overlap, so you will frequently have more than one forum per week to respond to. **Please note: Understand that I will not accept any excuses for not posting responses on-time. Going on vacation is not an acceptable excuse.** There are three types of discussion boards:

1. **Weekly Textbook Forums:** These will consist of question(s) from the Hughes-Warrington text. These forums are open for one week. You are required to post at least a 200 word response to the question(s) posted and respond to two of your colleagues' posts. These discussions are worth 15% of your course grade, or 150 points.

2. **Weekly Film Forums:** These discussions are over the films assigned for this class. Since films are paired on a weekly basis, students will primarily be asked to compare the two films they watched for any given week. You must post a minimum 500 word answer to the question(s) posted and respond to three of your colleagues' posts. These discussions are worth 25% of your course grade, or 250 points.

**TESTS:** There are two take-home exams. **Each exam is worth 15% of your course grade, or 150 points each.** Each exam will have three essays; You will write on two of them. All tests are taken from assigned readings and films. Tests are not cumulative. Exams will be posted under "Assignments" with specific directions. Please make sure you follow them. I require that you submit take-home exams to me via the assignment drop box on Blackboard under "Assignments." Directions concerning how to use this feature of Blackboard are posted under "Assignments." **Formatting for all take-home exams must be the following: .doc or .rtf. I cannot read Wordpad, so DO NOT SUBMIT .WPS (Wordpad) FILES. Not following these directions will result in a "0 on the test you submit to me. I would suggest that you use Microsoft Word for all exams, since that is what the Mansfield University campus uses.**

**FILM REVIEWS:** Two, five page, double-spaced, film reviews are required for this class. For Review #1, choose any film on the Second World War not assigned for this course and write a review of it. For Review #2, choose one of the films assigned for this course and write a review of it. For each of your reviews, you must use **two** outside sources and, of course, internet sources are banned. To research these sources, I recommend going to the North Hall Library (see link under "websites) and using the following databases to help you research your sources: Historical Abstracts, J-Stor, and Ebsco-Host . **Each film review is worth 15% of your course grade, or 150 points. Film Review #1 is due on ? Film Review #2 ? is due on** I require that you submit your film reviews to me via the assignment drop box on Blackboard under "Assignments." **Formatting for both film reviews must be the following: .doc or .rtf. I cannot read Wordpad, so DO NOT SUBMIT .WPS (Wordpad) FILES. Not following these directions will result in a "0 on the review you submit to me. I would suggest that you use Microsoft Word for your reviews (as with the exams above), since that is what the Mansfield University campus uses.**

**GRAMMAR, STYLE AND CITATIONS:** All paper assignments must have correct grammar, spelling and punctuation. They must also be properly footnoted or endnoted and have a bibliography. You **must** use Kate Turabian/Chicago Manual of Style format for your footnote/endnotes and bibliography. To help you learn this format and to help with your research as well as writing, you may want to purchase Kate L. Turabian's A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations, 6<sup>th</sup> revised edition, 1996, or 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2007. A copy of this book (6<sup>th</sup> edition) is in the library, Reference Call Number LB2369.T8 1996. For further help, refer to the powerpoint demonstration posted in the "Course Materials" section on Blackboard. If you do not comply with the above parameters, it will significantly affect the grade you receive on your film reviews.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY/INTEGRITY:** Any form of academic dishonesty will result in your failing this course. In addition, charges will be filed against you with the university administration. For the university's policy on academic dishonesty, please consult page 5 and 9 in the MU Student Handbook, which defines and discusses this topic. Plagiarism is not just the copying of another author's words without properly acknowledging them. It is also the improper documenting of information, even if that information has been summarized in your own words.

**DEADLINES:** All deadlines are final. You will not be excused for missing a paper deadline unless you have a written medical excuse or an excuse from University personnel. One letter grade per day will be deducted from late assignments.

**GRADING AND THE ONLINE GRADE BOOK:** Grading is on a point system; Your total semester points are then converted to a final letter grade. In terms of percentages, the grading scale is as follows and includes minuses and pluses: A range = 90 % or above, B range=80-89%, C range=70-79%, D range=60-69%, and an F is 59% or below. I will post exam, paper and discussion grades in the online grade book on Blackboard. Final exam grades are not computed until the end of the semester. **Only the instructor of record will be assigning grades for this course.**

#### **COURSE GRADE BREAKDOWN:**

Online Discussion: 40% (400 points)  
Mid-term Exam: 15% (150 points)  
Final Exam: 15% (150 points)  
Film Review #1: 15% (150 points)  
Film Review #2: 15% (150 points)

**Total: 100% (1000 points)**

#### **TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

The instructor reserves the right to make schedule changes.

**Week 1:** European Battles: Watch Stalingrad (1993, Joseph Vilsmaier) and Battle of Britain (1969, Guy Hamilton). Read Hughes-Warrington, "Introduction" and Chapter 1; Articles on films. **Weekly Textbook Forum #1. Weekly Film Forum #1.**

**Week 2:** Pearl Harbor: Watch Pearl Harbor (2001, Michael Bay) and Tora! Tora! Tora! (1970, Richard Fleischer). Read Hughes-Warrington, Chapter 2; Articles on films; **Weekly Textbook Forum #2. Weekly Film Forum #2.**

**Week 3:** The Holocaust: Watch The Pianist ( 2002, Roman Polanski) and The Grey Zone (2002, Tim Blake Nelson). Read Hughes-Warrington, Chapters 3-4; Articles on Films; **Weekly Textbook Forum #3. Weekly Film Forum #3. Film Review #1 due. Mid-Term Exam Assigned.**

**Week 4:** Operation Overlord: Watch Saving Private Ryan (1998, Steven Spielberg) and The Longest Day (1962, Bernhard Wicki). Read Hughes-Warrington, Chapter 5; Articles on Films; **Weekly Textbook Forum #4. Weekly Film Forum #4. Mid-Term Exam Due**

**Week 5:** Iwo Jima: Watch Letters from Iwo Jima (2007, Clint Eastwood) and Sands of Iwo Jima (1949, Alan Dwan). Read Hughs-Warrington, Chapters 6-7; Articles on Films; **Weekly Textbook Forum #5. Weekly Film Forum #5. Final Exam Assigned**

**Week 6:** The Death of the Third Reich: Watch Downfall (2004, Oliver Hirschbiegel) and Hitler: The Last Ten Days (1973, Ennio De Concini). Read Hughs-Warrington, Chapter 8 and “Conclusion;” Articles on films; **Weekly Textbook Forum #6. Weekly Film Forum #6. Final Exam Due. Film Review #2 Due.**