Topics in European History:
Generalship in Europe during World War II
AHIS 391 (10284), Spring 2012, 8Week2
M/W 4:15-7:05 (ED 022)

Instructor:
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Office hours:  M 9:00-10:00 & 12:00-2:00, W 9:00-10:00 & 1:00-2:00
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This course deals with the nature and quality of military leadership in all areas of the European theater of war during World War II, including its extension to North Africa in 1940-43. Non-European commanders will be covered only to the extent they commanded in that area. The course features brief introductory lectures in essentially a seminar-style setting, emphasizing student participation. Documentary films will be used to illustrate some of the topics covered. Students will prepare frequent brief contributions for presentation in class and are expected to participate actively in class discussions. A brief research paper (6-7 pages) on one commander, or a comparison of two or more, is required. A compact and highly idiosyncratic style manual for it (The Happy Footnoter) will be distributed.

Readings

For background, read – preferably before the course begins -- S. P. MacKenzie, The Second World War in Europe, 2nd ed. (Harlow, England, etc.: Pearson/Longman, 2009), a brief account available in the campus bookstore. Background for North Africa will be provided by documentaries shown in class.

Most of your readings will come from the Internet and must be Googled by you. Check as many articles as you can find on each commander and print the ones you consider to be the most informative, including the main Wikipedia article on each of them. Googling their main battles is also essential. Recommended is Osprey Publishing’s “Command” series, which includes biographies of many of the leading World War II generals, each volume 64 pages long and many of them available used and very cheap from Amazon.com. Buying the volume on the general(s) you will do your research paper on is a good idea, but make sure you buy it from a seller in the U.S. who can deliver quickly; Amazon.com is an umbrella for numerous sellers, their reliability and speed of delivery noted in each case. The campus bookstore is also prepared to get you such volumes fast. For your brief (2-3 pages) written contributions and research paper, you should also consult books and articles in the library. Make sure you do your readings before class, as indicated in the date-by-date Schedule of Topics, below, in order to be prepared for discussions and questions.
Exams

The only exams in this course will be four 30-minute essay tests. The University’s official final exam schedule does not apply.

Policies

Attendance is expected, and a roster will be circulated for your signature. Arrive on time and stay until the end. Coming and going as you please is inconsiderate to students interested in learning, disturbs the instructor, and is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. The same goes for engaging in activities not related to the course, such as texting, playing video games, working on assignments for other courses, and the like. If you must leave class early for good reasons, inform the instructor before class starts, and leave quietly.

Assignments must be completed by their deadlines. Late submissions will be penalized at the rate of 1/3 of a grade per calendar day (i.e., an A drops to an A-, an A- to a B+ etc.).

Cheating is the “cardinal sin” of academe and will not be tolerated. On plagiarism, the official policy of the History Department is as follows:

Plagiarism is taking (which includes purchasing) the words and ideas of another and passing them off as one’s own work. If in a formal paper a student quotes someone, that student must use quotation marks and give a citation. Paraphrased or borrowed ideas are to be identified by proper citations. Plagiarism will result, at the minimum, in a failing grade for the assignment.

However: In this course, the consequence of plagiarism is a failing final grade.

Schedule of Topics

Week 1


Week 2

**FILM:** *France Falls, May-June 1940* (“The World At War” #3, 1974; Thames Television, 1980).

28: **North Africa: The Italian Phase** – Rodolfo Graziani, Mario Berti; Archibald Wavell, Claude Auchinleck, Richard O’Connor, Alan Cunningham; Thomas Blamey; Marie Pierre Koenig.

**Test #1**

**Week 3**

Apr 2: **The Balkans** – Alexandros Papagos; Maitland Wilson; Blamey; Bernard Freyberg; List, Ferdinand Schoerner.


**FILM:** *Desert Victory* (British Army/Royal Air Force, 1943).

**NOTE:** Classes suspended 4/6-9.

**Week 4**


**FILM:** *The Road to Leningrad* (“Battlefield IV,” Cromwell Productions, 2001; Time-Life video).

**Test #2**

**Week 5**

Apr 16: **The Eastern Front: Moscow to Stalingrad** – Friedrich Paulus, von Manstein, Walther Model, List; Zhukov, Vasili Chuikov, Konstantin Rokossovsky, Konev.

**FILM:** *Stalingrad* (“The World At War” #9, 1974; Thames Television, 1981).

18: **The Eastern Front: Kursk to Warsaw** – Alexandr Vasilevsky, Rokossovsky, Konev; Model, Hoth, Schoerner.

**FILM:** *Operation Zitadelle* (“Battlefield IV,” Cromwell Productions, 2001; Time-Life video).

**Research paper due**

**Week 6**

Apr 23: Sicily – George Patton, James Gavin; Montgomery, Miles Dempsey; Guy Simonds; Frido von Senger und Etterlin, Hans-Valentin Hube.

**FILM:** *Battle for Italy: The Battle* (“Battlefield,” PolyGram Video, 1996)

25: **Italy** – Mark Clark, Lucian Truscott; Dempsey; Freyberg; Albert Kesselring; Heinrich von Vietinghoff, von Senger und Etterlin; Wladyslaw Anders.

**Test #3**
Week 7


**FILM:** *Morning: June-August 1944* (“The World At War” #17, 1974; Thames Television, 1982).

May 2: **To the Rhine** – Patton, Bradley, Courtney Hodges, William H. Simpson, Gavin; Montgomery, Dempsey, Horrocks; Crerar, Simonds; Marie de Lattre de Tassigny; von Rundstedt, von Kluge, Model, Dietrich, Hasso von Manteuffel.

**FILM:** *Pincers: August 1944-March 1945* (“World at War” #19, 1974; Thames Television 1982).

Week 8

May 7: **The End** – Zhukov, Konev, Rokossovsky, Chuikov, Meretskov; Patton, Bradley; Montgomery, Dempsey; Mannerheim, Siilasvuo; Gotthard Heinrici, Schoerner, Lothar Rendulic.

**FILM:** *The Battle of Berlin: The Battle* (“Battlefield,” PolyGram Video, 1994)

**Test #4**