

## OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

**Note:** The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

<b>Course Code and Number:</b> HIST 420		<b>Number of Credits:</b> 4 <a href="#">Course credit policy (105)</a>													
<b>Course Full Title:</b> The Second World War <b>Course Short Title:</b> The Second World War															
<b>Faculty:</b> Faculty of Humanities		<b>Department/School:</b> History													
<b>Calendar Description:</b> The largest war in history, the Second World War largely shaped the world we know today. This course takes a global approach to study in detail the origins, events, and outcomes of the Second World War, incorporating military, political, economic, social, and cultural perspectives. Topics are evenly divided between the European theatre, including the German conquest of Poland and Western Europe, the struggle between Germany and the Soviet Union, and the final liberation of Europe made possible by the Allies, and the military campaigns in Asia and the Pacific, including Japan's war in China and southeast Asia and eventual defeat following the first ever use of nuclear weapons.															
<b>Prerequisites (or NONE):</b>		9 credits of lower-level history and any 300-level history course.													
<b>Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>		None.													
<b>Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):</b>		None.													
<b>Antirequisite Courses</b> ( <i>Cannot be taken for additional credit.</i> ) Former course code/number: Cross-listed with: Equivalent course(s): <i>(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)</i>		<b>Course Details</b> Special Topics course: <b>No</b> <i>(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)</i> Directed Study course: <b>No</b> <i>(See <a href="#">policy 207</a> for more information.)</i> Grading System: <b>Letter grades</b> Delivery Mode: <b>May be offered in multiple delivery modes</b> Expected frequency: <b>Every other year</b> Maximum enrolment (for information only): <b>20</b>													
<b>Typical Structure of Instructional Hours</b> <table border="1" data-bbox="105 1344 860 1585"> <tr> <td>Lecture/seminar</td> <td>60</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total hours</b></td> <td><b>60</b></td> </tr> </table>		Lecture/seminar	60									<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)</b> PLAR is available for this course.	
Lecture/seminar	60														
<b>Total hours</b>	<b>60</b>														
<b>Scheduled Laboratory Hours</b> Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: <b>No</b>		<b>Transfer Credit</b> (See <a href="#">bctransferguide.ca</a> .) Transfer credit already exists: <b>No</b> Submit outline for (re)articulation: <b>No</b> <i>(If yes, fill in <a href="#">transfer credit form</a>.)</i>													
<b>Department approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> February 7, 2025													
<b>Faculty Council approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> March 14, 2025													
<b>Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval</b>		<b>Date of meeting:</b> May 23, 2025													

**Learning Outcomes** *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze key themes in the history of the Second World War using a global perspective.
2. Investigate the origins and conduct of the Second World War, on both the battle fronts and the home front.
3. Debate themes and issues related to the history in question.
4. Present arguments and ideas to an audience
5. Create and facilitate discussions during seminars based on assigned readings.
6. Analyze historiographical debates on the subject.
7. Explain the importance of context, evidence, perspective, and research in the study of history to diverse audiences.
8. Utilize multiple primary and secondary sources.

**Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting** *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	25%	Holistic assessment:	45%	Assignments:	30%
	%		%		%

**Details:**

Holistic assessment: presentation and discussion (15%), reading reflections (15%), participation (15%)

Assignments: term paper proposal (5%), term paper (25%)

**NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.**

**Typical Instructional Methods** *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Teaching methods will include lectures and the use of audio-visual materials, but the discussion of readings and other materials will be emphasized in the seminar format of the course.

**Texts and Resource Materials** *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the [Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form](#).)*

Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1. Book	Ian Kershaw	Fateful Choices	2007
2. Textbook	Story	Concise Historical Atlas of World War Two	2006
3. Book	Haruko & Theodore Cook	Japan at War – An Oral History	1992
4. Textbook	Richard Overy	The Oxford Illustrated History of World War II	2015
5. Book	Sonke Neitzel & Harald Weltzer	Soldaten: On Fighting, Killing and Dying: The Secret WWII Transcripts of German POWS	2012
6. Book	Gottlob Bidermann	In Deadly Combat	2000

**Required Additional Supplies and Materials** *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

None

**Course Content and Topics**

- Course introduction
- The origins of the Second World War
- Germany's early victories, 1939-1941
- The war in Asia: Japan's early victories
- Britain, the Atlantic, North Africa, and forging an alliance
- The Eastern campaign, 1941-1943: Blitzkrieg, Stalingrad and the Battle of Kursk
- The downfall of the Third Reich, 1943-1945: D-Day and the race to Berlin
- The Pacific War: midway to the atom bomb
- Total war: the home front and war economics
- The war on civilians: race and atrocity
- Culture, media, and propaganda in the Second World War
- Gender in the Second World War
- Legacies: a New World Order?