

STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Arts & Humanities

HIST307

The Age of Dictators: Europe, 1914 – 1945

Credit Hours: Three

Length of Course: 8-Weeks

Prerequisite: None but HIST300 highly recommended

The course materials, assignments, learning outcomes, and expectations in upper level (300-400) undergraduate courses assume that you have completed lower level (100-200) History courses to develop content knowledge and skills necessary for research, writing, and critical thinking.

Students who have not fulfilled these requirements or awarded transfer credit should strongly consider completing these requirements prior to registering for upper level courses.

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Instructor Information

Course Description (Catalog)

This course focuses on the great crises of 20th century European civilization, from the outbreak of war in August 1914 to the defeat of Hitler Germany in May 1945. Through novels and historical monographs, it explores the effects of total war and mass mobilization on the industrially advanced state systems of the period, as well as the social emancipation, economic disintegration, and cultural innovation brought on by the great wars of the period. Particular attention is paid to the experience of the "great powers" (Germany, the Soviet Union, Britain and France), which is supplemented by student research on the smaller countries of Europe.

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Course Scope

This course will present a somewhat detailed account of the European experience between the two world wars. We shall begin our account by examining the ideas of Nietzsche and Freud at the end of the 19th century. Their ideas will lead us into the cultural movement known as modernism. We shall then investigate the Russian Revolution and the changed European landscape that was the 1920s and the “lost generation.” The inter-war years are examined from an intellectual standpoint as the Age of Anxiety and from a political or economic vantage as at the Age of Totalitarianism. To guide us into the latter, we shall rely upon Richard Overy’s excellent book, *The Dictators*. Our course ends with a brief foray into the origins of the Cold War.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

- Critically analyze the breakdown of 19th century ideologies through the ideas of Nietzsche and Freud as well as the manifestation of this breakdown in the cultural “happening” known as modernism.
- Assess the effects of total war and mass mobilization on the European nations of the period, as well as the changes wrought by total war: social emancipation, economic disintegration, and cultural innovation.
- Analyze why Europeans rejected social democracy and turned to totalitarianism in the interwar years in an examination of the appeal of authoritarianism not only in the fragile democracies of central and eastern Europe but also in the stable democracies of Great Britain and France.
- Evaluate the influence of the Bolshevik Revolution on Russia and Europe as a whole, along with the legacy of totalitarianism (whether Communist or fascist inspired) for Europe and the world.
- Assess the reasons why Europe went to war in 1914 and again in 1939, as well as why a continent-wide war was averted from 1933 to 1939.

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Course Delivery Method

This course delivery is via distance learning and enables students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. APUS ensures that the proper course materials and access to an online learning management system are available to you. Course materials and access to an online learning management system are available to each student. Assignments for this class include quizzes / exams (both non-proctored), written assignments, and forums.

In online courses, we construct knowledge not just by completing readings and assignments. An important part of the process is communicating with classmates and learning from what they have to say. As such, we need to share online conversations about ideas.

Direct interaction is a key feature of the educational experience. For that reason, it is important that you interact with fellow students and the course instructor during the course as specified in this syllabus. Additionally, you can contact the instructor during posted office hours.

You are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals we understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact the

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faculty before the due date so you can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

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Course Materials

Required Course Textbooks

Overy, Richard. *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany, Stalin's Russia*. New York: Norton, 2004.

Additional Resources

- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003. *Purchase Optional*.
- Turabian, Kate L. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, 6th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1996. *Purchase Optional*.

Important Note: The Director of the Undergraduate History, Military Studies, Western & World History Programs requires conformity with the traditional citation method used by Historians. This is the [University of Chicago Style Manual and its Turabian offshoot](#). Citations will follow traditional endnote attribution. Do not use parenthetical (APA / MLA) variations. Students cannot use Wikipedia or encyclopedias (this includes online encyclopedias) as references for any form of assignment. You may use dictionaries for specific definitions when necessary.

Recommended References:

The APUS Online Library, in the Tutorial & Student Studies Center provides a link to the *Chicago Style Manual – Online*. If you are majoring in History or Military History, then it is highly recommended that you purchase a bound version of this style manual because you will need to be required to follow this citation manual in all of your History, Military History and Military Studies courses.

Microsoft Word (if you do not have MS Word, please save all files as a Rich Text Format (.rtf). **NOTE - The classroom only supports .doc, .docx, and .rtf files.** Please visit Adobe for a free copy of [Adobe Reader](#).

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Evaluation Procedures

There are several types of assignments to complete for this course. In the lesson section of the class, under the tab Assignment, are detailed expectations for each assignment. Here, in the syllabus, I am providing a brief description of each assignment and the grading in general terms.

Forum

Week One's forum is the only one during the course that is not graded with a numerical grade, it is Pass/Fail. All other forums are graded on a 100-point system.

- ❖ **Thoroughness / Length of Original Post (50 points):** There is no specific length requirement, but a well-organized and well developed post will typically be two-three healthy paragraphs long (assuming a minimum of five sentences per paragraph). If you explain your ideas clearly and use specific details to support them, your post should reach an appropriate length. These posts should be **your own ideas**. That

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being said, you are free and welcome to use quotations from our sources to support your opinions. However, you **must** cite them appropriately if you do. You are required to make at least two original posts.

- ❖ **Thoroughness of Peer Responses (25 points):** Again, there is no limit, but your entry must have substance. Your responses should add to the conversation. Simply saying, "I agree" or "I disagree" is not good enough. Explain whether you agree and **why**. Bring up another related point, or ask a question. If you choose to ask a question, though, be sure to give your own answer as well. As a general rule, a thorough response will be one-two paragraphs long (again, assuming a minimum of five sentences per paragraph). You will respond to at least three of your classmates during each forum.
- ❖ **Thoroughness of Follow-Up Question (25 points):** Same requirements as your original response.

Essays

Throughout the course, you will complete several short essays rather than a research paper because I believe that these short “response” essays are a more appropriate measure of a student’s comprehension of the material. Instructions for the essays are located within the class lessons during the weeks in which they are due.

Final Exam

For this course, you will complete a final comprehensive final exam.

Weighting of Assignments

Every assignment is worth 100 points, though they are weighted differently. Your overall grade for this course will be determined in the following fashion:

Grade Instruments	Total Points
Seven forum assignments	25
Essays (three at 15 points each)	45
Final Exam	30
Total	100

I will post your grades for each assignment within five days of the due date or within five days of when you submit it if submitted after the due date. I will provide detailed feedback about what you did well, and what may need improvement. If you have any questions about a grade or need clarification on the feedback, please feel free to email to discuss your concerns.

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8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference the University’s grading scale

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<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Weekly Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Reading(s) and Web-Activities</u>	<u>Assignment(s) and Forum(s)</u>
1	The Great War and the Birth of Modernism	Evaluate fin-de-siecle culture, society, and politics. Assess the role of sex in shaping pre-war Europe	Review Week 1 Lectures Start reading Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 1-217)	Forum #1

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2	The Great War and the Birth of Modernism (continued)	Analyze the impact of WWI on Europe. Discuss the cultural phenomenon known as modernism and its impact on interwar Europe	Review Week 2 Lectures Finish reading Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 1-217)	Forum #2
3	The Russian Revolution, Versailles and Weimar	Analyze interwar German cultural, social, political, and economic forces	Review Week 3 Lectures Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 1-217)	Forum #3
4	The Russian Revolution, Versailles and Weimar (continued)	Evaluate the domestic and international impact of the Russian Revolution	Review Week 4 Lectures Finish reading Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 1-217)	Forum #4 Essay #1
5	The Age of Anxiety, Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia	Interpret the cultural movements of interwar Europe	Review Week 5 Lectures Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 218-440)	Forum #5
6	The Age of Anxiety, Nazi Germany and Stalinist Russia (continued)	Interpret the role of women in totalitarian societies	Review Week 6 Lectures Finish Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 218-440)	Forum #6 Essay #2
7	World War II, the Holocaust and the totalitarian legacy	Examine the role of the individual in totalitarian societies	Review Week 7 Lectures Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 441-651)	Forum #7
8	World War II, the Holocaust and the totalitarian legacy (continued)	Debate the nature of totalitarianism and war	Review Week 8 Lectures Finish reading Overy, <i>The Dictators</i> (pp. 441-651)	Essay #3 Final Exam

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

Writing Expectations

- Typewritten in double-spaced format
- Times New Roman 12-point font
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.
- Footnotes as applicable

Citation and Reference Style

Students in this course will follow the Chicago Manual of Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade. If I deduct points, it will be within the overarching policy set forth by the Director of the History, Military Studies, Western & World History Programs. This general policy is that I may reduce assignments that are one week late by 25 percent of the grade, two weeks late by 50 percent, and anything later than that may receive a zero. There are exceptions to this policy, on a case-by-case basis, and generally deal with emergencies.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the fun and excitement of learning that does not include descent to personal attacks, or student attempts to stifle the discussion of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Educator classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and--especially--satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers.

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Disclaimer Statement

Course content may vary from the outline to meet the needs of this particular group.

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- **Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:** The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- **Electronic Books:** You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- **Electronic Journals:** The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- **Smarthinking:** Students have access to ten free hours of tutoring service per year through [Smarthinking](#). Tutoring is available in the following subjects: math (basic math through advanced calculus), science (biology, chemistry, and physics), accounting, statistics, economics, Spanish, writing, grammar, and more. Additional information is located in the Online Library. From the Online Library home page, click on either the "Writing Center" or "Tutoring Center" and then click "Smarthinking." All login information is available.

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. The Portal for the History program is located [here](#).