

# *History 4820: World War II in Europe (ETO)*

Spring 2006, MWF 8:30-9:20 Main 115

Dr. Denise Conover

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Main 321J; Office hrs. W, F 11-12 or by appointment

**Scope:** This course covers the years of warfare in Europe, 1939-1945. Special attention will be given to the roles of Britain, Germany, and the Soviet Union in World War II. But also important are the efforts of the “Free Poles” and “Free French” and the United States. Among topics covered will be the resistance movement, battles and strategy, stories of individual bravery, Anglo-American strategic bombing, and much more.

## **Books:**

Charles Messenger, *The Second World War in Europe*

Wladyslaw Szpilman, *The Pianist: The Extraordinary True Story of One Man's Survival in Warsaw, 1939-1945*

Tsouras, Peter G. *Fighting in Hell: The German Ordeal in the East Front*

## **Requirements**

1. A 4-5 page (typed) paper response to the Szpilman book (we will also view the film in class); due at the end of the semester
2. Select another book on World War II (Europe—including North Africa and Soviet Union) to provide a second book response (4-5 pages, typed) on a topic that you find especially interesting or which we do not cover adequately in class.
3. Unspecified number of class-designated assignments
4. Responsible attendance expected
5. Final take-home exam

## **Tentative Schedule**

1<sup>st</sup> Week: Poland (start reading Szpilman's book)

2<sup>nd</sup> Week: Axis leadership (Europe): Mussolini and Hitler (start reading Messenger's book)

3<sup>rd</sup> Week: Weak British-French reaction to Munich

4<sup>th</sup> Week: Soviet-German Non-Aggression Pact and Blitzkrieg of Poland

5<sup>th</sup> Week: Soviet Weakness in Finnish war (1939-40); Italian Weaknesses in North Africa and elsewhere (1940-41)

6<sup>th</sup> Week: Implications of Hitler's conquest of West Europe (1940) (Resistance in Norway)

7<sup>th</sup> Week: Britain and the Blitz; Crete (1941); Balkans (1941)

8<sup>th</sup> Week: Operation Barbarossa to Stalingrad

9<sup>th</sup> Week: Soviet Effort in Leningrad, Kursk

10<sup>th</sup> Week: US Entry; North African Campaign (1942-43); Sicily; Italy

11<sup>th</sup> Week: Italy; Anglo-American Bombing and Resistance in France

12<sup>th</sup> Week: D-Day, Hedgerow Fighting, Breakout (Operation Cobra)

13<sup>th</sup> Week: Montgomery and Operation Market-Garden (Sept. 1941); Resistance in Holland

14<sup>th</sup> Week: Battle of Bulge (Guest speaker who was POW from Battle of Bulge)

15<sup>th</sup> Week: Allied meeting at the Elbe (Brigadier General Rawling, World War II veteran of ETO)

16<sup>th</sup> Week: Work on Take-home final exam; due last day of final exam week—deliver to History Dept. Main 323 in designated box (Conover).