



## Shanghai University of Finance & Economics

### 2020 Summer Program

### HIS 105-B Introduction to American History

#### Course Outline

**Term: June 1 – June 26, 2020**

**Class Hours: 12:00-13:50 (Monday through Friday)**

**Course Code: HIS 105-B**

**Instructor: Brandon C. Downing**

**Home Institution: Marietta College**

**Office Hours: TBA**

**Email: drbdowning@gmail.com**

**Credit: 4**

**Class Hours:** This course will have 52 class hours, including 32 lecture hours, professor 8 office hours, 8-hour TA discussion sessions, 4-hour review sessions.

#### **Course Objectives:**

This course is an introduction to Introduction to American History. As a class, we will examine Introduction to American History as a form of inquiry and understanding. The aim is to develop a familiarity with the discussion of modern war, its causes, conduct, and consequences, along with the deliberate efforts of individuals to control and shape events. Students should develop a means of interpreting and thinking critically about the events of the World Wars through a historic lens.

This course will utilize both primary and secondary sources in order to better understand the dynamics of change over time, generate a historical argument, apply historical knowledge and analysis to contribute to contemporary social dialogue, and to understand that the ethics and practice of history means recognizing and building on other scholars' work, peer review, and citation.



### Format:

For most weeks, you will be required to read secondary sources in preparation for that day's presentation and then read various primary sources in class that will either support the lecture or provide an alternative perspective to specific topics. There are also days that will focus primarily on a discussion. The discussions are based on article-length readings. I will utilize other media and experiential-learning exercises when and where it is appropriate. There will also be field trips to local historical sites, museums, and monuments that celebrate or commemorate the World Wars.

### Course Policies:

- 1. Attendance:** It is virtually impossible for you to excel in higher education without regard to regular classroom attendance. Attendance will be kept by the TA. If regular attendance becomes a problem, you can expect it to adversely affect your final grade at the end of the course. Moreover, it is expected that you arrive in the classroom on time and prepared for class.
- 2. Respect:** It should go without saying that all use of cell phones, computers, or any other electronic devices not directly related to the lecture or assignment for that particular class will not be tolerated. Be respectful by either not bringing them to class or turning them off during the entire class period. The same goes for food. All views and values are to be respected without interruption during the class. Although we may have different opinions, the classroom is a place where we should recognize that these differences are an asset rather than an impediment.
- 3. Academic Integrity:** Academic and professional life requires a trust based upon integrity of the written and spoken word. Accordingly, violations of certain standards of ethical behavior will not be tolerated. All work submitted for academic evaluation must be your own. The direct and unattributed use of another's efforts, however, is prohibited as is the use of any work untruthfully submitted as one's own. Ask me if you are unsure of any potential violation to this policy. If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you will receive a disciplinary penalty of a zero on that particular assignment. I reserve the right to amend this policy based on the extent of the dishonesty.
- 4. Coursework:** You will be graded on your attendance, class discussion, quizzes, field trip papers, and midterm examination and final examination. All work is to be completed on time without exception. Quizzes and examinations cannot be made-up unless a valid excuse is presented and documented.

### Course Requirements:

Attendance + Participation		100
Discussions	4x25	100
Quizzes	2x50	100
Midterm Examination		100
Final Examination		200

90-100%=A, 80-89%=B, 70-79%=C, 60-69%=D; and below 60% = F



## Grade Descriptions:

**Attendance and Participation (100 Points):** Attendance is kept by the instructor during every class. Missing more than three classes will result in a reduction of one full letter grade. Participation is also graded during each class. You should do your best to reply to general questions asked throughout the lecture, after reading primary and secondary documents, and after watching videos. If you use your cell phone, sleep, talk during the lecture, or use any electronic device not associated with the course content for that day, you should expect it to negatively impact your overall participation score.

**Discussions (100 Points):** There are four discussions at the end of each week based on academic articles listed under the required reading. It is expected that you read the entire article and come to class prepared to discuss it with your classmates. Each discussion is worth 25 points. If you do not participate during the discussion, you will receive a score of zero for that class. In order to gain points, you should attempt to answer, raise a question, counterargue, or add to the dialogue three or four times during the discussion to maximize your score.

**Quizzes (100 Points):** There are two quizzes administered during the session. Each quiz is worth 50 points. A variety of methods will be used to evaluate your understanding of the course material: multiple choice, matching, map identification, short answer, and essay are possible for each quiz.

**Midterm Examination (100 Points):** A midterm exam will be administered at the end of week three for a total of 100 points. A review session will address all questions and concerns regarding the exam.

**Final Examination (200 Points):** A final examination will be administered at the end of the five week session for a total of 200 points. A review session will address all questions and concerns regarding the exam.

## Required Reading:

Tracy M. Proctor, *World War I: A Short History* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017).

Michael J. Lyons, *World War II: A Short History* (Routledge, 2016).

Aaron Gillette, "Why Did They Fight the Great War? A Multi-Level Class Analysis of the Causes of the First World War," *The History Teacher* 40, 1 (November, 2006), 45-58.

Alexander Anievas, "International Relations between War and Revolution: Wilsonian Diplomacy and the Making of the Treaty of Versailles," *International Politics* 51, 5 (September, 2014): 619-647.

Lukasz Krzyzanowski, "An Ordinary Polish Town: The Homecoming of Holocaust Survivors to Kalisz in the Immediate Aftermath of the War," *European History Quarterly* 48, 1 (2018): 92-112.



James W. Hikins, "The Rhetoric of "Unconditional Surrender" and the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb," *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 69, 4 (November 1983): 379-400.

+All Primary Documents and articles will be provided in class

### Course Schedule

#### WEEK 1:

<b>MON:</b>	<b>Orientation</b>	<b>READINGS:</b>
	The Character of War	
<b>TUES:</b>	The Emergence of Total War	Proctor, 1-24
	Prologue to 1914	
<b>WED:</b>	1914: The Guns of August	Proctor, 25-48
	1915: New Solutions	Proctor, 49-68
<b>THUR:</b>	1916: Attrition Warfare	Proctor, 69-88
	<b>Video:</b> <i>The Battle of the Somme</i>	
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>Quiz I</b>	
	<b>Discussion 1:</b> Gillette, "Why Did They Fight the Great War?"	

#### WEEK 2:

<b>MON:</b>	1917: Desperation and Anticipation	Proctor, 89-112
	Impact on Societies and Peoples	
<b>TUES:</b>	1918: A New Ally Arrives	Proctor, 113-132
	1919: Peace at Last	Proctor, 133-150
<b>WED:</b>	The Treaty of Versailles	Proctor, 151-166
	Weimar Republic	Proctor, 167-172
<b>THUR:</b>	<b>Video:</b> <i>The Dark Shadow</i>	
	<b>Discussion 2:</b> Anievas, "International Relations between War and Revolution"	
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	

#### WEEK 3:

<b>MON:</b>	1940: Blitzkrieg: Poland Invaded	Lyons, 59-68
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	1940: Trouble in the North: Finland, Denmark, and Norway	Lyons, 69-75
<b>TUES:</b>	1940: A Spectacular Success: France Falls	Lyons, 76-85
	1940: All Alone: The Battle of Britain	Lyons, 86-92
<b>WED:</b>	1941: Invasion of Russia: Operation Barbarossa	Lyons, 104-112
	1941: America Emerges: Pearl Harbor	Lyons, 130-151
<b>THUR:</b>	1942: Turning Points: Midway Island, Stalingrad, North Africa	Lyons, 152-161; 174-209
	<b>Video:</b> <i>Prisoner Number A26188: Henia Bryer</i>	
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>Quiz II</b>	
	<b>Discussion 3:</b> Krzyzanowski, "An Ordinary Polish Town"	

## WEEK 4:

<b>MON:</b>	1943: War in the Atlantic: U-boats and Hunter-Killer Convoys	Lyons, 210-220
	1943: Strategic Air Command: The Allied Bombing Offensive	Lyons, 221-229
<b>TUES:</b>	1944: Invasion of Europe: D-Day	Lyons, 246-257
	1944: End of the Thousand Year Reich: Germany Surrenders	Lyons, 258-270
<b>WED:</b>	1945: Japan Collapses: Iwo Jima and Okinawa	Lyons, 279-288
	1945: The Atomic Bomb: Japan Surrenders	Lyons, 289-294
<b>THUR:</b>	<b>Video:</b> <i>Hitler of the Andes</i>	
	<b>Discussion 4:</b> Hikins, "The Rhetoric of "Unconditional Surrender" and the Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb"	
<b>FRI:</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	