The Operational History of World War II

This class is a short introduction to the course and conduct of World War II, with an emphasis on combat. The course will examine the combat operations of armies, fleets, and air forces as the Axis and Allies struggled for victory. The dynamics of specifics aspects of combat shall also be examined in detail, like tank and anti-tank warfare, air combat, or submarine operations. Political, cultural, economic, and social factors will be examined, but only inasmuch as these factors influence combat operations.

Grade Breakdown

Long Quiz 15% + Long Quiz 15% + Quiz + 10% + Surprise Quizzes 5% + Participation/Attendance 5% + Finals 50%

Readings

The course book is *A War to be Won* Allan R. Millett and Williamson Murray. Other readings shall be posted on Blackboard. Specific readings for the lectures is TBA.

*Before the War*

The Legacy of World War I
Interwar Developments

*Deutschland Erwache*

German victories, from Poland to France
The Battle of Britain
Air combat in World War II
Operation Barbarossa
The War in the Desert

*The Sword of the Empire*

Pearl Harbor and The Japanese Assault
Midway
Naval warfare in World War II
Guadalcanal and the South Pacific Campaign

*The Hinge of Fate*

The Battle of Moscow
Case Blue and the Battle of Stalingrad
Infantry combat in World War II
The Battle of Kursk
   Tank warfare in World War II
The Battle of El Alamein and the Turning Point in the Desert
The Invasions of Sicily and Italy

*The Great Crusade*

The Battle of the Atlantic and the Silent Service
   Submarine warfare in World War II
The Bomber Offensive in Europe
The Day of Days, from Normandy to the Rhine
   Command in World War II
The Soviet Counter-Offensives, from Leningrad to Bagration
Island Hopping and the Invasion of the Philippines
The Battle of Leyte Gulf

*Armageddon*

Wacht Am Rhein
The Battle of Berlin
Okinawa
The Bomber Offensive in Japan
“I am become Death...” the Atomic Bomb Attacks