BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM
World War II, The European Theatre
5023 AND 5003 SYLLABUS

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Nature of the Course:
The class is a study of the military, political, and social prosecution of World War II by the
leading combatants. It is a special opportunity for students to gain “hands-on” experiences and wisdom in
one of the great international cities of the world, London. Students will have access to vestiges of the last
great war, be it classic tanks, planes, and war sites. In addition, both the Public Records Office and the
Imperial War Museum have unmatched archival source material over the conflict.

Tentative Schedule:
AM - Class Orientation
PM - Free Time

AM - World War II: An Introduction
PM - Causes of World War II

AM - Duxford Aviation and Land Warfare Museum
PM - Visit to Cambridge

AM - The Fall of Western Europe
PM - RAF Museum

AM - Battle of Britain
PM - Battle of Atlantic

AM - North Africa and the Balkans
PM - Tour of the Houses of Parliament

AM - Visit to Coventry
PM - Visit to Stratford-on-Avon

AM - The Russian Front
PM - Public Record Office

AM - Visit to Parliament
PM - “

AM - Imperial War Museum
PM - HMS Belfast

AM - Visit to St. Paul Cathedral
PM - Research Time
AM - Invasion of Normandy
PM - Society During World War II

AM - The Final Solution
PM - Research Time
**Mini-Break:**
AM - Visit to World War II Cabinet Rooms
PM - Research Time

AM - The Final Defeat of Germany
PM - Research Time

**Class Attendance:**

Class attendance is required of all students. It is important for each student to be actively involved in all aspects of the academic program. Therefore grades will drop by one letter for event (lecture or field trip) missed.

**Field Trips:**

Historical field trips form an integral part of the class. In order to get a “feel” for history, it is necessary to visit World War II related sites, across England.

**Readings:**

Graduate Students are expected to complete a number of select readings for the course. These will include a general text, to be used as a foundation for the war’s events. Graduate Students will also read two monographs on particular aspects of the war in order to construct book reviews. Meanwhile, graduate students will have additional readings in order to construct book reviews.

**Research Papers:**

Graduate Student are expected to develop a substantive and comprehensive research paper of at least twenty-five pages based largely on primary sources. They are to draw heavily on the resources of the British Archives and British Imperial Museum. These papers will not be due until October 1, 2006.

**Examinations:** *Adjustments may have to be made regarding schedule.*

A comprehensive essay exam will be administered at the end of the term. Exam questions will reflect input from lectures, field trips, and assigned readings. Graduate students are required to give more depth of material and analysis in their answers.

**Grading:**

Fifty percent of the grade will be based on the research paper and book reviews. The final fifty percent will come from the final exam.