BRITISH STUDIES PROGRAM  
World War II, The European Theatre  
HIST 4853 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 insights in one of the great international cities of the world, London. Students will have access to vestiges of the last great war (1939-1945), be it classic tanks, planes, or war sites. In addition, both the National Archives 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 and US War Cemetery

AM - The Fall of Western Europe  
PM - National Army Museum

AM - Battle of Britain  
PM - Battle of Atlantic

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

AM/PM - Visit to Bletchly Park - all day

AM - The Russian Front  
PM - The National Archives

AM - Visit to Parliament  
PM - Britian During the War

AM - Imperial War Museum  
PM - HMS Belfast

AM/PM - D-Day Museum, Dover - all day
AM - Invasion of Normandy
PM - RAF Museum, Hendon

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

EXAM*

*Adjustments may have to be made regarding schedule.

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. These would include Duxford Air Base, the Cabinet War Rooms, Bletchly Park, Parliament, and the D-Day Museum at Dover.

Readings:

Students are expected to complete a number of readings for the course. These will include a basic text covering the war’s events. Students will also read a monograph on a particular aspect of the war. In turn, they will write a book review over the readings.

Research Paper:

Each student will produce a fifteen page paper based in part on primary source material drawn largely from the British National Archives. Topics will be chosen in conjunction with the Professor of Record who will aid in the research. The Research Paper will not be due until October 1.

Grading:

Students will take an essay final exam. The material will be drawn from the lectures, discussions, and field trips. The exam will be 50% of the final grade. The other 50% will come mainly from the research paper.