

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 10:00 to 10:50
Spring 2019

Edward Cohn

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- identify and critique the argument of a secondary text (a book or article by a present-day historian), while situating that text within a larger historical debate or literature.

Analytical Writing Goals

By the end of the semester, students will have improved their ability to:

- craft a clear, specific, and nuanced thesis statement in response to a historical question;
- construct a well-organized, evidence-rich, and cohesive paper in defense of a central argument;
- identify and analyze a base of source materials (secondary or primary) for a substantial research paper.

Course readings

The following books are all available for purchase at the college bookstore and are on course reserve at Burling Library:

Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City (A Diary)*

Richard Evans, *The Third Reich at War*

Jan Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*

Jochen Hellbeck, *Stalingrad: The City that Defeated the Third Reich*

Catherine Merridale, *Ivan's War: Life and Death in the Red Army, 1939-1945*

Other readings (marked “[Pioneerweb]” below) will be available on the course’s Blackboard site.

Assignments and Grading

This course will have five main requirements, outlined below:

(10% of your total grade), due on Saturday, February 16, at 5:00 PM (by email).

This paper will require you to synthesize material we’ve read for class; I will hand out an assignment sheet about 7 days before the paper is due.

(15% of your grade), due on Monday, March 4, at 5:00 PM by email. This paper will also be based on our course readings.

(20%), due on Sunday, May 5, at 5:00 PM. This paper can either be a historiographical paper (centering on an issue in the secondary literature) or an analysis of a primary source (say, a memoir); in either case, you are free to choose a topic of interest to you (although you need to clear the topic with me).

(10%). As preparation for your 10-page paper, you will need to hand in a paper proposal, an expanded bibliography, and a 3-to-4-page statement of your argument. Your grade on these assignments will be based on the extent to which you are making progress toward your final paper, and on the quality of writing and research shown by each assignment.

Extension policy

Each student in the class can have one (and only one) 48-hour extension on a writing assignment over the course of the semester. To claim this extension, send me a brief email asking for extra time before the assignment's deadline. I will grant this extension automatically, so there is no need for you to explain why you need more time. Keep in mind, however, that once you've been given an extension on an assignment, I will not give you an extension on another except in the case of a documented emergency. Note, too, that you can have one extension of up to 48 hours; you cannot break your extension into two 24-hour extensions, for example. In the absence of an extension, late assignments will be penalized one third of a letter grade per day.

Paper revision policy

Students in the class will also have the opportunity to revise one of their first two papers and to hand it in again for re-grading; if you choose to exercise this option, your final grade for the assignment will be the average of your original grade and the grade for your revised paper. (In

Monday, February 11: Neighbors?

Reading: Gross, pp. 71-124

Wednesday, February 13: Barbarossa: Was Stalin Surprised?

Readings: Overy, *Russia's War*, pp. 73-98 [Pioneerweb]
Geoffrey Roberts, *Stalin's Wars*, pp. 61-80 [Pioneerweb]

Friday, February 15: The Results of German Planning

Reading: Evans, pp. 166-214 (skim pp. 109-165 if you have time)

Saturday, February 16:

Monday, February 18: Why so Chaotic?

Reading: Merridale, pp. 49-115
Vasilii Grossman, *A Writer at War*, pp. 18-26 [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 20: World War II in context

Reading: Benjamin Shepherd, *War in the Wild East*, pp. 1-107 [Pioneerweb]

Friday, February 22: The Escalation of Violence in 1941

Reading: Omer Bartov, *Hitler's Army*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Monday, February 25: Evacuation from the Front

Reading: Rebecca Manley, *To the Tashkent Station*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Wednesday, February 27: The Siege of Leningrad

Reading: Richard Bidlack, "Survival Strategies in Leningrad in the First Months of the German Invasion" [Pioneerweb]
John Barber, "Leningrad's Place in the History of Famine" [Pioneerweb]
"Memoirs of the Soviet-German War: Part One, Leningrad 1941-1942," by Evgenii Moniushko [Pioneerweb]

Friday, March 1: The Agonies of War

Reading: Merridale, pp. 116-171
Order No. 227 [Pioneerweb]

Monday, March 4: The Final Solution

Reading: no reading assignment

Assignment:

Wednesday, March 6: The Final Solution, part 2

Reading: Evans, pp. 217-318 (excerpts)

Friday, March 8: Defection from the Red Army

Reading: Mark Edele, *Stalin's Defectors*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Monday, March 11: Economics and War

Reading: Mark Harrison, "The USSR and Total War: Why Didn't the Soviet Economy Collapse in 1942?" [Pioneerweb]

Evans, pp. 321-372 (excerpts)

Wednesday, March 13: The Beginning of Partisan Warfare

Readings: Kenneth Slepyan, *Stalin's Guerillas*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]
post-war documents on partisans

Friday, March 15: Life under Nazi Rule

Readings: Karel Berkhoff, *Harvest of Despair*, pp. 6-58 [Pioneerweb]

Wendy Lower, "Nazi Colonialism and Ukraine" [Pioneerweb]

Assignment:

Monday, April 1: The Red Army: A Revolutionary Force?

Reading: Jochen Hellbeck, *Stalingrad: The City that Defeated the Third Reich*, pp. 2-85

Wednesday, April 3: Stalingrad!

Reading: Geoffrey Roberts, *Victory at Stalingrad*, 75-136 [Pioneerweb]

Merridale, pp. 171-186

Evans, pp. 403-432, esp. 409-422 (if you have time)

Friday, April 5: Stalingrad continued

Readings: Hellbeck, pp. 85-140, 203-222

Monday, April 29: War's End

Readings: Evans, pp. 649-737

Wednesday, May 1: The Problem of Rape in the Fall of Germany

Readings: Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Friday, May 3: The Devastation of War

Readings: Anonymous, *A Woman in Berlin*, excerpts [Pioneerweb]

Sunday, May 5:

Monday, May 6: The End of Nazi Germany

Screening: *Downfall (Der Untergang)* (will be shown on the weekend at a time TBA)

Wednesday, May 8: German Memories of the Eastern Front

Readings: Robert Moeller, "Remembering the War in a Nation of Victims: West German
Pasts in the 1950s" [Pioneerweb]
Evans, pp. 738-764

Friday, May 10: The Soviet Myth of World War II

Readings: Merridale, pp. 336-388

Assignment: last day to hand in a revised paper (by 5:00) (optional)

Thursday, May 16: