

World War II

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Course Description

This course aims to add more context and nuance into the traditional American views of the Second World War. Although keeping the American experience at the center, it examines that experience through a global lens. The content covered will challenge some of the myths and half-truths that Hollywood has bequeathed to Americans about the war while introducing some arguments that have emerged from the latest scholarship on themes like the home front, the actual fighting of the war, and the processes of peacemaking. The intention of this course is to provide a serious, scholarly, and objective analysis of the interplay between American, world, and military history during the most destructive war ever.

Lecture Videos

This course consists of roughly 12 hours of video lectures by Dr. Neiberg. These videos have been split up into 25 shorter videos, each ranging from 20 to 30 minutes in length. The lecture topics are listed below. These videos will provide you with all of the information needed to answer the quizzes associated with this course.

1. “The US and Asia: 1919–1939” (2 videos)
2. “The US and Europe: 1919–1939” (2 videos)
3. “The Crisis in Europe” (2 videos)
4. “The Crisis in Asia” (2 videos)
5. “Mobilization for War” (2 videos)
6. “Turning Points: Part I” (2 videos)

7. “Home Fronts”(2 videos)
8. “Turning Points: Part II” (2 videos)
9. “Paths to Victory” (2 videos)
10. “Case Studies: New York and Paris” (3 videos)
11. “Making Peace” (2 videos)
12. “Remembrance and Teaching” (2 videos)

Note: Course lectures were originally recorded for the Gilder Lehrman Institute’s online graduate program. You can disregard references to assignments, other coursework, and the use of content in classrooms discussed in the videos. They are not part of the History U program.

Resources

Select the Resources link for information about the primary and secondary resources, videos, and websites referred to in the course. Please note: History U participants are not required to read or purchase print materials. All quiz questions are drawn from the lectures.

Quizzes

The purpose of the 4 short quizzes is to review your knowledge of the material covered in the lectures. Each quiz covers 3 lecture topics (ex. Lectures 1-3 are covered in 1 quiz). No outside reading is required to answer the questions successfully. After watching each video in the course, select and complete the corresponding quiz to test your knowledge and qualify for the Certificate of Completion.

Certificate of Completion

After finishing your course by scoring 80% or higher on each quiz, you will be able to download your certificate.

Please email historyschool@gilderlehrman.org with any questions.