In this course we will study the era of World War II in American history, roughly 1920 to 1950. The object of studying history is to learn about the past, but also to develop skills in analysis, critical thinking, interpretation of evidence, and expository writing. These skills are not merely useful for the historian but for all who are engaged in trying to understand the world and their place in it. Thus, in this course students will be expected to learn significant information about history, but will also be asked to read critically, discuss thoughtfully, and write persuasively.

**Required Books**
Michael C.C. Adams, *The Best War Ever: America and World War II*
Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, *Farewell to Manzanar*
Dalton Trumbo, *Johnny Got his Gun*
E.B. Sledge, *With the Old Breed*
James Bradley, *Flyboys*
Selected readings posted on Canvas or handed out in class
**Important Dates**

Thurs 9/21—Document Analysis #1 Due  
Thurs 10/12—Midterm Exam  
Tues 12/5 (in class)—Final Exam  
Tues 12/12—Final Essay Due

**Grading**

Participation—20%  
Document Analysis—20%  
Midterm—20%  
Final Exam—20%  
Final Essay—20%

The participation portion of your grade includes homework, in-class work, and quizzes (10%), and in-class discussion (10%).

Here's a rubric of what I’m looking for, for the discussion portion of your participation grade.

**A range** This student has not only done the reading but has actively engaged with its main themes, completed the homework thoughtfully, and participated in class discussion in such a way that demonstrates a command of the material.

**B range** This student has completed the readings and the homework but may have done so cursorily; speaks in class occasionally in a way that demonstrates satisfactory but not excellent engagement with the material.

**C range** This student may or may not have done the reading, and the homework does not reflect active engagement with the themes of the text; student does not speak in class, or occasionally does but does not demonstrate engagement with the material.

0 This student was absent, or was present and did not turn in homework.

The reading assignments for each day are listed on the syllabus.

There will be midterm and final exams; the midterm will cover all reading and discussion up to that point, and the final will cover the material from the second half of the term. There will also be two essays for which longer prompts will be handed out in class. I will occasionally give in-class quizzes and writing assignments on the assigned readings.
The course will emphasize discussion of readings, and there will be some sort of reading assignment for most days of class. Note that 20% of your final grade is based on participation—this means that in order to succeed in the course you need to read well and demonstrate in class that you are working hard to master the subject.

You may not text in class, nor can you use a laptop. If I notice you texting in class I will mark you absent.

**Attendance Policy**
Attendance may be taken on a random basis throughout the semester, via quizzes and sign-in sheets. You are permitted two unexcused absences without penalty, but on the third and each subsequent unexcused absence, your final grade for the course will be reduced by a third of a letter grade (I.E., from an A to a A-, an A- to a B+, etc.). UF’s official attendance and make-up policies can be found here: https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx

**Make-up and Late Work Policy**
Late essays will be penalized 1/3 letter grade for each day they are late. Should you have a university excused absence, contact me beforehand (or if it is unforeseen emergency, as soon as possible after your absence) to make make-up arrangements. Otherwise, missed exams cannot be made up.

**Students with Disabilities**
Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

**UF Grade Point Policy**
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<th>A</th>
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**Academic Honesty**
Be aware of the University’s policy on plagiarism. The Internet has made this situation more problematic but understand that plagiarists will be caught. Any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask. All plagiarism offenses will be reported on a Faculty Adjudication Form and forwarded to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. You may get more information on UF’s Judicial Affairs process at: http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/staff/policies.html#honesty
Evaluations
Students are expected to provide on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at https://evaluations.ufl.edu. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results.

Tips For Success

Read for 30 minutes a day.
If you want to succeed in the class, read a little bit every day, and read well: underline passages, take notes in the margins, strike up conversations with strangers and tell them about your reading. Do not wait until the last minute to read. A major part of the midterm and final exams will ask you to demonstrate mastery of the readings.

Come to class.
This class is made up of lectures and discussion, both of which are designed to help you learn the course material. If you don't come to class, you will miss important information.

Transcribe your notes.
Research shows that students learn lecture material best when they review their notes shortly afterward. If you are horribly upset that you can't use your laptop in class, this is an opportunity: right after class, open it up, and transcribe your notes into a word document. This will help you remember the material and organize yourself to study for exams.

Be proactive.
The meek will inherit the earth, but only after all the aggressive people have had their way with it. If you have questions, uncertainty, ambivalence, lack of clarity on anything at all, seek me out. It is my job to help you learn and be successful.

Unit One: America Between the Wars

Week One
Tues 8/22—Introductions, Class themes, Syllabus, etc.

Thurs 8/24—What does World War Two mean?
READ: Best War Ever, Preface and Ch. 1

Week Two
Tues 8/29—Lecture: America Between the Wars

Thurs 8/31—Discussion: Peaceseekers and Warmakers
READ: Best War Ever, Ch. 2
Unit Two: The Coming of War

Week Three
Tues 9/5—Discussion: Johnny Got His Gun
READ: Johnny Got His Gun, Part 1

Thurs 9/7—Library Day: Newspaper research
**Meet for class in Library West**

Week Four
Tues 9/12—Discussion: Johnny Got His Gun
READ: Finish Johnny Got His Gun

Thurs 9/14—Lecture: Isolationism and the 1930s

Unit Three: The Pacific Theatre

Week Five
Tues 9/19—Discussion: With the Old Breed
READ: With the Old Breed, Ch’s 1-7

Thurs 9/21—Lecture: America in the Pacific
DUE: Document Analysis

Week Six
Tues 9/26—Discussion: With the Old Breed
READ: Finish With the Old Breed

Thurs 9/28—Film: Why We Fight

Unit Four: The Home Front

Week Seven
Tues 10/3—Film Discussion: Why We Fight
READ: Best War Ever, Ch. 6

Thurs 10/5—Lecture: Race and World War II

Week Eight
Tues 10/10—Lecture: Home Front
Thurs 10/12—Midterm

**Week Nine**
Tues 10/17—Lecture: The War in Europe

**Unit Five: The War In Europe**
Thurs 10/19—Discussion: *Farewell to Manzanar*
READ: Finish *Farewell to Manzanar*

**Week Ten**
Tues 10/24—Discussion: The War in Europe
READ: *Best War Ever*, Ch’s 3 & 4

Thurs 10/26—Film: *Fog of War*

**Unit Six: The End of the War**

**Week Eleven**
Tues 10/31—Film Discussion: *Fog of War*

Thurs 11/2—Lecture: Possibilities for the Endgame

**Week Twelve**
Tues 11/7—Discussion: War’s End
READ: Best War Ever, Ch. 5

Thurs 11/9—Lecture: Endgame

**Unit Seven: The World the War Made**

**Week Thirteen**
Tues 11/14—Discussion: *Flyboys*
READ: *Flyboys*, Part 1

Thurs 11/16—Discussion: Flyboys
READ: Finish *Flyboys*

**Week Fourteen**
Tues 11/21—Lecture: The Bounty of War

Thurs 11/23—No Class—Thanksgiving
Week Fifteen
Tues 11/28—Lecture: The Cold War
Thurs 11/30—Final Exam Review

Week Sixteen
Tues 12/5—Final Exam in Class
Tues 12/12: FINAL ESSAY DUE