

# **Independent Study in History**

HIST 4199-060 – Fall 2026

1 Credit Hour

Dr. Colin Snider

CAS 118

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Office Hours:

Tuesdays, 11:00-1:00

Wednesdays, 11:00-1:00

Or by appointment

## **Description**

Independent study in specific areas of history not covered by organized undergraduate courses. A maximum of six credit hours for independent study courses may be applied toward an undergraduate degree.

## **Objectives**

Our independent study begins from a simple question: how do countries remember World War II? Behind that question are complex processes, including what countries choose to commemorate, what they leave out of their wartime experience, and how WWII shapes their understanding of their own nation's history. Drawing on primary and secondary materials, this course will situate the rise of Nazi Germany and then will explore how a variety of actors in WWII – from the United States to the Soviet Union, from Germany to Japan, from Brazil to Italy, from Mexico to England, from France to Australia, and more – have commemorated WWII through memorials, monuments, and other public markers. In the process, you will continue to develop your abilities in critical thinking, analysis, and writing, while also applying an understanding of the relationship between memory, history, and forgetting. By the end of the semester, you will be able to:

- situate the factors that led to the rise of the Nazi government in Germany
- visually analyze the forms monuments and memorials take
- analyze what components of WWII such monuments memorialize
- identify, describe, and differentiate the narratives of WWII memorials and monuments
- identify and analyze the silences in such memorials – who and what is left out from such memorials, and how those silences shape a nation's understanding of the war and its effect on the country

## **Required Readings**

Given the focus on war and memorials, many of the materials will be visual items – photographs, websites, and other visual elements – on the internet. The remaining required readings will be made available on Canvas.

## **Course Requirements:**

**I. Attendance and Participation** – We will meet weekly on Zoom to discuss that week's readings/materials and to develop ideas on how countries memorialize WWII. Attendance is required; in the event something occurs that prevents you from meeting, we will work to reschedule promptly so as to not fall behind. Attendance and Participation are worth 15% of your final grade.

## II. Article Analyses

To situate fascism, we will spend the first two weeks reading on the history and ideology of fascism generally and in Germany specifically. In each of these weeks, you will write a 300-word reflection that identifies what you think are the main arguments of the reading, their contributions to our understanding of fascism, and the limitations of the article. These analyses will serve as the basis for our discussion. Each of these will be worth 5% of your final grade, for a total of 10%.

## III. Memorial Analyses

Since we will be exploring the history of memorials and monuments of WWII around the world, for each week's subject, you will fill a "Monument/Memorial Analysis" form for that week's subject. This form will provide key information on the monuments/memorials and will allow you to reflect on the relationship between war and memory/forgetting. These weekly analysis forms will be graded but will also form the basis for our weekly discussions of different countries' monuments/memorials. The analysis form will be available on Canvas. There will be 11 of these analyses (one for each case study), and each will be worth 5% of your final grade, for a total of 55%.

## IV. Final Writing Assignment

Building on the work we do throughout the semester, you will submit a final paper of 1250-1500 words that takes the memorials we discuss as a whole and analyzes them, comparing and contrasting them to provide an original argument on how WWII is (and is not) memorialized. This paper will be due in finals week. This paper will be worth 20% of your final grade.

**Writing Assignment Deadlines:** Life happens. If illness, extenuating circumstances or special learning needs prevent submission of written work on time, please speak to me in advance of the due date. Unexcused late submissions will result in a deduction of one letter grade (10%) per day late. Papers more than one week late will receive an **automatic zero (0) for the assignment** and will not be graded.

## Grades

Based on the assignments outlined above, students' grades will be determined on the traditional grading scale (A: 90-100%; B: 80-89%; C: 70-79%; D: 60-69%; F: 0-59%) and will break down as follows:

|                                            |             |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Attendance and Participation               | 15%         |
| Article Analyses (2 at 5% each)            | 10%         |
| Monument/Memorial Analyses (11 at 5% each) | 55%         |
| <u>Final Writing Assignment</u>            | <u>20%</u>  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                               | <b>100%</b> |

## Academic Integrity

In line with university policies and procedures, **any and all cases of plagiarism or collusion will result in an automatic 0 (zero) for the assignment.** Plagiarism includes, but is not limited

to, the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the submission of it as one's own academic work offered for credit. Collusion includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any section of the rules on scholastic dishonesty. Disciplinary proceedings may be initiated against any student who engages in scholastic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. For the full description of policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty at UT Tyler, see <https://www.uttyler.edu/mopp/documents/8-student-conduct-discipline-final.pdf>.

### **Course Policies on Artificial Intelligence**

UT Tyler is committed to exploring and using artificial intelligence (AI) tools as appropriate for the discipline and task undertaken. We encourage discussing AI tools' ethical, societal, philosophical, and disciplinary implications. All uses of AI should be acknowledged as this aligns with our commitment to honor and integrity, as noted in UT Tyler's Honor Code. Faculty and students must not use protected information, data, or copyrighted materials when using any AI tool. Additionally, users should be aware that AI tools rely on predictive models to generate content that may appear correct but is sometimes shown to be incomplete, inaccurate, taken without attribution from other sources, and/or biased. Consequently, an AI tool should not be considered a substitute for traditional approaches to research. You are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the information you submit. Misusing AI tools that violate the guidelines specified for this course (see below) is considered a breach of academic integrity. The student will be subject to disciplinary actions as outlined in UT Tyler's Academic Integrity Policy.

While AI has utility in some types of work, for the purposes of the types of analytical work we will be engaging in this Independent Study, **AI is not permitted in this course at all.** I expect all work you submit for this course to be your own. The purpose of these assignments is to provide your own original analysis while engaging with the process of producing knowledge through your own analysis. Doing your own work, without human or artificial intelligence assistance, is best for your efforts in engaging with the human past and in developing skills that machines cannot replicate. For this course, I expressly forbid using ChatGPT or any other artificial intelligence (AI) tools for any stages of the work process, including brainstorming. Deviations from these guidelines will be considered a violation of UT Tyler's Honor Code and academic honesty values and will result in an automatic 0 (zero) for the assignment with no chance for resubmission and with referral to Student Affairs for academic dishonesty.

# **Course Schedule**

Week 1: Defining Fascism

Week 2: Fascism in Germany

Week 3: Memorializing WWII in Germany

Week 4: Memorializing WWII in Germany – Bonn

Week 5: Memorializing WWII in England

Week 6: Memorializing WWII in Italy

Week 7: Memorializing WWII in Japan

Week 8: Memorializing WWII in China

Week 9: Memorializing WWII in the United States

Week 10: Memorializing WWII in Brazil

Week 11: Memorializing WWII in France

Week 12: Memorializing WWII in Greece: [WWII Monuments in Epirus, Greece](#) [JSTOR]

Week 13: Memorializing WWII in the Soviet Union

Week 14: Thanksgiving Break – No Meeting

Week 15: Memorializing World War II: A Review

Finals Week: Final Essay Due