Overview:
World War II was one of the most transformative periods in the history of the 20th century. It was fought in multiple regions simultaneously and utilized human and natural resources from across the globe. Numerous histories have been written about the war, and memorials to soldiers and civilians dot the landscape. Nonetheless, most accounts of the war marginalize Africa’s role and the consequences of the war for African communities. This course examines Africa’s social, economic and political engagement in the war and introduces students to emerging debates in African historiography and the historiography of World War II.

Course Aims and Objectives:
By the conclusion of this course students will have a better understanding of some of the general debates in the historiography of World War II and those specific to Africa. Students will be able to demonstrate their ability to critically read and analyze a variety of primary and secondary sources. Students will demonstrate competence in identifying and summarizing the main arguments of a text, using primary and secondary sources to support their argument, and correctly using citations.

Assignments:
• Take-home exams: Questions will be given at least ten days in advance. The first take-home exam is due noon Sunday, March 13th. The second take-home exam is due noon Tuesday, May 10th.

• Film Review: a two page review of each required films – Days of Glory and Campe de Thiaroye. The review must offer a general overview of the film, the director’s main goals and his or her success in conveying those goals. Days of Glory must be viewed by class time Feb. 25th, 2016. Review due noon Sunday, Feb. 28th.
Campe de Thiaroye must be viewed by class time April 28th, 2016. Review due noon Sunday, May 1st.

• On-line journal:
In addition to the reading, a short journal entry on each reading is due by noon before every class. It must be posted on Blackboard under your individual journals. Briefly review the author’s main argument and the type of evidence used to support his or her claims. In addition, note if there is a theme, concept or historical development that is a surprise and enlightening or unclear and confusing. While I do not grade each individual entry, I will monitor the journals consistently throughout the semester and will periodically post questions or comments. I will also give a midterm grade on the journal to give students feedback on their standing on that assignment.

• **In-class reading checks**: These will be composed of 1 to 2 short answer questions based on the readings. They will be distributed and collected during class.

**Grades**: Your performance on the assignments and class participation will be factored into your final grade. Your grades will be calculated along the following guide lines: Exams – 40%; Journal – 20%; Reviews – 20%; Reading Checks – 10%; Participation – 10%.

**Attendance**: You are expected to attend all class meetings. You will be allowed two absences, beyond that each absence will result in a deduction from your attendance grade. **Please** be on time for class. Excessive lateness will be factored into your final grade.

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**Academic Integrity**

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student’s own work.

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts. You can give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from such students. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in the form of an e-mail, an e-mail attachment file, a diskette, or a hard copy.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

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Accommodations for students with disabilities
In compliance with the Cornell University policy and equal access laws, I am available to
discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for student with
disabilities. Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three
weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances, so arrangements can be made.
Students are encouraged to register with Student Disability Services to verify their
eligibility for appropriate accommodations.

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Religious observance
Some students may wish to take part in religious observances that fall during this
academic term. Should you have a religious observance that conflicts with your
participation in the course, please speak with me before the end of the second week of the
term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

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Commercial Internet Sites for Course Materials
Materials prepared for this course, In the Crossfire of Empires: Africa and World War II,
whether in hard copy or in digital formats and posted on Blackboard are intellectual
property belonging to the author (the professor or instructor). Materials include, but are
not limited to: syllabi, exams, lecture notes, course assignments. Students are not
permitted to buy or sell any course materials without the express permission of the
author. Such unauthorized behavior constitutes academic misconduct.

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Required Books:
Judith Byfield, Carolyn Brown, Tim Parsons, Ahmad Sikainga (eds), Africa and World
War II (Cambridge University Press, 2015).

This book is available in the Cornell Bookstore. In addition, a copy is on Reserve in Uris
Library. Unless indicated, articles and chapters are on Blackboard in the Content site.

Required Films:
Days of Glory (Indigène). Director, Rachid Buchareb (New York, NY: Weinstein Co.,
2007).

Campe de Thiaroye. Director Ousmane Sembene (New York, NY: New Yorker Films,
2008).
Week I

Thursday (1/28): Introduction “Burma Boys”

Readings:
[Blackboard- Content - WebLinks]

Week II

Tuesday (2/2) Lecture: A Short Introduction to African and WW II
Readings:


Thursday (2/4): Discussion [Weinberg, Byfield]
Lecture: Rise of Fascism and the Invasion of Ethiopia
Readings:


Week III

Tuesday (2/9): Discussion [Strang, Gonzalez-Ruibal et al.]
Lecture: The Italo-Ethiopian War
Readings:


Thursday (2/11): Discussion [Habtu/Byfield, Abayere, Jacobs (ed.)]

**Week IV**

Tuesday (2/16) February Break

Lecture: *The Unexpected Early Fall of France*

_Readings:


**Week V**

Tuesday (2/23) Discussion [Echenberg, Maghraoui, Scheck]
Film: *World at War* (Vol. 8), “The War in North Africa. ”

Thursday (2/25) Discuss [Film]
Lecture: *Allied and Axis Forces in North Africa*
Readings:


**Week VI**

Tuesday (3/1):
Discussion [Chetty, Helal, Moore]
Lecture: *War and Society in North and North East Africa*

Readings:


Thursday (3/3):
Discussion [Barrera, Corriou, Sikainga]
Lecture: *Africa’s Strategic Importance*

Readings:


**Week VII**

Tuesday (3/8) Discussion [Howard, Ray, Jacobs]

Thursday (3/10) *No Class.*

*Midterm due noon Sunday, March 13th. Post on Blackboard.*

**Week VIII**

Tuesday (3/15): Discussion
Lecture: *Allies in Africa*

*Readings:*


Thursday (3/17): Discussion [Abraham, Davis, Hutchinson]
Lecture: *The Eastern Expansion*

*Readings:*


**Week IX**

Lecture: *Strategic Resources*

Readings:  

Thursday (3/24): Discussion [Dumett, Clarence-Smith, Sunseri]

**Week X**

Tuesday (3/29): **Spring Break**

Thursday (3/31): **Spring Break**

**Week XI**

Tuesday (4/5): Lecture: *Production and Wartime Priorities*

Readings:


Thursday (4/7):  No Class

**Week XII**

Tuesday (4/12)  Discussion [Byfield, Jennings, Newitt]
Lecture: *Laboring for the War Effort*

*Readings:*


Thursday (4/14):  Discussion [Brown, Ash]
Lecture: *Working Women and the Wartime Economy*

*Readings:*


**Week XIII**

**Tuesday (4/19):** Discussion [Clark, Ray, Chuku]  
Lecture: *Beneficiaries of War and Empire*

*Readings:*


**Thursday (4/21):** Discussion [Johnson, Spencer]  
Lecture: *Disrupting Empire*

*Readings:*


**Week XIV**

**Tuesday (4/26):** Discussion [Ginio, Schmidt, Jacob (ed.)]  
Lecture: *Empire and its Malcontents*
Readings:


Thursday (4/28): Discussion [Summers, Parsons, Murphy, Film]


Week XV

Tuesday (5/3): Lecture: Reforming and Rebuilding Empire

Readings:


Thursday (5/5): Discussion [Hinds, Jacobs (ed.), Pankhurst]

Week XVI

*Take-home exam due noon, Tuesday May 10th. Post on Blackboard.*

Tuesday (5/10) Discussion