COURSE TITLE & NUMBER: World War II: HIST 2300
CREDITS: 3 (3 Lec / 0 Lab)
PREREQUISITES: College level reading required.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:
World War II surveys the history of the era from 1933 to 1945. The emphasis is on a global perspective on the war's causes and effects. The events of 1933-1945 are examined from political, economic, military, intellectual, and social perspectives. The war's course in Europe, East Asia, Southeast Asia, the Americas, Africa, and the Middle East is examined. The course will also focus on life on the homefront during the war, on the impact of the Holocaust, and on the era's major personalities (i.e. Roosevelt, Churchill, Mussolini, Tojo, Hitler, Ho Chi Minh, Gandhi, Mao Zhe Dung, Jiang Jieshi). The course concludes with a detailed look at the war's effects on the 20th and 21st century world.

OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1. The road to war (1933-1939)
   A. The Great Depression's impact
   B. The origins of fascism in Italy
   C. The origins of Naziism in Germany
   D. Militarism's birth in Japan
   E. The Spanish Civil War (1936-1939)
   F. Japan's Asian expansion (1932-1939)
   G. The path to war (events from 1933 to 1939)
2. The war in Europe (1939-1942)
   A. The Non-Aggression Pact and the invasion of Poland
   B. The spring 1940 offensives
   C. The conquest of southeastern Europe
   D. Invading Russia
   E. The war in North Africa
   F. The Holocaust
3. The war in Asia (1939-1942)
   A. Japan's adventure in China
   B. Japan's move into Southeast Asia (1940-1941)
   C. Pearl Harbor, the Philippines, and the outbreak of war
   D. Unrest in India
4. The war at home
   A. Germany
   B. Italy
   C. France
   D. Britain
   E. The Soviet Union
   F. The United States
G. Japan
H. China

5. The war in Europe (1943-1945)
   A. Nazi occupation policies
   B. Life on the homefront
   C. The Holocaust: deportation and extermination
   D. The tide turns, 1942-1943
   E. Allied invasions, 1942-1945
   F. Planning for the peace (wartime conferences)
   G. Germany's end, 1944-1945

6. The war in Asia (1943-1945)
   A. Life under Japanese occupation
   B. Life on the homefront
   C. The U.S. advances (island-hopping), 1943-1944
   D. Attacking the home islands, 1944-1945
   E. Hiroshima and Nagasaki

7. Ending the war
   A. Founding the United Nations
   B. Occupying the enemy
   C. War crimes trials
   D. The war's human and financial cost

8. The war in 20th century life
   A. Remembering the war in literature and film
   B. Oral history and the past
   C. The war's impact today

**COURSE GOALS/OBJECTIVES/OUTCOMES:**

1. Students will explain the impact that the Great Depression had in causing World War II.
2. Students will compare and contrast the origins and growth of fascism, Naziism, and militarism in Italy, Germany, and Japan.
3. Students will identify and explain the significance of major events that occurred between 1933 and 1939 that led to war.
4. Students will explain how the Germans managed to conquer much of Europe (1940-1942).
5. Students will describe how the Germans and Italians treated conquered peoples.
6. Students will explain why the Germans and Japanese began to lose the war in 1942.
7. Students will explain why Japan began expanding into Asia and the Pacific (1932-1941) and describe her occupation policies.
8. Students will describe life on the homefront in Germany, Japan, the U.S., and the Soviet Union.
9. Students will explain Allied military strategy in Europe and Asia and why this strategy was ultimately successful.
10. Students will explain why the United Nations was created and how its charter is related to the events that unfolded during World War II.
11. Students will describe the Allies' occupation policies and explain how they worked in Germany, Italy, and Japan.
12. Students will explain the war's economic and social legacies for today's world.

**MNTC GOALS AND COMPETENCIES MET:**
History and the Social and Behavioral Sciences
Human Diversity

**HCC COMPETENCIES MET:**
Communicating Clearly and Effectively
Thinking Creatively and Critically

**STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS:**
Students are expected to attend class regularly, participate in class discussions, and complete all assigned work. Students can expect to complete much of their assigned work outside of class. Additional course materials will be placed in the HCC computer systems management platform for student use.

**STUDENT ASSESSMENT SHALL TAKE PLACE USING INSTRUMENTS SELECTED/DEVELOPED BY THE COURSE INSTRUCTOR.**

*Curriculum Committee Approval Date: May 6, 2019*

*AASC APPROVAL DATE: July 24, 2019*

*REVIEW DATE: July 2024*