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## People's University

All programs are free and open to the public. Patrons may attend as many classes as they wish. There are no tests or other requirements. To register for the People's University: "World War II" please email the library at [ocplarchives@gmail.com](mailto:ocplarchives@gmail.com), call us at 304-232-0244, or visit the Reference Desk.

### People's University: INSTRUCTORS



**GREGORY COOKE** is Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Philosophy at Drexel University in Philadelphia. Cooke has researched, written and produced two historical documentaries about the African American experience during World War II, *Choc'late Soldiers from the USA* and *Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II*. He earned his B.A. in English from the American International College and his M.A. in Journalism from The Ohio State University.

**DR. HAL GORBY** is Teaching Assistant Professor and Director of Undergraduate Advising at West Virginia University where he teaches West Virginia and Appalachian History and Immigration, Ethnic History, U.S. Working Class, and 20th Century U.S. He earned his B.A. from Wheeling Jesuit University, and his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from West Virginia University.



**DR. DAVID JAVERSAK** grew up in Weirton and was educated at West Liberty State College, the University of Hawaii, and WVU. He is Dean Emeritus of Liberal Arts and Professor Emeritus of History at West Liberty University.



**DR. JERRA JENRETTE** is Professor of History, Department of History, Anthropology, and World Languages at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She earned her B.A. from Mars Hill College, M.A. from Appalachian State University, and her Ph.D. from West Virginia University.



**DR. GARY KAPPEL** is Perry E. & Aleece C. Gresham Chair in Humanities and Professor of History at Bethany College, teaching courses in World History, European History, & Military History. He earned his B.A. at Bethany College, and his M.A. & Ph.D. at West Virginia University.



**DR. JOE LAKER** is Emeritus Professor of History at Wheeling Jesuit University and a member of the West Virginia Independence Hall Foundation. He earned his B.A. at Marian College and his M.A. and Ph.D. at Indiana University.



**DR. JEFF RUTHERFORD** is Assistant Professor of History at Wheeling Jesuit University. He earned his B.A. at SUNY at Binghamton, his M.A. at SUNY at Albany and his Ph.D. from University of Texas at Austin.



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Spring/Summer 2018

# WORLD WAR II



People's U: World War II at the OCPL runs in conjunction with the "We Can Do It! WWII" Traveling Exhibit from the **Senator John Heinz History Center** in Pittsburgh, on display at the Ohio County Public Library May 26 through July 24, 2018.

## What is the People's University?

In keeping with the mission of public libraries as sanctuaries of free learning for all people, the Ohio County Public Library created The People's University, a **free** program for adults who wish to continue their education in the liberal arts. The People's University features courses—taught by experts in each subject—that enable patrons to pursue their goal of lifelong learning in classic subjects such as history, philosophy, and literature.



**Ohio County Public Library**  
52 16th Street | Wheeling, WV  
[www.ohiocountylibrary.org](http://www.ohiocountylibrary.org)

# The People's University

## WORLD WAR II

**ALL CLASSES START AT 7 PM  
IN THE LIBRARY AUDITORIUM.**

### **CLASS 1: TUESDAY, MAY 29** **A RETURN TO NORMALCY: AMERICA BETWEEN THE WARS**

The decades of the 1920s and 1930s were separated from the past and the future by two catastrophic world wars. President Harding's 1920 election campaign called for a "Return to Normalcy" — "America's present need is not heroics, but healing; not nostrums, but normalcy; ...not submergence in internationality, but sustainment in triumphant nationality." The next two decades would bring both roaring prosperity and great depression before the outbreak of a second world war in the 1940s.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. DAVID JAVERSAK**

### **CLASS 2: TUESDAY, JUNE 5** **HITLER, MUSSOLINI, AND TOJO: THE PRELUDE TO WAR**

Economic crisis not only hit the United States, but spread to other countries, triggering social unrest and ethnic violence. Politicians saw opportunity in fear and chaos. Benito Mussolini became prime minister of Italy in 1922, Adolph Hitler became chancellor of Germany in 1933, quickly establishing himself as dictator, and in the 1930s, Tōjō Hideki, rose through the ranks of the Japanese Army, becoming Minister of War in 1940, then Prime Minister in 1941. In the years leading up to World War II, major allies underestimated Germany, Italy, and Japan's expansion plans and a failure of the policy of appeasement meant war was all but unavoidable.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. GARY KAPPEL**

### **CLASS 3: TUESDAY, JUNE 12** **BLITZKRIEG, BOMBS, & BATTLES: THE ROAD TO D-DAY**

On Sept. 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland, and World War II officially began. Western technological advances had brought about the most destructive war in human history as the Axis nations (Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy, Imperial Japan) fought the Allied nations (Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and later, the U.S.) in the European, the Pacific, and the Mediterranean, African & Middle East Theatres. The pivotal Battle of Normandy, beginning with the June 6th D-Day invasion in 1944, marked the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. GARY KAPPEL**

### **CLASS 4: TUESDAY, JUNE 19** **ON THE HOME FRONT & ABROAD: WEST VIRGINIA & WHEELING IN WWII**

With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, West Virginia and the nation again went to war. WV reported the fifth-highest percentage of servicemen during the war, with 218,665 serving in the armed forces. While our West Virginians

fought abroad, local industries—such as Wheeling Corrugating—started manufacturing materials for the war efforts.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. HAL GORBY**

### **CLASS 5: TUESDAY, JUNE 26** **ON THE HOME FRONT & ABROAD: WOMEN IN WWII**

As widespread male enlistment left gaping holes in the industrial labor force, American women entered the workforce in unprecedented numbers. "Rosie the Riveters" worked in defense plants and volunteered for war-related organizations while still managing households. Additionally, nearly 350,000 American women joined the military, serving both at home and abroad, volunteering as WAACs, WAVES, SPARS, & WASPS, working as nurses, truck drivers, airplanes mechanics & in clerical positions.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. JERRA JENRETTE**

### **CLASS 6: TUESDAY, JULY 10** **ON THE HOME FRONT & ABROAD: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN WWII**

African-American soldiers saw WWII as a two-front battle. Drawing the connection between fascism abroad and hate at home, pre-Civil Rights activists declared the necessity of "double victory." On the home front, African American "Rosie the Riveters" fled lives as domestics and sharecroppers to empower themselves, working in war production and U.S. government offices while fighting both racism and sexism.

**INSTRUCTOR: GREGORY COOKE**

### **CLASS 7: TUESDAY, JULY 17** **ON THE HOME FRONT & ABROAD: THE HUMAN COST**

Six million Jews and more than five million non-Jews, including Gypsies, homosexuals, blacks, and the physically and mentally disabled, were persecuted and murdered by the Nazi regime and its collaborators. But the human cost of "total war" didn't stop there. From the U.S. internment of Japanese, German, & Italian citizens, to the Soviet forced labor gulags, to Japanese death marches and hell ships—the impact of the war on humankind is incomprehensible. Estimates of the final death toll, including military casualties, genocide, and war-related diseases and famine, range as high as 80 million people, as many as 50 million of whom were civilians.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. JEFF RUTHERFORD**

### **CLASS 8: TUESDAY, JULY 24** **V-E AND V-J: VICTORY, THE END OF WAR, AND THE AFTERMATH**

By the end of August 1944, Allies had liberated Paris. Allied forces then prepared to enter Germany, where they would meet up with Soviet troops. On May 8, 1945, the Germans surrendered, while war with Japan continued. On Aug. 6, an American B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing more than 70,000 people and destroying a 5-square-mile expanse of the city. Three days later, the U.S. dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, killing another 40,000. On August 14, 1945, the Japanese surrendered, ending WWII. The UN was formed following the war while the simultaneous rise of two superpowers, the U.S.S.R. and U.S., would divide Europe into two Blocs and former allies would engage in a Cold War.

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. JOSEPH LAKER**