

HISTORY 248
The First World War
Fall 2017

Syllabus

The information below is subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

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Lecture

Class Number: 20806 (LEC 401)
Days/Hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays: 11:00 am-11:50 am
Dates: September 5 – December 14, 2017
Room: SAB G90

Discussions

<u>Section</u>	<u>Class#</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Instructor</u>	<u>Room</u>
DIS 601	20807	9:00 AM-9:50 AM	W	09/05-12/14		KEN 1140
DIS 602	20808	8:00 AM-8:50 AM	W	09/05-12/14		KEN 1140
DIS 603	20809	3:00 PM-3:50 PM	T	09/05-12/14		HLT G84
DIS 604	20810	2:00 PM-2:50 PM	T	09/05-12/14		HLT G84
DIS 605	21275	12:00 PM-12:50 PM	T	09/05-12/14		MER 211

Final Exam:

Friday, December 22, 2017 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)

Course Description

The First World War has been called the “great seminal catastrophe” of the twentieth century (George F. Kennan). This course covers the armed conflict fought mainly in Europe between 1914 and 1918, but the war had deep roots in the global events and trends of the nineteenth century. Likewise, the end of the war was not apparent for many people even after the signing of armistices and peace treaties. This course examines not just the political and diplomatic history leading up to the “Great War,” but also the cultural and societal changes that were both the root and result of the conflict. With a focus on Central Europe, general topics in the course include the deepening of state power, the rise of nationalism, and the decline of multiethnic empires. The course also looks at the war outside Europe and the role of colonies. Weekly topics are not in strict chronological order, but rather introduced around themes. Besides readings from textbooks and articles, primary source materials are included for discussion.

Learning Goals

- to differentiate the short- and long-term origins and impact of the First World War
- to gain a greater understanding of the craft of history, and in particular:
 - *how historians provide different kinds of evidence to argue about the past
 - *how to evaluate primary and secondary sources in a critical manner
- to be able to write in a persuasive and cogent manner using primary and secondary sources
- to be able to work with colleagues in constructing arguments and evaluating those of others

Course Requirements

1. Regular attendance is mandatory. Missing any section without an excuse will affect your grade. In lecture, tardiness and leaving class early are disruptive and not acceptable. Every two instances of tardiness/leaving early will be treated as one unexcused absence. Usage of computers and phones beyond course needs is also disruptive to your fellow students and may be penalized at the discretion of the instructor.
2. You are expected to read the assigned texts before the first meeting of each week. You can come to the professor’s or TA’s office hours if you have any questions.
3. Active participation in your mandatory weekly discussion section is an important part of the course and of your grade. You may have assignments and quizzes on maps and readings in your discussion section.
4. One midterm exam (held in lecture) and one final exam (see finals schedule). Please pay attention in class for further details.
5. Two papers (4-6 pages, double-spaced, 1-inch margins, printed on paper and submitted to D2L) on a topic given in class. Papers must be submitted on time. Please pay attention in class for further details.

You are responsible for being aware of class deadlines and pertinent university deadlines.

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT ATTEND CLASS OR CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES MAY BE DROPPED ADMINISTRATIVELY.

Departmental Policy on Auditors: If the instructor admits auditors, the number of auditors who may be admitted is determined not by the number of seats in the classroom but by the stated capacity of the course, and the admission of auditors is provisional until the end of the add/drop period. The Department recommends that instructors not admit auditors in seminars and not in any course in excess of the stated capacity.

Grading

20%	Discussion Section Grade (includes assignments and active participation)
20%	First Paper
20%	Second Paper
15%	Midterm Exam
25%	Final Examination

Grade Scale

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage Score</u>
A	93-100%
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

Adjustments and deductions may be made to the preliminary course grade for absences and other factors. Grading scales may change and/or differ for various assignments.

Email and D2L

You must check your UWM email regularly and often for important course notifications. The course also uses the Desire2Learn website to distribute information, including grades for exams and papers. Please note that D2L and email are used for supplementary course information and are not meant to replace going to lecture, attending discussion section, or doing the readings.

If you enrolled late or were not on the D2L mailing list due to enrollment issues, you can check the announcements page on D2L, where email messages (in abbreviated form) are posted. It is your responsibility to find out any work you may have missed and to be aware of exam dates and assignment deadlines.

You can access D2L at the following website: <http://d2l.uwm.edu/>

Required Readings:

For lecture, we will be reading several secondary source texts written by historians, including books, sections of books, and articles. In addition, you will also read a variety of primary sources for your discussion section. Please read the texts in a critical manner and come to your weekly section prepared to discuss the lecture and section readings with your classmates and TA.

Books:

Lafore, Laurence. *The Long Fuse: An Interpretation of the Origins of the First World War*. 2nd Edition. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 1971.
 ISBN-10: 0881339547
 ISBN-13: 978-0881339543

Shevin-Coetzee, Marilyn and Frans Coetzee, ed. *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens: A World War I Sourcebook*. Second Edition. Chichester, West Sussex, UK; Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.
 ISBN-10: 0470655836
 ISBN-13: 978-0470655832

Strachan, Hew. *The First World War*. New York: Penguin Books, 2005.
 ISBN-10: 0143035185
 ISBN-13: 978-0143035183

The required books can be found online or ordered in bookstores. Wherever you obtain the books, please pay attention to the ISBN numbers to make sure that you get the correct edition.

Other Readings:

Some weeks may include required or supplemental readings. These readings are either on D2L or in the required books above.

Library Reserve:

Copies of the required books have also been ordered for two-hour reserve at the Golda Meir Library. The editions may vary. You can check the availability of the books at <http://www.uwm.edu/Library> (go to “Course Reserve” and look for this course). Please keep in mind that these library reserve copies might be in high demand by other students. Also, some books might not be on reserve if the library does not carry the title, so check beforehand.

Academic Advising in History

All L&S students have to declare and complete an academic major to graduate. If you have earned in excess of 45 credits and have not yet declared a major, you are encouraged to do so. If you either are interested in declaring a major (or minor) in History or require academic advising in History, please visit the Department of History undergraduate program web page at <https://uwm.edu/history/undergraduate/advising/> for information on how to proceed.

Policies:

If you are a student requiring special accommodation for a verified disability, please contact the instructor immediately.

Do not make audio or visual recordings without the explicit permission of the instructor. Using class email lists and individual student email addresses for commercial purposes may be reported to the Dean of Students.

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Plagiarism in assignments and cheating on exams may lead to failure in the course and other sanctions, including expulsion from the university.

On Plagiarism, see: <http://guides.library.uwm.edu/noplagiarism>

On Academic Misconduct, see:

http://uwm.edu/deanofstudents/conduct/conduct_procedures/academic-misconduct/

For more information about these and other policies, please refer to the following link from University-wide policies: <http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Credit hour policy: This 3-credit course meets for 3 hours per week during the semester. Students are expected to put in 7 additional hours per week studying and working on assignments to achieve the learning goals of this course.

It is your responsibility to find out any work you may have missed and to be aware of deadlines.

Course Schedule

The readings and schedule may change at the instructor's discretion.

A single asterisk (*) indicates a primary source located on D2L

A double asterisk (**) indicates a secondary source located on D2L

Week 1 – The First World War: One Hundred Years Before and After

9/5: Introduction

9/7: Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna in 1815

Lecture Readings:

Lafore, *Long Fuse*, 13-82.

Discussion:

Introduction

Week 2 – A Century of Peace or Powder Keg?

9/12: *Europe in the Age of Empire, Industry, and Nationalism*

9/14: *Germany: Politics and Society before the War*

Lecture Readings:

Lafore, *Long Fuse*, 83-185.

Discussion:

*General Friedrich Bernhardt, “The Next War.”

MAP QUIZ IN DISCUSSION SECTION

Week 3 – The Concert of Europe Falters

9/19: Alliances and Assassinations

9/21: The July Crisis

Lecture:

Lafore, *Long Fuse*, 186-268.

Strachan, *The First World War*, xv-xviii, 1-31.

Discussion:

*The Army Intervenes in the Crisis: Helmuth J. L. von Moltke to Theobald von Bethmann Hollweg (July 29, 1914).

**“The ‘Willy-Nicky’ Telegrams.”

Week 4 – From Local War to World War

9/26: A German Way of War: The Schlieffen Plan

9/28: The "Spirit of 1914": Discovering National Community

Lecture:

Strachan, *The First World War*, 35-64.

Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

We Shall Be without Fear, p. 12.

The View from St. Petersburg, p. 15.

German Socialists Support the War, p. 22.

The Sacred Union in France, 232.

Week 5 –New or Old Warfare?

10/3: The Trench

10/5: *The War in the Air*

Lecture:

Strachan, *The First World War*, 67-95, 131-160.

Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

Life Different as Possible, p. 41.

Gas Warfare, p. 130.

Gas at the Front, p. 132.

The Importance of the Airplane, p. 152.

Week 6 – The Year of Battles: Deadlock and Radicalization

10/10: Verdun and the Somme

10/12: U-Boats and Jutland

Lecture:

Strachan, *The First World War*, 161-197.

Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

The Attack, p. 45.

A Canadian in the Trenches, p. 56.

The Dominance of the Machine Gun, p. 128.

The Adventures of U-202, p. 145.

FIRST PAPERS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION

Week 7 – The Coming of Total War

10/17: The War State

10/19: The War Economy

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 201-221.Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*
 The War and British Liberties, p. 164.
 Censorship, p. 168.
 Germany's Food Supply, p. 182.
 Practicing Strict Economy, p. 192.

Week 8 - Society at War

10/24: Gender Roles in Flux? Perception and Experience

10/26: **Midterm**Lecture:

**Ian Beckett, "War and society" (Chapter 9), in *The Great War, 1914-1918*. Second Edition (Harlow: Pearson Longman, 2007), 437-497.

Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*
 A New Role for Women, p. 196.
 Keep Your Eyes Open, p. 206.

Week 9 – Politics of Extremes: Culture and Society in Flux

10/31: Nationalism and War (Ireland and Czechoslovakia)

11/2: Arabs and Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 97-127.Discussion:

Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*
 Russian Jews Demand End to Discrimination, p. 240.
 Ethnic Minorities in the Austro-Hungarian Empire, p. 244.
 The Fate of Turkey's Armenians, 249.
 Rebellion in Ireland, p. 314.

PRESEMESTER DRAFT – May 26, 2017

Week 10 – From World War to Global War

11/7: The US Declaration of War

11/9: *Prospects and Problems of US Intervention*Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 222-230.Discussion:

*Wilson's War Message to Congress, 2 April, 1917.

*Senator Norris Opposes U.S. Entry into the War, 4 April, 1917.

*American Loyalty by Citizens of German Descent (Washington, D.C.: Committee on Public Information, 1917).

Week 11 – Breaking Points: Military and Political Limits

11/14: The Battles of 1917: Chemin des Dames and Passchendaele

11/16: Dissent and Revolution

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 233-265.Discussion:Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

Britain's Parliament Debates Conscientious Objection, p. 287.

Pacifism-A Political Crime?, p. 289.

Strikes in Britain, p. 296.

The French Mutinies, p. 299.

Week 12 – War and Peace in the East

11/21: **NO LECTURE – WORK ON PAPERS!**

11/23: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 269-290, reread 238-242, 260-265.Discussion: **NO DISCUSSION MEETING, BUT WORK ON PAPERS!**

Week 13 – The Turn of the War

11/28: Russia's Revolutions

11/30: The Ludendorff Offensives

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 290-315.Discussion:Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

Not a Beaten Army, p. 83.

A Woman in the Service of the Tsar, p. 209.

Lenin's View of the War, p. 316.

Revolution at the Front, 321.

SECOND PAPERS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION

Week 14 – Remaking Nations

12/5: Armistice: German Defeat or Allied Victory in 1918?

12/7: The Treaties of Versailles, St. Germain and Trianon

Lecture:Strachan, *The First World War*, 315-340.Discussion:

*President Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," January 8, 1918.

*Harold Nicolson, "Peacemaking, 1919."

*Erich Ludendorff Admits Defeat: Diary Entry by Albrecht von Thaer (October 1, 1918).

*The Versailles Treaty, 1919 (excerpts).

Week 15 – The End of Europe?

12/12: The Crisis of Liberal Democracy

12/14: Remembering the Great War

Lecture:

** Bessel, "Germany from War to Dictatorship."

Discussion:Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens:*

The Lost Generation, p. 350.

*General Ludendorff, "On Overcoming the Consequences of the Lost War," 1922.

*The 25 Points 1920: An Early Nazi Program.

*John Maynard Keynes, "The Economic Consequences of the Peace," 1920.

FINAL EXAM: See first page