HISTORY 248
The First World War
Fall 2018

Syllabus (PRESEMESTER DRAFT)

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

Instructor: Winson Chu, Associate Professor, Department of History
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Office Hours: TBA

Teaching Assistant: TBA
Office Address: 
Email: 
Office Hours: 

Lecture
Class Number: 20639 (LEC 401)
Days/Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays: 10:00 am–10:50 am
Dates: September 4–December 13, 2018
Room: PHY 135

Discussions

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Class#</th>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Days</th>
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<td>20640</td>
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Final Exam:
Saturday, December 15, 2018 (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

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<td>A</td>
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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/
Login information is at: http://uwmltc.org/?p=1021
More information for students can be found at:
http://uwmltc.org/?p=8607&_ga=2.263567625.441641528.1504050810-1078956949.1504050810
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:
ISBN-10: 0881339547

ISBN-10: 0470655836

ISBN-10: 0143035185

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](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: Napoleon and the Congress of Vienna in 1815
Lecture Readings:
Discussion:
Introductions

Week 2 – A Century of Peace or Powder Keg?
9/10: Europe in the Age of Empire, Industry, and Nationalism
9/12: Germany: Politics and Society before the War
Lecture Readings:
Discussion:
*General Friedrich Bernhardi, “The Next War.”

MAP QUIZ IN DISCUSSION SECTION

Week 3 – The Concert of Europe Falters
9/17: Alliances and Assassinations
9/19: The July Crisis
Lecture:
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

9/24: A German Way of War: The Schlieffen Plan
9/26: The "Spirit of 1914": Discovering National Community

Lecture:

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?

10/1: From Franc-Tireurs to the Trenches
10/3: The War on the Sea and in the Air

Lecture:

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

10/8: Verdun and the Somme
10/10: U-Boats and Jutland

Lecture:

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.

**FIRST PAPERS DUE IN DISCUSSION SECTION**
**Week 7 – The Coming of Total War**

10/15: The War State
10/17: 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**

10/22: Gender Roles in Flux? Perception and Experience
10/24: **Midterm**

**Lecture:**

**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**

10/29: Nationalism and War (Ireland and Czechoslovakia)
10/31: Arabs and Armenians in the Ottoman Empire

**Lecture:**

**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.
Week 10 – From World War to Global War
  11/5: The US Declaration of War
  11/7: Prospects and Problems of US Intervention

Lecture:

Discussion:
  *Wilson’s War Message to Congress, 2 April, 1917.
  *Senator Norris Opposes U.S. Entry into the War, 4 April, 1917.

Week 11 – Breaking Points: Military and Political Limits
  11/12: The Battles of 1917: Chemin des Dames and Passchendaele
  11/14: Dissent and Revolution

Lecture:

Discussion:
  Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, *Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens*:
  Britain’s Parliament Debates Conscientious Objection, p. 287.
  Strikes in Britain, p. 296.
  The French Mutinies, p. 299.

Week 12 – War and Peace in the East
  11/19: Russia’s Revolutions
  11/21: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY:

Lecture:

Discussion: NO DISCUSSION MEETING, BUT WORK ON PAPERS!
Week 13 – The Turn of the War
11/26: Germany’s Eastern Utopias
11/28: The Ludendorff Offensives

Lecture:

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
12/3: Armistice: German Defeat or Allied Victory in 1918?
12/5: The Treaties of Versailles, St. Germain and Trianon

Lecture:

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?
12/10: The Crisis of Liberal Democracy
12/12: Remembering the Great War

Lecture:

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.

FINAL EXAM: See first page