The Great War has been linked to nearly every social, cultural, and political transformation that marked the short century that followed: mobilization and the experience of total war transformed the relations between governments and citizens, between men and women, and between social classes. Europeans experienced death on an unprecedented scale and came to terms with new forms of industrialized warfare, from the use of poison gas to modern practices of genocide. Europeans now learned to live with violence, both during as well as after the war, and found new ways to mourn or remember the dead.

This course will try to situate the upheaval of 1914-1918 within the larger framework of twentieth-century European history. Using a wide variety of sources – memoirs, essays, poems, literary and cinematic representations, among others – we will try to understand how historians have approached the cultural and political history of the war, and the problem of the relation between war and social transformation more broadly.

**Required Texts:**

**Books:** The following books are available at the bookstore. Cheap used copies are easily found online (any edition is fine). Copies of the books have been placed in the College Library course reserve.

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (1933)
Robert Graves, *Goodbye to all that* (1929)

**Course packet:** A course packet is available at the Copy Center, 1650 Humanities. The relevant readings are marked by an ‘*’ on the schedule of lectures below.

**Online sources** –marked by a ‘–’ on the schedule below (go to Learn@UW→ Materials → Content, or to the hyperlinks on the electronic version of the syllabus).
**Requirements:**
The course consists of both lectures and discussions. The success of both depends on your active participation. Read the assigned pages before class and bring them with you. You are required to attend all lectures.

**Papers:** There are 4 papers of varying lengths (between 4-7 pp., 12 font, double space), due on weeks V, VIII, XII, and XV. All papers are based on sources discussed in class.

**Group research project:** Each group (3-4 students) will be required to conduct research on any topic related to the course and present their findings in class on week XIV. You will also be required to hand in a separate source list. Further information regarding this assignment will be given in class.

**Grade structure:**
- Paper 1: 15%
- Papers 2,3,4: 60% (20% each)
- Group research project: 15%
- Attendance and participation: 10%

Please note that active, constant, and collegial participation will be rewarded!

**Schedule of Lectures**

**Week I  Total War and the Twentieth Century**

09/04  Introduction and course mechanics

**Week II  “The Lamps Are Going Out”**

09/09  Europe in 1914

**Read:**

09/11  The Guns of August

**Week III  Nations in Arms**

09/16  The “Spirit of 1914”

**Read:**

*Filippo Marinetti, “The War as the Catharsis of Italian Society” (November 1914)

*BLAST: The Manifesto of Vorticism (July 1914).
**09/18  Propaganda and the Historian**

**Read:**

*The Bryce Committee Report on German Atrocities, Part II (b): “Treatment of Women and Children”.

**Week IV  Mobilizing for Total War**

**09/23  Women and Men**

**Read:**
*Book:* Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (at least up to page 289. You will need to finish the entire book during the semester – we will discuss it again on 11/13).

*Review the chapter from Zweig, *The World of Yesterday.*

**09/25  Workers of the World**

**Week V  Industrialized Warfare**

**09/30  “Humanity is Mad”**

**Read:**

**10/02  Technology as Culture**

**Read:**
*Ernst Jünger on the pilots,* from *Copse 125* (1930).

*** First Paper Due 10/02***
Week VI  The Politics of Resistance
10/07  History Through Film: Stanley Kubrik’s Paths of Glory (1957).

10/09  History Through Literature: The Politics of Resistance

Read:
Book: Elaine Showalter, Regeneration (entire).

-Peter Taylor Whiffen on the “Shot at Dawn” campaign.

Week VII  Home Fronts
10/14  The Politics of Everyday Life

Read:

10/16  The New Ecology of Production

Read:
*Roger Chickering, Imperial Germany and the Great War, 1914-1918 (Cambridge, 1998), 32-40.  OR

Week VIII  Nationhood and Citizenship
10/23  War and Suffrage

Read:
- Read about the Suffragette (later Britannia), the newspaper of the Women’s Social and Political Union (WSPU).

*** Second Paper Due 10/23***

10/21  “A Terrible Beauty Is Born”

Read:

**”Pride in the Anzacs at Gallipoli,” excerpts from an article in Argus (1915).

*Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)
**Week IX**  
*Forgotten Victims?*

10/28   The Civilian’s War: Occupation, Displacement, and Genocide

10/30   The Experience in the Colonies

**Read:**
**Book:** Joe Lunn, *Memoirs of a Maelstrom: A Senegalese Oral History of the First World War* (Introduction, chapters 1,2,3,5,6,7, Conclusion).

**Week X**  
*A New World Order?*

11/04   *The Great War for Empire*

11/06   *Russia’s War and Revolution* (Guest Lecture by Professor David McDonald)

**Read:**

*Reports on the condition of the troops (1917).*

*Lenin’s April Theses (1917).*

*Order N. 1 (1917).*

**Week XI**  
*The Politics of Memory*

11/11   Death and Commemoration

11/13   Writing on the Great War

**Read:**
**Book:** Robert Graves, *Good Bye to All That* (entire).

*Review Brittain, Testament.*

**Week XII**  
*The Search for Stability*

11/18   Women and Men (Again)

**Read:**

11/20   Unfulfilled Promises

*** Third Paper Due 11/20***
**Week XIII**  
*Towards Another Armageddon?*

**11/25**  
The Politics of Discontent

**Read:**
*SDP appeal for a general strike, 1920
*Hindenburg on the “Stab in the Back,” 1918

**11/27**  
*J’Accuse!*

*Thanksgiving Holiday*

**Week XIV**

**12/02**  
Presentations of group projects

**12/04**  
Presentations of group projects

**Week XV**  
*Great Illusions?*

**12/09**  
History Through Film: Jean Renoir’s *La Grande Illusion* (1937)

**12/11**  
Course Conclusions

***Fourth Paper Due 12/11***