

History 350: The First World War and the Shaping of Twentieth-Century Europe

Fall 2014

Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Mosse Humanities Building, Room 1111

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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)

Joe Lunn, *Memoirs of a Maelstrom: A Senegalese Oral History of the First World War* (Portsmouth, NH, 1999).

Recommended text: Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2002, reissued 2007); an excellent concise description and analysis of the course of the war (copies have been placed in the College Library course reserve).

Course packet: Available for purchase at the Copy Center, Room 6120 Social Science (1180 Observatory Drive) The relevant readings are marked by an ‘*’ on the schedule of lectures below. A copy of the reader has been placed in College Library course reserve.

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). Read the material online (no need to print).

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.

Short paper: due 10/02, 4-5pp., based on sources discussed in class (no additional research). Additional information will be given in class.

Midterm: in class, 10/21.

Research Paper: due 11/20; 6-8 pp., based on additional sources (at least 6 new sources). Students are required to meet with the Writing and Research Specialist at least twice – once before the end of Week VI (to discuss paper topics) and once more before the end of week IX (to discuss your list of sources).

Please note: While you are required to meet with the Writing and Research Specialist at least twice, you are highly encouraged to consult him more often as you are working on your paper.

Group research project: Each group (3-4 students) will be required to conduct research on one of the topics below and present their findings in class. Creativity in terms of both format of presentation and content is greatly encouraged.

<i>Conscientious Objectors</i>	09/16
<i>Economic Warfare</i>	09/23
<i>Trench Life</i>	10/02
<i>War and Medicine</i>	10/07
<i>The Indian Army</i>	10/09
<i>Tanks</i>	10/14
<i>Gas</i>	10/14
<i>Australia and New Zealand</i>	10/28
<i>The Greco-Turkish War</i>	11/04
<i>Armistice Day</i>	11/06
<i>Freud on War</i>	11/20
<i>Veterans and Disabled Soldiers</i>	11/20
<i>The 1918 Revolution in Germany</i>	12/02

Final Exam (take-home): Due Sunday, 12/14, 12:05 pm; 5-6 pp. essay based on lectures on readings; no additional research required.

-All written assignments (short paper, research paper, and take-home final examination) are to be submitted in **both** hard copy and electronically through the Dropbox feature (under “Assignments” at Learn@UW) by the specified due date and time. The required format is double space, 12-pt. font, 1.25” side margins. .

-Dates for all written assignment are final; as a rule of thumb, there will be no extensions. Plan ahead!

-You are required to attend all lectures. More than five unaccounted absences will severely affect your grade. More than ten such absences are likely to result in failure to pass the class.

Grade Structure:

Short paper:	15%
Midterm:	15%
Research paper	25%
Final examination (take-home):	25%
Group presentation (10-12 minutes)	10%
Participation:	10%

-Please note that active, constant, and collegial participation will be rewarded – your participation grade will count for a great deal more than a mere 10%!

Week I *Europe before the War*

09/02 Introduction
09/04 Europe in 1914

Read:

*Michael Howard, *The First World War* (Oxford, 2002), chapters 1-2, “Europe in 1914” and “The Coming of War,” pp. 1-26.

Start reading Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*.

Week II *The Spirit of 1914*

09/09 Nations and Empires
09/11 “The Lamps Are Going Out...”

Read:

*Stefan Zweig, *The World of Yesterday* (1942), chapter 9, “The First Hours of the War of 1914,” pp. 214-237.

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

Week III To Arms

09/16 Mobilization, Propaganda, and War Culture

Group Presentation: Conscientious Objectors

Read:

*Nicoletta Gullace, *The Blood of our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship during the Great War* (New York, 2004), chapter 1, "The Rape of Belgium and Wartime Imagination," 17-33.

-The Bryce Committee Report on German Atrocities, Part II (b): "Treatment of Women and Children"

09/18 Women and Men

Read:

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth* (at least up to page 289).

Week IV Home Fronts

09/23 A New Front

Group Presentation: Economic Warfare

Read:

*Belinda Davis, "Home Front: Food, Politics, and Women's Everyday Life during the First World War," in *Home/Front: The Military, War, and Gender in Twentieth-Century Germany*, 115-138 (2002), 115-138

09/25 War and Work

Read:

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

*Peter Gatrell, *Russia's First World War: Social and Economic History* (London, 2005), 113-124.

Week V Armageddon

09/30 Industrialized Warfare

Read:

*War Poems: Siegfried Sassoon, "The Attack;" Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" and "Mental Cases."

10/02 Morale, Discipline, Mutiny
Group Presentation: Trench Life

Read:

*Mark Cornwall, "Morale and patriotism in the Austro-Hungarian army, 1914-1918," in *State, Society, and Mobilization in Europe during the First World War*, edited by John Horne (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 173-191.

Watch:

Stanley Kubrick's *Paths of Glory* (1957); the movie will be available for streaming from on-campus wired computers; it is easily found elsewhere.

****First paper due****

Week VI The Soldier's War

10/07 The Politics of Shell Shock
Group Presentation: War and Medicine

Read:

*Marc Roudebush, "A Battle of Nerves: Hysteria and Its Treatments in France during World War I," in *Traumatic Pasts: History, Psychiatry, and Trauma in the Modern Age, 1870-1930*, edited by Mark S. Micale and Paul Lerner (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), 253-279.

-Peter Taylor Whiffen on the "Shot at Dawn" campaign.

10/09 Colonial Conscripts
Group Presentation: The Indian Army

Read:

Book: Joe Lunn, *Memoirs of a Maelstrom: A Senegalese Oral History of the First World War* (Introduction, chapters 1-3, 5-7, and conclusion).

Week VII Faces of War

10/14 Redemption by Technology
Group Presentation: Tanks
Group Presentation: Gas

Read:

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

10/16 Russia's War: Guest Lecture by Professor David McDonald (readings TBA)

Week VIII

10/21 MIDTERM

10/23 Class will take part in the “War and Intimacy” Lecture Series on campus (public lecture by Lucy Noakes).

Week IX *Redefining Nationhood and Citizenship*

10/28 Ireland’s War

Group Presentation: Australia and New Zealand

Read:

*Proclamation of the Irish Republic (1916)

Start reading Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That*

10/30 Citizenship and Suffrage

Read:

*Steven Hause, “More Minerva than Mars: The French Women’s Rights Campaign and the First World War,” in *Behind the Lines: Gender and the Two World Wars*, edited by Margaret Higonnet et al. (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1987), 99-113.

Week X *Empires at War*

11/04 The Civilian’s War: Occupation, Deportation, and Genocide

Group Presentation: The Greco-Turkish War

11/06 Imperial Wars: Africa and the Middle East

Week XI *Competing Memories*

11/11 Postwar Testimonies

Read:

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

11/13 Heroism, Pacifism, and Comedy: The War on Film

Week XII) Commemoration and Reconstruction

11/18 Death and Commemoration

Group Presentation: Armistice Day

11/20 The Politics of Social Reconstruction

Group Presentation: Freud on War

Group Presentation: Veterans and Disabled Soldiers

Read:

-Mary Louise Roberts, "Samson and Delilah Revisited: the Politics of Women's Fashion in 1920s France," *American Historical Review* 98:3 (1987): 657-684.

[JSTOR]

****Research paper due****

Week XIII J'Accuse

11/25 *J'Accuse*, directed by Abel Gance (watch at home; the 1938 version).

11/27 *Thanksgiving Weekend*

Week XIV Thirty-Years War?

12/02 Forging a Liberal Utopia

Group Presentation: The Revolution in Germany, 1918

12/04 The Retreat of Democracy

Read:

*Ernst Jünger, *The Storm of Steel* (1929), pp. 315-319.

*Sebastian Haffner, *Defying Hitler: A Memoir*, pp.29-45.

*Hindenburg on the "Stab in the Back," 1918.

Week XV Grand Illusions

12/09 Jean Renoir's *La Grande Illusion* (1937) [watch in class]

12/11 Course Conclusions

****Take-home exam due: Sunday, 12/14, 12:05pm****