

History 600: War & Society in Modern Britain

Spring 2013

Wednesday 11:00-1:00

5255 Mosse Humanities Building

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Office Hours: Wednesday, 1:30-3:30.

This seminar examines the impact of war on social, political, and cultural change in modern British history. The first part of the seminar will be devoted to intensive reading of primary and secondary sources that will introduce students to this rich field of study. We will also use these discussions to learn how to ask questions, frame research projects, and write a good argument.

The second part will be devoted to writing original research papers. Students are welcome to work on a topic from any time period since the eighteenth century. There are numerous sources readily available at Madison in both print and electronic form: newspapers, journals, memoirs, fiction, medical journals, parliamentary papers, pamphlets, and many others. The seminar strongly emphasizes participation, active engagement with class discussions and with the work of other students, and collegiality.

Grade:

Active participation: 15%

Written Assignments: 15%

Presentations and peer criticism: 15%

Final Paper (20-25pp.): 55%

Course mechanics:

*Each meeting two students will present the sources and launch the discussion. Students should work *together* to produce a critical presentation and suggest questions for discussion (at least 3).

*All written assignments should be submitted both electronically and in a hard copy; unless otherwise mentioned, assignments should be submitted in class.

*For the final presentations, each student will present her/his own work (10 minutes) as well as prepare constructive commentary on a peer's paper (5 minutes).

*Further particulars on paper format will be described in class.

*Students are required to attend all meetings.

*Required readings are available at Learn@UW->Materials → Content-> Reader.

Journal articles (marked by '*') can be accessed electronically through the library.

* There are a couple of weeks during which the seminar is not scheduled to meet.

However, you should keep regular class times free of other obligations, as changes to the syllabus are possible.

*A graduate student research/writing specialist will work with students in the seminar. Further particulars will be explained in class.

I 01/23 Introduction

II 01/30 Mobilization and Propaganda: the case of the German Atrocities

- Nicoletta Gullace, *The Blood of Our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship During the Great War* (New York, 2002), chapter 1, pp. 7-33.
- Adrian Gregory, *The Last Great War: British Society and the First World War* (Cambridge, 2008), chapter 2, pp. 40-69.
- John Horne and Alan Kramer, *German Atrocities: A History of Denial* (New Haven, 2001), pp. 212-225, 366-374.
- *Alice Goldfarb Marquis, "Words as Weapons: Propaganda in Britain and Germany During the First World War," *Journal of Contemporary History* volume 13, no. 3 (1978): 467-498.
- Report of the Committee on Alleged Atrocities* (1915), Part II Chapter 1, "The Treatment of Civilian Population."

Assignments:

- What are the fundamental differences between the interpretations of Gullace and Gregory? (250 words).
- Why did I take this class? What are my main interests? (150 words)

III 02/06 War, Nation, and Empire

- Graham Dawson, *Soldier Heroes: British Adventure, Empire, and the Imagining of Masculinities* (New York, 1994), chapter 4, 79-116.
- *Kathleen Wilson, "Empire, Trade and Popular Politics in Mid-Hanoverian Britain: The Case of Admiral Vernon," *Past and Present* 121 (1988), 74-109.
- Lynda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837* (New Haven, CT, 1992), Introduction and chapter 7, pp. 1-10, 283-320.
- Wendy Webster, *Englishness and Empire, 1939-1945* (Oxford, 2005), chapter 2, 19-54.

Assignments:

- 1) Choose one of the chapters on this week's reading list; describe the argument, and tell us why it is important (250 words).
- 2) What do I want to work on? (150 words).

IV 02/13 Library session

Meeting with Julianne Haare. Western European History and Social Science librarian; tour of Special Collections. Class meets at Memorial Library, room 231.

Assignment:

Prepare your questions for the library specialist and bring them to class.

V 02/20 Total War and Gender

- Angela Woollacott, *On Her Their Lives Depend: Munitions Workers in the Great War* (Berkeley, 1994), chapters 1&7, 17-36, 162-187.
- Ilana Bet El, "Men and soldiers: British Conscripts, Concepts of Masculinity, and the Great War," in *Borderlines: Genders and Identities in War and Peace, 1870-1930*, edited by Billie Melman (New York: Routledge, 1998), 73-94.
- Sonya Rose, *Which People's War? National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain, 1939-1945* (Cambridge, 2003), chapter 3, 71-106.
- *Dean Rapp, "Sex in the Cinema: War, Moral Panic, and the British Film Industry, 1906-1918," *Albion* 34, no. 3

Assignments:

- 1) What is my research question, and how will I answer it (1 page). Due **Monday** 09/24 noon.
- 2) Find a *primary* source relating to war and society in British history using the research tools you have gained in the library session; write a 500-word analysis of the source (author, genre, audience, what you have learned from it, what questions it raised). Bring both the source and your analysis to class.

VI 02/27 War and the State

- *Anna Davin, "Imperialism and Motherhood," *History Workshop* 5 (1978), 9-65.
- *Jose Harris, "War and Social History: Britain and the Home Front during the Second World War," *Contemporary European History* vol. 1 no. 1 (1992), 175-195.
- *Steven Fielding, "What Did 'The People' Want?: The Meaning of the 1945 General Election," *Historical Journal* vol. 35, no. 3 (1992): 623-639.
- Richard Titmuss, *Problems in Social Policy* (London, 1950), chapter 25, part I, pp. 506-517.

Assignment:

List of available sources and a brief discussion of those sources (2 pp.); due **Monday** 03/045, 12:00 pm.

VII 03/06 War and Memory

- *Stuart Semmel, "Reading the Tangible Past: British Tourism, Collecting, and Memory after Waterloo," *Representations* 69 (2000), 9-37.
- Thomas Laqueur, "Memory and Naming in the Great War," in John Gillis, ed. *Commemorations: The Politics of National Identity* (Princeton, 1994), pp. 150-167.
- Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995), 54-77.

Assignment:

Prepare 3-4 pp. plan of paper and bring it to class.

VIII 03/13 War on Film: *Went the Day Well?* (Alberto Cavalcanti, 1942)

- *Geoff Eley, "Finding the People's War: Film, British Collective Memory, and World War II," *American Historical Review* vol. 106 no. 3 (2001), 818-838.

Assignment:

Revise your paper plan according to your peer's suggestion.

IX 03/21 Individual meetings with instructor

Spring Break

X 04/03 No class.

XI 04/10 No class.

****First draft due Friday, 04/12, 12:00pm****

XII 04/17 No class

XIII 04/24 Final presentations

XIV 05/01 Final presentations

XV 05/08 ****Final papers due 05/08 1:00pm****