

History 202: The Red Baron, Air Warfare, and World War I

Professor: Dr. Christopher W. Huffman

University of Pennsylvania

Semester: Spring 2015

Course days/time: Thursdays from 6:00 pm — 9:00 pm

Location: Willams Hall, room 216

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Individual meetings can be scheduled for before or after class or by appointment

Course Description:

The term the Red Baron has entered the lexicon of common usage and entered into popular culture. Along with that popularization legends and myths have arisen. This course will focus on the reality and the history of Baron Manfred von Richthofen, examining not just his autobiography and biographical material about him by historians, but also such things as aerial tactics and warfare techniques in World War I, weapons, aircraft, the men Richthofen served alongside in the German Air Force, the opponents they faced, an examination of Richthofen the man, both in combat and behind the lines, and his famous last flight. The readings assigned for the course include both primary and secondary sources. Course readings include works by historians who write about Manfred von Richthofen and air warfare during the First World War. Richthofen's autobiography and other primary sources included in the other texts will give students a sense of the immediacy and relevance of the history under review. Secondary sources will help to ground the students in the historiography and the interpretations of historians; included will be an overview of World War I to provide students with greater context concerning the Red Baron and air warfare during the Great War. The course will be discussion-based, which will promote student involvement, participation, interaction with the professor, and analysis, retention, and understanding of the readings under discussion.

Required Books: (please pay close attention to the ISBN when obtaining/ordering books so that everyone will have the same editions with the same contents/pagination)

Lance J. Bronnenkant, *The Blue Max Airmen: German Airmen Awarded the Pour le Mérite: Manfred von Richthofen* (Volume 5; ISBN: 9781935881292)

Suzanne Hayes Fischer, *Mother of Eagles: The War Diary of Baroness von Richthofen* (ISBN: 076431307X)

Norman Franks and Alan Bennett, *The Red Baron's Last Flight: An In-Depth Investigation into what really Happened on the Day von Richthofen was Shot Down* (Second Edition; ISBN: 9781904943334)

Peter McManus, *Richthofen Jagdstaffel Ahead: RFC Pilots Out-Performed and Out-Gunned over the Western Front, 1917* (ISBN: 9781906502003)

Manfred von Richthofen, *The Red Fighter Pilot: The Autobiography of the Red Baron* (ISBN: 9780979181337)

William Kelleher Storey, *The First World War: A Concise Global History* (Second Edition; ISBN: 9781442226814)

Required Articles: (These are available from the University of Pennsylvania's library website as PDF files [under article search from JSTOR/EBSCO MegaFILE] and will also be available to read on the Canvas site for this course)

Peter Fritzsche, "Machine Dreams: Airmindedness and the Reinvention of Germany," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 98, No. 3 (June 1993), pp. 685-709

A.D. Harvey, "Why Was the Red Baron's Fokker Painted Red? Decoding the Way Aeroplanes Were Painted in the First World War," *War in History*, 2001, 8 (3), pp. 323-340

Michael Paris, "The Rise of the Airmen: The Origins of Air Force Elitism, c. 1890-1918," *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (January 1993), pp. 123-141

Attendance and Participation:

Attendance is very important and will be recorded every class. It is also a key part of the course grade. Every effort needs to be made to attend each class, to arrive on time, and to stay until the completion of class. If a student misses a class they will not receive attendance credit for that class unless they can provide the professor with sufficient documented proof of an excusable absence, such as for a medical emergency (where a medical doctor could provide documentation). The professor reserves the right to deduct attendance points for students who arrive late to class or leave early from class without an excusable reason and documentation, and to withdraw a student from the class for excessive absences. It is also important for students to strive for one hundred percent attendance because notes should be taken and class times are when discussions will be held, and papers will be handed in. Papers are to be handed in at scheduled times; points may be deducted otherwise. Papers should be handed in to professor on dates noted on the syllabus to the professor in class (papers are not to be emailed, mailed, dropped off to the office or to an office mailbox, etc.). Since this is a discussion-based course, student participation is extremely important, and so a record will be made of participation which will also be factored into the grade for class attendance/participation. Students are encouraged to participate/contribute to the class discussions often.

Statement on Academic Honesty:

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated at the University of Pennsylvania. Academic dishonesty refers to actions such as, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, fabricating research, falsifying academic documents, etc., and includes all situations where students make use of the work of others and claim such work as their own. More information may

be found concerning these policies on UPenn.edu, such as by viewing the Code of Student Conduct (<https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/15/code-of-student-conduct>) and the Code of Academic Integrity (<https://provost.upenn.edu/policies/pennbook/2013/02/13/code-of-academic-integrity>).

Student Disabilities Services Office Information:

Student Disabilities Services (SDS) is an office at the University of Pennsylvania which can determine reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who request accommodations need to submit documentation of their disability according to the SDS Documentation Guidelines available at:

<http://www.vpul.upenn.edu/lrc/sds/index.php>. If a student request is made, the SDS Documentation Review Committee reviews all documentation to determine reasonable accommodations.

Assessment and Grading:

There will be 1,000 points possible, which will be as follows:

Class attendance: 10%

Class participation: 10%

Primary source analysis paper: 10% (students will write a brief paper of 3 (full)-5 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font) which will be on one of the primary sources assigned for class, either: *Mother of Eagles* (on the actual war diary [entitled: My War Diary] of Baroness von Richthofen; excluding: Acknowledgments, Foreword, Introduction, German Women on the Home Front, and The Family; or: *The Red Fighter Pilot* (on the actual autobiography; excluding: Introduction and Preface)

Research paper proposal: 10% (students will write a brief 2 (full)-3 page paper (double-spaced, 12-point font) concerning their paper proposal which will include a provisional research paper title as well as a synopsis of the themes they plan to develop in the paper, and why they consider the proposal to be a strong one)

Annotated bibliography: 10% (a 2 (full)-10 page (double-spaced, 12-point font) annotated bibliography including citations and descriptions of each source you plan to use [provisional list] for the research paper); in the annotated bibliography there should be at least five primary and five secondary sources listed that you plan to use in your paper (sources/readings beyond books and other readings assigned for class)

Research paper: 50%: Students will write about the Red Baron (Manfred von Richthofen) and/or about air warfare during World War I (it is important that students focus on an issue/topic that is defined/focused enough for class paper length); students are encouraged to consult with the professor about paper topic before writing papers; paper will be based on both primary and secondary sources – use printed sources, not online/internet/web-based sources – and the paper (typed) text length is to be 15 (full) to 20 pages (the header/title page, page numbers, citations, and bibliography do not count towards actual paper text length noted above), double-spaced, in 12-point font with 1 inch margins all-around and pages numbered; students should consult a style manual, such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*, Turabian (*A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*), APA, or MLA; there should be citations (listing

source and giving page number(s) where sources quoted or taken from a text, article, etc., should be listed) and a bibliography (bibliography must have separate sections where primary and secondary sources are listed separately; students may use a class book or books (and/or other readings assigned for class) as sources in the bibliography but additional sources besides a class book(s) and/or other readings assigned for class must also be used in the paper and cited in the bibliography). At a minimum, for the paper there need to be at least five primary sources and five secondary sources (sources above and beyond any books or other readings assigned for class that might be used for paper); it is encouraged that there be further sources used beyond the minimum. Do not include a source(s) in the bibliography unless that source is cited at least once in the actual paper. Page number(s) from exactly where a citation was taken from need to be provided in the citation(s) [unless there is the rare occurrence that there is not a page number in the source that is used]. The University of Pennsylvania library is a good place to begin paper research; in addition there are other college/university libraries in the area, the Philadelphia city library, and almost any book or article can be ordered for you by the University of Pennsylvania library through inter-library loan (if those sources are not available at the University of Pennsylvania library). There are plenty of printed books and articles (such as scholarly journal articles) that are available to be used for the paper such as at the University of Pennsylvania library or other nearby libraries and through inter-library loan, and you can also make use of archives (e.g., letters, diaries/journals, government records, etc.) if they are pertinent to your paper topic. To reiterate: no online/internet/web-based sources should be used for papers; just about any book can be ordered through inter-library loan, many printed articles should be available at nearby libraries, and articles can also be printed; articles that are not available at the library can be ordered from another library (and a printed copy or electronic version of the article can be delivered to the library requesting the copy). Microfilm/microfiche materials (e.g., newspapers, etc., if pertinent to your paper), such as at a library, can also be used as sources. It is important that students allow enough time before the paper is due for conducting research, ordering materials through inter-library loan (if applicable), and writing/typing/editing the paper.

Classroom Guidelines:

It is required for students to bring the appropriate book and/or other assigned reading to class that will be discussed that day since the course is discussion-based and the professor may want to refer students to certain pages or have students read/focus on certain passages of the text during class; additionally, students may want to refer others to certain pages or sections during the discussion.

Classroom decorum is important. Not only should students be on time to class and stay until class is finished, but they should always be polite, courteous, and respectful to each other and to the professor. Class discussions should be conducted in a calm and rational way and the professor will act as the facilitator, arbiter, and director of the class discussions. Rude and/or disruptive behavior is against university guidelines and the professor may deduct attendance/participation points and/or take appropriate action for any such cases. If any rude or disruptive behavior would continue after a warning, the professor reserves the right to withdraw a student from the class.

Students are encouraged to take notes in class, either with a pen or pencil and paper or by using a laptop computer. Laptop computers should only be used for taking class notes if used in class. There should be no reading of non-class materials during class, or completing assignments for other classes, or doing other non-class related activities. Audio and/or photographic or video recording of class is not permitted. Music devices should not be used during class. Cell phones should be turned off or put on silent before entering the classroom and should not be answered or used (that includes talking on the phone, texting, etc.) during the class.

Schedule and Assignments:

Note: As per student readings, students are to have read material denoted below before the class noted below when material will be discussed. Having read the appropriate material in time before class, students should come to class prepared to participate/contribute in a thoughtful, informed, and constructive manner, such as, for example, if called upon to answer a question, or when engaging in a class discussion.

January 15: Introductions of professor and students; introduction to the course; syllabuses distributed and explained

January 22: Theme: An Overview of World War I; Maps-Chapter 9: The War in the Middle East, 1914-1916 (pages ix-92) of Storey, *The First World War*, to have been read before class

January 29: Theme: An Overview of World War I; Chapter 10: The Offensives of 1916-Notes (pages 93-186) of Storey, *The First World War*, to have been read before class

February 5: Theme: Historical Perspective on the Red Baron; Table of Contents-The Man (pages 4-51) of Bronnenkant, *The Blue Max Airmen*, to have been read before class

February 12: Themes: Historical Perspective on the Red Baron, and World War I Aircraft; The Aircraft-end of book (pages 52-136) of Bronnenkant, *The Blue Max Airmen*, and Harvey, "Why Was the Red Baron's Fokker Painted Red?", to have been read before class

February 19: Themes: Life for German Women on the Home Front, the Richthofen Family, and the War Diary of Richthofen's Mother; Foreword-Chapter 3: 1916 (pages 8-111) of Fischer, *Mother of Eagles*, to have been read before class; primary source analysis paper due handed in to professor in class

February 26: Theme: The War Diary of Richthofen's Mother; Chapter 4: 1917-Endnotes (pages 112-199) of Fischer, *Mother of Eagles*, to have been read before class

March 5: Film/documentary on the Red Baron/air warfare/World War I with discussion to follow

March 7-15: Spring Break (no classes)

March 19: Theme: Manfred von Richthofen's Perspective; Introduction-Chapter 6: I Fly in a Thunderstorm (pages 3-82) of Richthofen, *The Red Fighter Pilot*, to be read before class; research paper proposal due handed in to professor in class

March 26: Theme: Manfred von Richthofen's Perspective; photo captions-Chapter 13b: My Brother (pages 83-170) of Richthofen, *The Red Fighter Pilot*, to have been read before class

April 2: Theme: Views of the Red Baron's Adversaries; Paris, "The Rise of the Airmen," and photo caption-Chapter 14: Albert Ball Leads the Fight Back (pages 6-96) of McManus, *Richthofen Jagdstaffel Ahead*, to have been read before class; annotated bibliography due handed in to professor in class

April 9: Theme: Views of the Red Baron's Adversaries; Chapter 15: The Engines-Appendix Five: Douglass Whetton (pages 97-185) of McManus, *Richthofen Jagdstaffel Ahead*, to have been read before class

April 16: Theme: Final Flight of the Red Baron; Introduction-Chapter 7: Salvaging the Triplane (pages 5-72) of Franks and Bennett, *The Red Baron's Last Flight*, to have been read before class

April 23: Themes: Final Flight of the Red Baron, and the Impact of World War I Air Warfare and Other Aerial Developments on Interwar Germany and Germany during World War II; Chapter 8: The Commander-in-Chief's Dilemma-Appendix K: Later Claims to Fame (pages 73-141) and Fritzsche, "Machine Dreams" to have been read before class; film/documentary on the Red Baron/air warfare/World War I with discussion to follow; research paper due handed in to professor in class; last day of class for this course