

(THIS IS A PROSPECTIVE SYLLABUS. THERE MAY BE MODIFICATIONS TO THE ACTUAL COURSE SYLLABUS, DEPENDING ON THE SEMESTER.)

HISTORY425: WORLD WAR I

TR, 10:30-Noon

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208-D College Hall



Canadian stretcher bearers in Flanders, ca. May 1915

“In Flanders Fields”

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

John McRae, Doctor, Canadian 1st Field Artillery Brigade, 3 May 1915

The following required books are available for purchase:

Richard F. Hamilton and Holger H. Herwig, eds., *Decisions for War, 1914-1917*

Matthew Hughes and William J. Philpott, *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of the First World War*

James Joll, *The Origins of the First World War*

Hew Strachan, *The First World War*

In addition, you are required to purchase a coursepack, available at Wharton Reprographics.

Readings:

Readings will average ca. 100-150 pp./week. I will expect that you have completed the readings prior to the lecture for which it is assigned. This means allowing yourself sufficient time to read through the assigned materials and to think about them.

Course requirements:

The requirements for this course are: 1) attendance at lectures, and having completed the assigned readings prior to each lecture; 2) participation in class discussion; and, 3) three written assignments (two exams and a paper).

Grading percentages are:

attendance and participation (20%)

midterm exam (CA. END OF WEEK 6) (25%)

seven-page paper (DUE CA. END OF WEEK 11) (25%)

take-home final exam (SUBMITTED ONE WEEK AFTER FINAL CLASS) (30%).

You are expected to attend all lectures. If you cannot attend lecture, it is your responsibility to find out the substance of what you have missed. Please come to lecture prepared. This means allowing yourself sufficient time to read through the assigned materials--and to think about them. Much of lecture time will be taken up by lectures, but I will be calling on students occasionally. Please bear in mind that active participation means asking good questions as well as proposing good answers. And I welcome your questions in the course of the lecture.

Readings in the coursepack are marked with an asterisk (*).

Schedule of Lectures and Required Readings

STATES AND THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

Thurs: Introduction to Course

Tues: Great Britain [41 pp.]

- *Bernard Porter, *The Lion's Share: a Short History of British Imperialism 1850-1970* (London: Longman, 1984), Ch. 3: 74-105, 108-118.

Thurs: France and Russia [47 pp.]

- *A. J. P. Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe*, "Introduction" (17 pp.)
- *Reginald Zelnik, "Revolutionary Russia, 1890-1914," in *Russia: A History*, ed. Gregory Freeze (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), 200-30 (30 pp.)

Tues.: Germany and Austria-Hungary [49 pp.]

- *Volker B. Berghahn, *Germany and the Approach of War in 1914* (New York: St. Martin's, 1993) (Ch. 1), pp. 15-37.
- *Laurence LaFore, *The Long Fuse: An Interpretation of the Origins of World War I* (Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1965, 1971) (Ch. 2), 55-82
- OPTIONAL: consult the entries on Wilhelmine Germany (1890-1918) at "German History in Documents and Images":
< http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/section.cfm?section_id=11>

Thurs: The Pax Britannica and the Concert of Europe [68 pp.]

- Hamilton and Herwig, *Decisions for War*, ch. 2, "European Wars" (23 pp.)
- James Joll, *Origins of the First World War*, ch. 3, "The Alliance System and the Old Diplomacy" (pp. 42-68)
- *F. R. Bridge & Roger Bullen, *The Great Powers and the European States System, 1815-1914*, ch. 1: "The Character of International Relations" (pp. 1-19).

EMERGING TENSIONS WITHIN STATES

Tues.: Nationalism and Socialism [66 pp.]

- James Joll, *Origins of the First World War*, ch. 5, "The Primacy of Domestic Politics" (pp. 109-145)
- *Eric Hobsbawm, "Workers of the World," in Hobsbawm, *Age of Empire*, Ch. 5 (pp. 112-42)

Thurs□: Imperialism [52 pp.]

- James Joll, *Origins of the First World War*, chs. 6-7, "The International Economy" and "Imperial Rivalries" [pp. 146-198]

THE BACKGROUND TO WAR

Tues.: International relations, 1892-1908: Breakdown of the old order [34 pp.]

- *G. W. Monger, *The End of Isolation: British Foreign Policy, 1900-1907* (Edinburgh: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1963) (Ch. 1), 1-20.
- *Joachim Remak, "Triple Alliance and Triple Entente," in Remak, *The Origins of World War I 1871-1914* (New York: Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1967), 24-38.
- *DOCUMENTS: Eyre Crowe Memorandum (1907)

Thurs: Militaries as Institutions and the Emergence of Industrial Warfare [68 pp.]

- James Joll, *The Origins of the First World War*, ch. 4, "Armaments and Strategy" (pp. 69-108)
- *David G. Herrmann, "The European Armies in 1904" in Herrmann, *The Arming of Europe and the making of the First World War* (pp. 7-36).

Tues.: The International law of war; and, the arms races (64 pp.)

- James Joll, *The Origins of the First World War*, ch. 8, "The Mood of 1914" (pp. 199-233)
- *Paul Kennedy, "The Impulse and Orchestration of Patriotism," and "The Role of the 'Official Mind' and Questions of Balance and Comparison", from *The Rise of Anglo-German Antagonism, 1860-1914*, pp. 361-85, 432-37 (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1980).

[SEE OVER]

- DOCUMENTS: “The Laws and Customs of War on Land” (July 29, 1899), The Second Hague Conference, found at: The Avalon Project at Yale Law School: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/lawofwar/lawwar.htm>. Pay particular attention to:
 - Section I, Chapter 1
 - Section III

Thurs: **IN-CLASS EXAM**

Tues: Military Planning [49 pp.]

- Review James Joll, ch. 4
- *L. C. F. Turner, “The Significance of the Schlieffen Plan,” in *The War Plans of the Great Powers, 1880-1914*, ed. Paul M. Kennedy (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1979), 199-221.
- *William Fuller, *Strategy and Power in Russia, 1600-1914* (New York: Free Press, 1992), 423-451.
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Map 2 and text

Thurs: The July Crisis: “The lamps are going out all over Europe; we shall not see them lit again in our lifetime” (Sir Edward Grey, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain, 3 August 1914) [138 pp. plus documents]

- James Joll, *Origins of the First World War*, chs. 1-2 (pp. 1-41)
- Richard Hamilton and Holger Herwig, *Decisions for War, 1914-1917*, chs. 3-7 (pp. 47-145)
- *DOCUMENTS: Imanuel Geiss, ed., *July 1914: The Outbreak of the First World War, Selected Documents* (New York: Charles Scribners, 1967), pp. 76-88, 113-16, 259-60, 288-300, 305-06, 309-13, 330-331.
 - Review the Reference Lists at the beginning of the coursepack for the rulers, foreign ministers, and ambassadors of the leading powers.
 - Consult the “Chronology of July 1914” in the coursepack.

THE WAR WORKS ITS LOGIC

Tues: The war of movement to stalemate, East and West [95 pp.]

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, chs. 1-2, 5 [pp. 1-64, 129-60]
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 18, 19 with texts

Thurs: War Aims and the failure of diplomacy [31 pp. plus documents]

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, ch. 3 (pp. 65-96)
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 6, 14, 20, 21, 23, 24 with texts
- *DOCUMENTS: Bethmann Hollweg, September Program in Fritz Fischer, *Germany's Aims in the First World War* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1967), pp. 103-119.
- *DOCUMENTS: German War Aims of the 6 Economic Organizations and Peace Proposal of 1916, in *German Imperialism, 1914-1918*, ed. Gerald Feldman (New York: John Wiley, 1972), 16-23, 27-29.

SPRING BREAK

Tues.: Military solutions? Ypres, Gallipoli, Verdun, Somme [104 pp.]

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, chs. 4, 6 (pp. 97-128, 161-98)
- *David Stevenson, “The Land War in Europe: Strategy” and “Technology, Logistics, Tactics,” in *Catachysm: The First World War as Political Tragedy*, chs. 6-7 (pp. 123-160)
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 15, 17, 18, 21, 25, 27-28 with texts.
- SELECT ONE BATTLE (Ypres, Gallipoli, Verdun, or the Somme) and be able to describe it, based on reading in Strachan, Stevenson, and the *Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*.

Thurs.: Silver bullets? Diplomatic and strategic solutions

- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 11, 12, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22 with texts.

RE-MOBILIZING FOR TOTAL WAR: THE WAR'S SECOND PHASE

Tues.: Total Mobilization and the Home Front [31 pp. plus documents]

- *John Horne “Labor and Labor Movements in World War I” in *The Great War and the Twentieth Century*, eds. Jay Winter, Geoffrey Parker & Mary R. Habeck (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2000), 187-218.
- *DOCUMENTS: Erich Ludendorff, *My War Memories, 1914-1918* (London: Hutchinson, 1919), Vol. 1: pp. 328-36; 343-49; Vol. 2: pp. 583-88.
- *DOCUMENTS: Erich Ludendorff, *The General Staff and its Problems* (London: Hutchinson, 1920), Vol. 1: pp. 74-97, 154-66.

Thurs.: Occupation and blockade [31 pp.]

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, ch. 7 (pp. 199-230)
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 9, 13, 26, 29, 40 with texts.
- DOCUMENT: The London Declaration Concerning the Laws of Naval Warfare, 26 Feb. 1909 [find it on-line either at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) website or the University of Minnesota’s Human Rights Library]

PAPER DUE

Tues.: Genocide, ethnic cleansing, and concentration camps [65 pp.]

- Donald Bloxham, “The Armenian Genocide of 1915–1916: Cumulative Radicalization and the Development of a Destruction Policy,” *Past and Present* 181 (2003): 141-191 [J-STOR]
- Eric Lohr, “The Russian Army and the Jews: Mass Deportation, Hostages, and Violence during World War I,” *Russian Review* 60, no. 3 (July 2001), 404-419 [J-STOR]
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 16 [NOTE: the Russian army seized Erzerum and Trabzon in February and April 1916, NOT 1917!!!], 17, 23, 35 with texts

Thurs.: Intentional radicalization and 1917 [74 pp. plus documents]

- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 32, 33, 34, 38 with texts
- *Aviel Roshwald, “New Arenas of Action, Nationalisms of Occupation and Exile, 1914-1918,” ch. 5 of *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires* (London: Routledge, 2001), 116-55.
- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, ch. 8 (pp. 231-66)
- *DOCUMENTS: Decrees on the new diplomacy and self determination of peoples

Tues.: Total military techniques [26 pp.]

- *Hubert C. Johnson, "Tools and Weapons," in Johnson, *Breakthrough! Tactics, Technology, and the Search for Breakthrough on the Western Front in World War I* (Novato: Presidio, 1994), 113-39.
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 36, 37, 39 with texts

Thurs.: The Devastation of Societies and Economies [14 pp.]

- *Richard Bessel, "Mobilizing German Society for War" in *Great War, Total War: Combat and Mobilization on the Western Front, 1914-1918*, eds. Roger Chickering and Stig Förster, eds., (New York: Cambridge, University Press, 2000), pp. 437-451.

Tues.: War and Culture

- *DOCUMENT: War poetry

ENDING IT ALL

Thurs.: The final campaigns: 1917-1918 [73 pp.]

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, chs. 9-10 (pp. 267-340)
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 with texts

Tues.: Armistice and "peace" [68 pp. plus documents]

- Michael Geyer, "Insurrectionary Warfare: The German Debate about a Levée en Masse in October 1918," *Journal of Modern History* 73 (September 2001):459-527 [J-STOR]
- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 47-48 with texts
- DOCUMENTS: Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points
[on-line at: http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/President_Wilson%27s_Fourteen_Points]
- *DOCUMENTS: U.S. and German Armistice Notes, and the Armistice text, in *U.S. State Department, Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States*, Supplement 1, The World War, Volume 1 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1933), pp. 337-38, 343-46, 351-53, 357-38, 363-67, 379-81, 395-96, 463-69, 481-82, 489-90.

Thurs.: Demobilization (?) and Civil Wars [17 pp.]

- *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas*, Maps 49-50 with texts
- *Geoff Eley, "Remapping the Nation: War, Revolutionary Upheaval, and State Formation in Eastern Europe, 1914-1923," in *Ukrainian-Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective*, ed. Howard Aster and Peter J. Potichnyj (Edmonton: Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, 1990), 205-222.

Tues.: War without end? Dreams (Lausanne, Locarno), and Disaster (Mussolini, Nazis and Soviets). What it all means. . . . [30 pp.].

- *Richard Bessel, "The Legacy of the First World War and Weimar Politics," in Bessel, *Germany after the First World War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1993), 254-84.

TAKE HOME FINAL DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS
DUE CA. 7-8 DAYS AFTER FINAL CLASS.