

HIS 195-02: Europe After the Great War

Spring 2009

MWF 8:00-8:50, ARH 324

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Spring office hours: MWF 11:00-12:00, Thurs 1:00-4:00

The Great War (1914-18) marked a dramatic transition in Europeans' relationship with one another and the rest of the world. Yet to what extent did the war constitute a watershed moment, and to what extent did it accelerate processes which were already underway? Were the instabilities of the interwar period the direct result of the war, or of unforeseen developments in its aftermath? Taking these questions of causality as our starting point, this course will evaluate the impact of the war in a series of social, political, economic, and cultural contexts. After introductory units on historical methodology and the war itself, we will investigate some of the myriad ways in which European citizens and subjects attempted to reconstruct, reinvent, and make sense of "a world undone" between 1919 and 1933. Each of these units will introduce different kinds of primary sources, methods of interpreting them, and scholarly practices of history. Students will also learn to become better historians themselves (and, hopefully, to fall in love with the process of doing history!).

Course requirements and evaluation

Contribution to class discussions:

Although class days will be a mix of lecture, discussion, and research workshops, the vast majority of our time together will be devoted to collective discussion. History happens in dialogue; therefore, I really do evaluate class participation. If you do not participate regularly and substantively, you will receive a significantly lower grade for the course. For each day of discussion, you may earn three potential points: one for being there (on time), two for voicing an opinion, and three for engaging meaningfully with the material in a way that helps advance the discussion. Note that this mode of evaluation assigns more worth to the quality than the quantity of your participation each day. I will often provide lead questions for you to use in focusing your reading and preparing for discussion; sometimes these prompts will require some quick outside research to contextualize a source. Absences will be excused for personal issues, health issues, or athletic commitments only when accompanied by documentation from the appropriate office. An excused absence counts for one point.

Analytic and research assignments:

Students in this course will complete 1) a 2-part documentary analysis and annotated bibliography on Graves's war memoir, 2) a historiographical analysis of the Nazi accession, and 3) a project which combines historiographical and research methods, based on an issue of the London *Daily News*. I will post the assignments on Blackboard at least two weeks before each deadline. You have the option of revising either the second or third essay based on my comments; the old & new grade will then be averaged. All work must be typed and double-spaced (unless otherwise noted), in 12-pt font and 1-inch margins. Citations must be in footnotes or endnotes using Chicago or Turabian Style – see document on Blackboard for guidelines.

Take-home final exam:

This exam will be comprised of a synthetic essay, which will require you to draw upon primary and secondary sources we have used throughout the course and to develop a specific argument out of a

general prompt. I will distribute the essay questions on the last day of class (i.e., one week before the deadline). Your essay must be typed and double-spaced, using standard font size and margins and employing proper citations.

Policy on late assignments:

Each of you may take a 48-hour extension on one written assignment of your choice during the semester. If choosing this option, you must notify me of your intent to take the extension no later than 24 hours before the deadline. (Please remember that if you take an extension, you are still responsible for preparing the requisite reading or other assignments that may coincide with your revised paper deadline.) For all other assignments, late submissions will receive a deduction of one letter grade per day. Exceptions may be made for serious health or personal issues, but only if accompanied by documentation from the appropriate office (Health Services or Student Affairs).

Note: absolutely NO final exams will be accepted after Friday, May 15, at 5:00. The college requires that ALL coursework be submitted by the end of exam week unless you are taking an incomplete in the class. This means that if you use the extension on the final, you cannot take the full 48 hours.

Disabilities:

If you have specific physical, psychiatric or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please let me know early in the semester. You will need to provide documentation of your disability to the Associate Dean and Director of Academic Advising, Joyce Stern, whose office is located in the Student Affairs office at the Rosenfield Center (x3702).

Grading:

Memoir assignment, parts 1 & 2	10%
Historiography analysis (4-5 pp)	20%
<i>Daily News</i> project (4-5 pp)	20%
Take-home final (6-8 pp)	25%
Class participation	25%

Course texts

The following texts are required and can be purchased at the college bookstore:

- John H. Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford)
- Frank McDonough, *Origins of the First and Second World Wars* (Cambridge) – also available on reserve
- Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That: An Autobiography* (Knopf/Anchor, Revised ed.)
- William S. Allen, *The Nazi Seizure of Power* (Scholastic/Franklin Watts, Revised ed.) – also available on reserve
- Henry A. Turner, *Hitler's 30 Days to Power* (Perseus) – also available on reserve

The following text is recommended:

- Jules R. Benjamin, *A Student's Guide to History* (Bedford St. Martin's, 10th ed)

Shorter readings will be available online, on Blackboard, on E-reserve, or as handouts (as noted below). For assignments which include films, screening times will be announced in advance.

Course meetings and assignments

What is History?

Mon, Jan 10: Lies and truths

- Arnold, ch. 1

Wed, Jan. 21: “As it really was”?

- Arnold, Chapters 2-3

Fri, Jan. 23: Sources and arguments

- Arnold, Chapters 4-5

Mon, Jan. 26: Is the past a foreign country?

- Arnold, Chapters 6-7

A Midwife’s Tale Screening: Mon, Jan 26, 7-8:30 p.m., ARH 224

Wed, Jan. 28: Doing history: A case study

- Discuss *A Midwife’s Tale* (joint meeting with Prof. Purcell’s section)

The New Warfare: Causes and Experience of Total War

Fri, Jan 30: “False Dawn”

- Graves, chapters 1-9 (Note: do not read the introduction yet)

Mon, Feb 2: Who or what caused the war?

- McDonough, ch. 1 & 2
(You might also want to get started on the rest of the week’s reading)

Wed, Feb 4: The war in the trenches

- Graves, ch. 10-18

Fri, Feb 6: The war on the home front

- Graves, ch. 19-25

The New Culture: Memory and Modernism

Mon, Feb 9: Aftermaths

- Graves, ch. 26-32, and Fussell introduction

Wed, Feb 11: War fiction and its audience

- Modris Ecksteins, “Memory,” from *Rites of Spring* – Blackboard

Fri, Feb 13: Library workshop
Meet in the IIF (the computer room downstairs in Burling)
Part I of memoir assignment due

Mon, Feb 16: Rethinking memory

- Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*, Introduction – E-reserve
- Susan Kingsley Kent, "Remembering the Great War," *The Journal of British Studies*, 37:1 (1998), 105-110 – JSTOR link: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/176038>

Wed, Feb 18: The war memoir and its audience

- Discussion of Graves research

Fri, Feb 20: No class (I will be at a conference)

Part II of memoir assignment due

The New State: Weimar Society & Politics

Mon, Feb 23: Peace, reparations, and economic instability

- McDonough, ch. 3
- German election returns – handout

Wed, Feb 25: Nazism from below

- Allen, prefaces & ch. 1-3

Fri, Feb 27: Nazism from below

- Allen, ch. 4-6

Mon, Mar 2: Nazism from below

- Allen, ch. 7-9

Wed, Mar 4: Nazism from above

- Turner, ch. 1-4

Fri, Mar 6: Nazism from above

- Turner, ch. 5-7

Mon, Mar 9: Weimar culture

- Come prepared with contextual research on Fritz Lang's *Metropolis*

Metropolis screening TBA

Wed, Mar 11: Weimar culture

- Discuss *Metropolis*

Fri, Mar 13: Buffer day!

SPRING BREAK

The New Woman: Family, Politics, and Consumer Culture

Mon, Mar 30: Women's experience & agency: change or continuity?

- Elizabeth Roberts, *A Woman's Place: An Oral History of Working-Class Women, 1890-1940*, introduction & ch. 3 – E-reserve
- Seth Koven & Sonya Michel, "Womanly Duties: Maternalist Politics and the Origins of Welfare States in France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States, 1880-1920," *The American Historical Review*, 95:4 (1990), 1076-1108 – JSTOR link: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2163479>

Wed, Apr 1: Women v. gender?

- Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in *Gender and the Politics of History* – E-reserve
- Jane Purvis, "From 'Women Worthies' to Post-Structuralism?," in *The European Women's History Reader* – E-reserve

Fri, Apr 3: (Re)constructing the modern woman

- Mary Louise Roberts, "Samson and Delilah Revisited: The Politics of Women's Fashion in 1920s France," *American Historical Review* 98:3 (1993), 657-684 – JSTOR link: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2167545>

Mon, Apr 6: Regulating "vice"

Paper due

Wed, Apr 8: Which new woman?

- Documentary case study on the London *Daily News* – reading and instructions on Blackboard

Fri, Apr 10: 1922: A day in the life

- Documentary case study, part 2

The New Internationalism: The League of Nations

Mon, Apr 13: Revisiting internationalism

- Susan Pedersen, "Back to the League of Nations," *American Historical Review*, 112:4 (2007), 1091-1117 – link: <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/112.4/pedersen.html>

Wed, Apr 15: Implementing internationalism

- Documents on the LON debate from *The World War I Document Archive*:
http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/wilsonspeech_league.htm
http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/lodge_leagueofnations.htm
<http://history.sandiego.edu/gen/ww1/1919League2.html>
<http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/leagueofnations.htm>

Fri, Apr 17: The failure of internationalism?

- Documents on the 1931 Manchuria crisis – Blackboard

The New Colonialism & the New Nationalism: Europe's Changing Empires

Mon, Apr 20: Mandates, indirect rule, and development in Africa

- Selections from Frederick Lugard, *The Dual Mandate* – Blackboard
- Documents from Hargreaves, *France and West Africa* – Blackboard

Wed, Apr 22: The roots of partition in Palestine

- Avi Shlaim, "The Balfour Declaration and its consequences," in *Yet More Adventures With Britannia*, ed. Wm. Roger Louis – E-reserve
- Documents from J. Samson, *The British Empire*, & L. Snyder, *The Imperialism Reader* – Blackboard

Fri, Apr 24: Intelligence gathering in Iraq

- Articles & letters by T.E. Lawrence – Blackboard
- Priya Satia, "The Defense of Inhumanity: Air Control and the British Idea of Arabia," *The American Historical Review* 111:1 (2006), 16-51 – link:
<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ahr/111.1/satia.html>

Mon, Apr 27: Imperial cities

Paper due

Wed, Apr 29: Exhibiting empire

- Official Guide to the British Empire Exhibition, Wembley 1924 – Blackboard

Fri, May 1: The roots of anti-imperialism

- Denis Judd, "The Gandhi-Smuts Agreement of January 1914," in *Empire: The British Imperial Experience* – E-reserve
- Gandhi on *satyagraha* – Blackboard

Mon, May 4: Indian nationalism

- Judd, "The Amritsar Massacre of 1919," in *Empire* – E-reserve
- Erez Manela, "The 'Wilsonian moment' in India and the crisis of empire in 1919," in *Yet More Adventures with Britannia* – E-reserve

Wed, May 6: Indian nationalism

- Documents from Samson reader – Blackboard

Fri, May 8: Wrapping up

Final exam distributed in class

Thurs, May 14

Take-home exam due by 12:00 noon