

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
Department of History

Prof. Pieter M. Judson
Office: Trotter 207, x8136
Office Hours: T/Th 1:30-3:00

spring semester 2013
T/Th 11:20-12:35, SC 105
pjudson1@swarthmore.edu

HISTORY 27

Living With Total War: Europe 1912-1923

This research seminar examines the experience of Europeans in the trenches, under military occupation, and at home, in the turbulent years during and immediately following the First World War. Throughout the semester students work to develop their own research project based on primary documents from the period 1912-1923.

The course consists of two parts. In the first part (through March) the class examines secondary sources on diverse aspects of the First World War. Many of the readings offer examples of distinctive ways in which authors use sources—documents, elements of material culture, and other forms of evidence—to create historical narratives, arguments, and interpretations about the War. In the second part of the course, students develop individual research projects that culminate in a final paper (20-25 pages, min. 5000 words). The twin and interrelated goals of the course are 1) to focus your attention on how historians use sources to construct narratives—what it is that historians actually do—as you create your own research project, and 2) to give you a strong understanding of the events, issues, interpretations, and open questions surrounding the period of the First World War in Europe.

Course Requirements:

1) During the first part of the course, students are responsible for regular attendance and participation in class discussions. It is essential to your success in the course that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading for each session. In addition, the History Department's draconian policy on attendance states that unexcused absences will be penalized by a lower grade. If you are unable to attend a class session due to illness or some other issue, you are responsible for letting me know in advance.

2) Short Analysis of a Reading (Due any time after week 1, but no later than March 7) In this exercise (1000 words minimum) you identify the following aspects of a class reading (a chapter or an article from the syllabus, your choice): statement of problem or topic, thesis and premise; what sources the author used, whether the author seemed to pursue a particular research strategy? Did the author treat historiography in this reading? Did the author develop a persuasive narrative/explanation based on the particular research/sources?

3) Research Paper Assignments and Due dates:

Preliminary Topic and short Bibliography (including some primary sources): March 28
Short Document Analysis of one of your primary sources (graded): April 4
First Draft of Paper: Monday, April 22
Presentations and Peer Critiques: April 23-May 2
Final Draft of Paper: May 17

I will make more detailed instructions available to students during the course of the semester about specific elements and expectations for each of these assignments. Students must complete all assignments on time to receive credit for the course.

Optional Language Attachment:

Students interested in this extra half-credit option will include a significant number of sources in either French or German in their final research paper. They will also use a French- or German-language text for the short document analysis due April 2.

Readings:

The following books have been ordered for you at the bookstore. They are also on General Reserve in McCabe Library:

Maureen Healy, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire
Denis Winter, Death's Men. Soldiers of the Great War

In addition I have placed the following on General Reserve in McCabe:

David Stevenson, Cataclysm. The First World War as Political Tragedy
Jay Winter and Antoine Prost, The Great War in History. Debates and Controversies 1914 to the Present

There are several other excellent basic accounts of the First World War available to you in the library.

All other syllabus readings will be available to you on Moodle.

Students should inform themselves about the many potential sources of research documents and secondary works on World War I (in English) available to them at McCabe, in the Peace Collection, the Friends' Historical Library, and through online databases. In addition, Social Sciences librarian Sarah Elichko has created a research guide for the class (<http://libguides.brynmawr.edu/history027>) and she will make a formal presentation to the class on February 26. You will want to use her knowledge and suggestions wisely. I encourage you to feel free to consult with her before her presentation if you wish.

Schedule of Classes and Topics

Tue	1/22	Introduction to the Course
	Reading:	Selections from George M. French War Diary

- Thu 1/24 **Plans**
- Reading: Barbara Tuchman, The Guns of August, 17-43; 56-68
David Stevenson, Cataclysm. The First World War as Political Tragedy, 3-35
- Suggested: Christopher Clark, The Sleepwalkers (excellent!)
Lawrence Lafore, The Long Fuse
Fritz Fischer, Germany's Aims in the First World War
- Tue 1/29 **Was there a "Mood of 1914"?**
- Reading: Michael Neiberg, Dance of the Furies. Europe and the Outbreak of World War I, 1-9; 36-65; 150-179; 208-237
- Suggested: George Dangerfield, The Strange Death of Liberal England
- Thu 1/31 **Being a Soldier**
- Reading: Denis Winter, Death's Men. Soldiers of the Great War, 23-49; 80-106; 141-161
George M. French War Diary: choose one week between January and August 1918
- Tue 2/5 **The Face of Battle**
- Reading: Denis Winter, Death's Men. Soldiers of the Great War, 107-128; 170-208;
Leonard Smith, Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Annette Becker, France and the Great War 1914-1918, 76-112, 117-131
- Suggested: Leonard Smith, Between Mutiny and Obedience. The Case of the French Fifth Infantry Division During World War I (1994)
Leonard Smith, The Embattled Self. French Soldiers' Testimony of the Great War (2007)
- Thu 2/7 **Captivity**
- Reading: Alon Rachamimov, "The Disruptive Comforts of Drag: (Trans)Gender Performances among Prisoners of War in Russia, 1914-1920," in *American Historical Review*, Volume 111, number 2, April 2006, 362-382
- Tue 2/12 **Crises of Legitimacy on the Home Front**
- Reading: Maureen Healy, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I, 31-86
Belinda Davis, "Food Scarcity and the Empowerment of the

Female Consumer in World War I Berlin," in V. DeGrazia, ed., The Sex of Things, 287-300

- Thu 2/14 **Women and War Work**
- Reading: Maureen Healy, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I, 163-210
- Tue 2/19 **Rumor, Denunciation, and Propaganda on the Home Front**
- Reading: Maureen Healy, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I, 87-159
Leonard Smith, Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Annette Becker, France and the Great War 1914-1918, 53-60
- Document: British Government Propaganda Film on the Somme
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krT1lX_Dvm0
- Suggested: Ruth Harris, "'The Child of the Barbarian': Rape, Race, and Nationalism in France During the First World War" in *Past and Present* vol. 141, 1993, 170-206
- Thu 2/21 **Working-Class Women in Industry**
- Reading: Laura L. Downs, Manufacturing Inequality. Gender Division in the French and British Metalworking Industries, 1914-1939, 15-46; 47-78
- Tue 2/26 **Presentation by Social Sciences Librarian Sarah Elichko**
- Thu 2/28 **The breakdown of the Social Contract**
- Reading: Maureen Healy, Vienna and the Fall of the Habsburg Empire. Total War and Everyday Life in World War I, 211-299
Laura Downs, "Women's Strikes and the Politics of Popular Egalitarianism in France, 1916-1918," in Rethinking Labor History. Essays on Discourse and Class Analysis, ed. Lenard Berlanstein, 114-148
- Tue 3/5 **Occupation Regimes and Treatment of Civilians**
- Reading: Leonard Smith, Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau, Annette Becker, France and the Great War 1914-1918, 43-52
Isabel Hull, Absolute Destruction. Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany, 226-262; 291-323; 324-333
Veijus Liulevicius, Warland on the Eastern Front. Culture,

National Identity, and German Occupation in World War One, 54-88; 176-227 (E-Book)

- Suggested: John Horne and Alan Kramer, German Atrocities 1914: A History of Denial
Mark von Hagen, War in a European Borderland. Occupations and Occupation Plans in Galicia and Ukraine, 1914-1918
Laird Boswell, "From Liberation to Purge Trials in the 'Mythic Provinces': Recasting French Identities in Alsace and Lorraine, 1918-1920," in *French Historical Studies*, 2000, Vol. 23 (1), 129-162

Thu 3/7 **A Global War**

- Reading: Richard Fogarty, Race and War in France. Colonial Subjects in the French Army 1-14; 55-66; 202-215; 230-269
- Suggested: David Fromkin, A Peace to End all Peace. The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East
Robin Prior, Gallipoli. The End of the Myth

Short analysis of a reading due

SPRING BREAK

Tue 3/19 **Peace? From Brest-Litovsk to Versailles**

- Reading: Margaret MacMillan, Paris 1919. Six Months That Changed the World, (E-book) assignment TBA
Erez Manela, "Imagining Woodrow Wilson in Asia: Dreams of East-West Harmony and the Revolt against Empire in 1919," in *American Historical Review* vol. 111, number 5, December 2006, 1326-1351 (online)
- Suggested: Erez Manela, The Wilsonian Moment: Self Determination and the International Origins of Anti-Colonial Nationalism
Arno Mayer, Politics and Diplomacy of Peace Making Containment and Counterrevolution at Versailles 1918-19
Annemarie Sammartino, The Impossible Border. Germany and the East, 1914-1922

Thu 3/21 **Beyond Versailles: Paramilitary Violence in Europe, 1918-1923**

- Reading: Robert Gerwarth and John Horne, "Bolshevism as Fantasy: Fear of Revolution and Counter-Revolutionary Violence, 1917-1923" in R. Gerwarth & J. Horne, eds., War in Peace. Paramilitary Violence in Europe After the Great War, 40-51
Robert Gerwarth, "Fighting the Red Beast: Counter-Revolutionary

Violence in the Defeated States of Central Europe," in R. Gerwarth & J. Horne, eds., War in Peace. Paramilitary Violence in Europe After the Great War, 52-71

- Suggested: Articles on violence in post-war Ireland, Italy, and France in R. Gerwarth & J. Horne, eds., War in Peace. Paramilitary Violence in Europe After the Great War
Maureen Healy, "Civilizing the Soldier in Postwar Austria" in N. Wingfield and M. Bucur, eds., Gender and War in 20th-Century Eastern Europe
- Tue 3/26 **Remembering War**
- Reading: Denis Winter, Death's Men. Soldiers of the Great War, 235-265
- Suggested: Paul Fussell, The Great War and Modern Memory
Anton Kaes, Shell Shock Cinema. Weimar Culture and the Wounds of War
Jay Winter, Remembering War: The Great War Between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century
Paul Lerner, Hysterical men: war, psychiatry, and the politics of Trauma in Germany, 1890-1930
- Thu 3/28 **Preliminary Research Proposal and Bibliography due!**
- Thu 4/4 **Short Document Analysis of a source due**
- Mon 4/22 **First Draft of paper due**
- Tue 4/23 **Presentation of topics and Peer Critique**
- Thu 4/25 **Presentation of topics and Peer Critique**
- Tue 4/30 **Presentation of topics and Peer Critique**
- Thu 5/2 **Presentation of topics and Peer Critique**
- Fri 5/17 **Final Paper due**