History 4805E
First World War: A Revolutionary Experience

Instructor Information:
Brock Millman
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Class Information:
Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30

Course Description:

The First World War was a cataclysmic event, often indicated as the real end of the Nineteenth Century and the beginning of the Twentieth. Many aspects of human existence were profoundly affected by the war. In some cases, change was revolutionary in scope and tempo. The focus of the course will remain on the principle European combatants as it was in Europe that impacts were most obvious and weighty. History 4805E is a research and reading intensive seminar directed to assist students to acquire significant insights into the causes, course and consequences of the conflict.

Course objectives include:

• Gain a broader understanding into why the war began, why it took the shape it did, and why it ended as it did.
• Consider some of the more important changes introduced by the war.
• Expose students to some of the more important historiographical debates.
• Practice students in the use of primary Documents, both in discussion and in research.
• Hone presentation skills.
• Conduct a significant research project, including consideration of primary materials as available.

Grading

Participation: 20%
Film Review: 10%
Book Review: 10%
Research Paper: 40%
Exam: 20%

Description of Graded Items

Participation is an assessment of how effectively a student has participated in class discussions.
Film Review: Each student will produce a short (5-7 page) review of a film dealing with some aspect of the First World War. Further guidance concerning this requirement will be presented in class. Due 18 October 2011.

Book Review: Each student will produce a short (5-7 page) review of an autobiographical account concerning the war. Further guidance concerning this requirement will be presented in class. Due 6 December 2011.

Research Paper: Each student will produce a research paper of approximately 30 pages in length on a topic of their choice. Form, argument, originality and quality of research will all factor in the grade assigned. Due 10 April 2012.

Exam: Comprehensive. Three hours. Essay format. Questions will follow from course objectives.

Texts:


The Longman Companion and de Groot are intended as general references. Fussell, Herwig and Middlebrook will be the focus of class discussion. Other readings are indicated in the course outline. In all cases these are available electronically. Readings specific to classes include articles which will inform in class discussion and a Document selected for the day. The Document will be considered both for specific content as representative of a type of source available.

Course Outline with Reading Schedule

Sep 13 – Course introduction and Causes historiographical discussion

Sep 20 – Causes historiographical discussion continues

DRAFT (4 June 2011)


Document:
Germany Imperial War Council, 1912 (http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/pdf/eng/621_War%20Council_125.pdf)

### Sep 27 – The Failure of the Plans, 1914-1915


Document:
The Schlieffen Plan (http://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/The_Schlieffen_Plan)

### Oct 4 – Mobilization


Document:
Canadian Attestation Papers (http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/index-e.html)
Oct 11 – Easterners and Westerners


Document:
See coverage of the Gallipoli campaign, starting 15 April 1915 as available through Canadian newspapers on line.

Oct 18 – Atrocity? FILM REVIEW DUE


Documents:
Bryce Report into German Atrocities in Belgium, and, Bryce Report into the Armenian Massacre

Oct 25 – Coalition Warfare


Document:
Treaty of London, and French Memorandum on the 2nd Inter-Allied Conference at Chantilly, 6 December 1915
(http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/chantillymemo.htm)

**Nov 1 – War en Mass, 1916**
Discuss Middlebrook


Documents:
Falkenhayn and Ludendorff’s View concerning the Battle of Verdun
(http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/1916.htm); and,

**Nov 8 – War at Sea: Victory through Strangulation**


Document:

**Nov 15 – Homefronts**


Document:
Sir Roger Casement Conviction Speech
(http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/dublin_casement.htm)

**Nov 22 – Peace Moves**


Document:
Benedict XV’s Peace Proposal

**Nov 29 -- L’Année Horrible, 1917**


Ludendorff on the Battle of III Ypres
(http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/ypres3_ludendorff.htm)

Dec 6 – Political Warfare BOOK REVIEW DUE


Document:

Jan 10 – Total War States


Documents:
Military Services Act 1917; Military Voters Act 1917; Wartime Elections Act 1917.

Jan 17 – War in the Air


Document:

Jan 24 -- A Revolution in Military Affairs?


Document:
Summary of Plan 1919 (http://worldatwar.net/chandelle/v2/v2n1/1919.html)

Jan 31 – The Unexpected Victory, 1918
Discuss, Herwig, *The First World War*


Document:
Sir Arthur Currie on the Lys Offensive, April 1918 (http://www.firstworldwar.com/source/lys_currie.htm)

Feb 7 – The Mutilated Peace


o S. Pereslegin, The Intermission Ends as the World War Resumes’, International Affairs, Vol. LV, No. 6 (2009), p. 188-204.

Documents:
Treaty of Versailles, and Covenant of the League of Nations

Feb 14 – Demographic Consequences


Document:
Canadian Casualties from Statscan
(http://www65.statcan.gc.ca/acyb02/1947/acyb02_19471126002-eng.htm)

Feb 21 READING WEEK

Feb 28 – Freikorps and Freebooters


DRAFT (4 June 2011)

Document:
Mein Kampf, chapters IV to VIII.

March 6 – The Russian Revolution and Civil War


Document:
The April Theses

Mar 13 – Intervention


Documents:

Mar 20 – Economic Impacts


Document:
John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*  
(http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/~econ/ugcm/3ll3/keynes/peace.htm)

**Mar 27 – Social/Political Impacts**


Document:
Rosa Luxemburg, on the Spartacist Program  
(http://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1918/12/30.htm)

**Apr 3 – Cultural Uncertainty**


Document:
Apr 10 – The Birth of the Modern
Discuss Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*

Document:
Art Manifestos (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Art_manifesto#Futurist_Manifesto_1909)

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

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PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.
B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'At above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf to read about the University’s policy on medical accommodation. Please go to http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or rdashfo@uwo.ca