

HISTORY 1810E
Wars That Changed the World
Fall/Winter 2023-24

Instructor: Professor Jonathan F. Vance
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Course Description:

This course examines in detail a number of transformational wars in history – the Hundred Years Wars, the First World War, the Second World War, and some lesser known conflicts – both in lectures and in tutorials that will also focus on the development of analytical and writing skills. Topics include the implications of war for civilians, politics, economies, popular culture, and technology.

Learning Outcomes:

Through the lectures and assignments, students will gain:

Basic primary source skills: what are primary sources?

Basic secondary source skills: what are secondary sources?

Familiarity with the printed and electronic resources

A full understanding of plagiarism and its problems

Basic paper-writing skills: organization, citation, and referencing

Communication skills through presentations and small-group discussion

An appreciation of the fundamental role of war in shaping history and society

Course Materials:

Students must purchase the following textbooks, which will be used for tutorial discussions and assignments. They are available in the university bookstore.

Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2002)

Gerhard L. Weinberg, *World War II: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2014)

Other materials for use in tutorial discussions and assignments will be available on the course website.

Methods of Evaluation:

Students must submit ALL assignments to pass the course. Failure to submit all assigned coursework will result in a failing grade in the course.

Joan of Arc's Playlist (due week of 16 October 2023)	15%
Postcard analysis (due week of 4 December 2023)	20%
Essay outline (due week of 23 February 2024)	10%
Research paper (due week of 1 April 2024)	15%
Final examination (April 2024 exam period)	30%
Participation	10%

Joan of Arc's Playlist:

The TAs will divide each tutorial into a number of groups, and the members of each group will work together on this assignment; the grading will include both individual and group components. Each group

will create an autobiography of Joan of Arc that takes the form of a series of playlists. The group will divide Joan's life and impact into a number of themes, subjects, or time periods, with each student being responsible for one segment. After researching that part of Joan's life, you will create a playlist of five songs that reveal the key points of your segment. You are not looking for songs about Joan of Arc; you are looking for songs from any time period or artist that express the important elements of Joan's life. A sample playlist will be made available on the course website.

****Due week of 16 October 2023****

Postcard analysis:

You will be given an original postcard from the First World War to research and analyze. You should approach it as an exercise in historical detection – how much can the postcard tell you about the time, and about the people and events to which it refers? Because of the nature of the assignment, it does not need a thesis statement, like a conventional research paper. It should include reference notes and a bibliography. A sample analysis will be made available on the course website.

****Due week of 4 December 2023****

Essay outline:

You will write a research paper on a topic relating to any of the three major wars covered in the course – the Hundred Years War, the First World War, or the Second World War. The assignment will allow you to bring together skills in interpreting primary and secondary sources, and in bibliographical research. The first step is to create an essay outline consisting of a number of research questions, a list of representative primary and secondary sources, and a 500-word discussion of what you plan to investigate in your essay.

****Due week of 12 February 2024****

Research paper:

The final paper should be roughly 6 to 8 pages in length, not including the title page and bibliography. It should be properly referenced with footnotes or endnotes. In grading, a premium will be placed on your ability to present your argument in an organized fashion and in graceful prose.

****Due week of 1 April 2024****

All work submitted in this course must be your own. You may not make use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT for any assignments in this course.

Final examination:

The examination will cover the entire year's work, and will consist of both short-answer and long-answer (essay) questions. Further information (including sample questions) will be provided in the winter term.

Participation:

Your success in the course depends on a willingness to keep up with the lectures and readings on a weekly basis and to take part fully in tutorial discussion. Your TA will assess your participation (and note that you are assessed on participation, not simply attendance) on an ongoing basis throughout the year, and can provide interim grades upon request. Attendance at tutorials is mandatory. If you cannot

attend your own tutorial in any given week, you should consult the tutorial schedule on the course website and arrange with the course director to attend a different tutorial for that week.

Submitting assignments

All assignments are to be submitted on the day of your tutorial meeting. Late assignments will be subject to a deduction of two marks per day, including weekend days. Assignments submitted more than seven days after the due date, without accommodation from Academic Counselling, will not receive a grade. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes in April 2024 without academic accommodation.

All assignments **must** be submitted electronically to the Turnitin plagiarism detection service. Instructions for the submission process through the OWL course website will be provided in class. Students are strongly advised not to wait until the last few minutes before midnight to submit an assignment. High demand and internet failure are not acceptable reasons for failing to submit on time. In the event of any problems, contact your instructor.

Note: ‘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>).’ [www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf]

History 1810E is designated as an essay course. In order to obtain a passing grade in the course, each student must exhibit a minimum level of competence in essay writing. In practical terms, this means that each student, to pass the course, must achieve a passing grade in the written work (ie. out of the combined written work grade of 60%, you must achieve at least 30%).

Students should communicate with the course director and TAs using their UWO email addresses; all communications regarding the course will be sent to those email addresses, rather than to other accounts (Hotmail, Gmail, etc). Students should also regularly check the Announcements section on the course website for updates.

Course Schedule and Readings:

NB - * Tutorials begin the week of 11 September *****

11 September – Introduction: War – What is it Good For?
Tutorials – Introduction – What is History?

13 September: Onboarding: How to Succeed in “Wars That Changed the World”

18 and 20 September: War in Music / Music at War
Tutorials – How to read

The Hundred Years War

25 and 27 September: The Hundred Years War for Dummies

Tutorials – Old vs New Interpretations

‘The Battle of Agincourt,’ from *The Chronicles of Enguerrand de Monstrelet* (ca. 1440)

<https://deremilitari.org/2013/02/battle-of-agincourt-1415/>

Jan Honig, ‘Reappraising Late Medieval Strategy: The Example of the 1415 Agincourt Campaign,’ *War in History* 19/2 (2012): 123-51

2 and 4 October: Revolutions in Military Affairs / Robin Hood and the Peasants’ Revenge

Tutorials – Popular vs Scholarly Interpretations

Edward Barber, ‘Edward III and the Battle of Crécy,’ *History Today* 63/10 (October 2013): 33-38

Yuval Harari, ‘Inter-frontal Cooperation in the Fourteenth Century and Edward III’s 1346 Campaign,’ *War in History* 6/4 (1999): 379-95

9 October: Thanksgiving Monday – no lecture or tutorials

11 October: Joan of Arc / Jeanne d’Arc

Tutorials – History vs Myth

‘Joan of Arc’ in Willis J. Abbot, *Notable Women of History: The Lives of Women who in All Ages, All Lands and in all Womanly Occupations have Won Fame and Put their Imprint on the World’s History* (Philadelphia: John C. Winston Co., 1912)

Yvonne Lanhers and Malcolm G.A. Vale, ‘Saint John of Arc’, *Britannia Academic* (2019)

16 and 18 October: Legacies of the Hundred Years War / Random Wars

****Joan of Arc’s Playlist assignment due****

23 and 25 October: Wars of Empire – Mesoamerica

Tutorials – Starting your primary source document analysis

30 October and 1 November – Fall Reading Week – no lectures

6 and 8 November: Wars of Empire – Africa

Tutorials – Citations

The First World War

13 and 15 November: Nationalism, Imperialism, & Jingoism / Arms Races and Alliances

Tutorials – Primary vs secondary sources

Howard, *The First World War*, chap. 1 and 2

Thomas H. Russell, *The World’s Greatest War* (1914), chap. 1

20 and 22 November: The Generation of 1914 in Village and City

Tutorials – Rural vs Urban Life

Jonathan F. Vance, *A Township at War* (2018): 37-47

Jeffrey Verhey, *The Spirit of 1914: Militarism, Myth, and Mobilization in Germany* (2000): 72-82

27 and 29 November: The War at the Front / Filling the Ranks

Tutorials – Formulating research questions and organizing a research essay

Howard, *The First World War*, chap. 3, 4 and 5

4 and 6 December: Westerners / Easterners

****Postcard analysis due****

8 and 10 January: Mobilizing Consent / Technology

Howard, *The First World War*, chap. 6, 7, and 8

Tutorials – Cartoons in War

Jane Chapman and Dan Ellin, ‘Dominion Cartoon Satire as Trench Culture Narratives: Complaints, Endurance and Stoicism,’ *The Round Table* 103/2 (2014): 175-92

15 and 17 January: Intervention and Revolution / 1918

Howard, *The First World War*, chap. 6, 7, and 8

Tutorials – Operational History

Report on the Operations of 31st Battalion in the Neighbourhood of St Eloi, 3-9 April 1916

War Diary, 31st Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, April 1916

Account by Lieut.-Col. A.H. Bell, 31st Battalion

Tim Cook, ‘The Blind Leading the Blind: The Battle of the St Eloi Craters,’ *Canadian Military History* 5/2 (1996): 24-36

22 and 24 January: Lands Fit for Heroes / Remembering War

Howard, *The First World War*, chap. 9

Tutorials – Commemoration

Jonathan F. Vance, ‘Remembering Armageddon,’ in David MacKenzie, ed., *Canada and the First World War: Essays in Honour of Robert Craig Brown* (2005): 409-33

29 and 31 January: Random Wars That You’ve Never Heard Of

Tutorials – History On-line

5 and 7 February: Virtual Wars on Television and at the Movies

Tutorials – War on Film

John Whiteclay Chambers, ‘The Movies and the Antiwar Debate in America, 1930-1941,’ *Film & History* 36/1 (2006)

The Second World War

12 and 14 February: The Road to the Pacific War / The Nazis and Versailles

Weinberg, *World War II*, chap. 1

****Essay outline due****

19 and 21 February – Reading Week – no lectures or tutorials

26 and 28 February – War / Occupation

Weinberg, *World War II*, chap. 2 and 3

4 and 6 March – Barbarossa / Divine Wind

Tutorials – Journalism in Wartime

Weinberg, *World War II*, chap. 4 and 5

James T. O'Donnell, 'Content, Comment and Censorship: A Case Study Comparing Coverage of Dunkirk and D-Day in Irish Newspapers,' *Media History* 23/3-4 (2017): 345-59

11 and 13 March – Mobilizing Consent / Secret Wars

Tutorials – Music in Wartime

Kathleen E.R. Smith, *God Bless America: Tin Pan Alley Goes to War* (2003): chap. 10

18 and 20 March – War on Civilians: Bombing and Genocide

Weinberg, *World War II*, chap. 7

Tutorials – Childhood in Wartime

Christine Hamelin, 'A Sense of Purpose: Ottawa Students and the Second World War,' *Canadian Military History* 6/1 (1997): 34-41

25 and 27 March – Midway to Island-hopping / Sicily to Overlord

Tutorials – Writing Home from the Front

Katherine I. Miller, 'My Father and His Father: An Analysis of World War II Correspondence,' *Journal of Family Communication* 8 (2008): 148-65

1 and 3 April – VE and VJ Day / Conclusion: Remembering War

Weinberg, *World War II*, chap. 6 and 8

****Research essay due****

8 April – Conclusion

Use of Electronic Devices:

We recognize that, for academic purposes, students rely heavily on electronic devices such as laptops or smartphones, and may be accustomed to using them in class for taking notes or following the readings. Our assumption is that students will be respectful of their instructors and fellow students in using electronic devices, and will not engage in activities that distract those around them. In the event of disruptive use of such devices, the course director reserves the right to request that any device be turned off or put away; in extreme situations, a student may be asked to leave the classroom.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.