

Fall 2018

Syllabus

HIS348-01 The World at War, 1914-1918

Instructor: Mark Moser mamoser@uncg.edu MHRA 2104

Meeting Time/Location: TR 3:30 to 4:45 MHRA 2207

Office Hours Fall 2018: T 10:00 to 11:00 TR 12:30 to 1:30 (and by appointment)

Required Texts:

Samuel R. Williamson, Jr. and Russel Van Wyk *July 1914: Soldiers, Statesmen, and the Coming of the Great War: A Brief Documentary History* (Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2003). ISBN 9780312120108 or (Waveland Press edition ISBN 9781478622864)

John Keegan. *The First World War* (New York: Vintage Books, 2000). ISBN 9780375700453

Erich Maria Remarque. *All Quiet on the Western Front* (Paperback---any edition)

Note* In addition to the above texts there will occasionally be other material from scholarly sources that you will be required to read. There will also be a few select films that will be made available to you on Canvas throughout the semester.

Learning Goals for this Course:

(These learning goals are applicable to both history majors and non-history majors alike.)

- **Historical Comprehension:** Students will be able to demonstrate proficiency in analyzing historical duration, succession, and change in terms of human agency and larger systems or structures related to World War I.
- **Historical Analysis:** Students will demonstrate ability to use historical thinking to contextualize and analyze primary and secondary sources representing different points of view.
- **Historical Interpretation:** Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting an original argument, orally and in writing.

Procedures/Assignments:

It will be essential for you to keep up with your readings. If you follow the guidelines in the syllabus and don't allow yourselves to fall behind, you should have no trouble managing the workload for this class. Even though this is a large class, discussion of your readings will

routinely take up a significant portion of many class sessions. Therefore, it will be necessary for you to have completed your assigned readings prior to the first day of class in any given week. (You should be prepared to be called on EACH and EVERY CLASS SESSION!) You should not find this course difficult provided that you remain current with your reading. However, students who fall behind will likely find it difficult to catch up.

Attendance:

Punctuality and regular attendance are necessary in order for you to do your best in any college class because you are still responsible for all material covered in class whether or not you are there. As indicated below, a significant portion of your grade for this course will be based on attendance and class participation. During each class session there will be numerous opportunities for students to offer comments, ask questions, and participate in class discussions. If you are not here, you cannot participate. **Students accumulating more than 4 absences will have their final grade reduced by one letter. Students accumulating excessive absences may be dropped from the class. Any student who wishes to receive a grade of “W” must drop the class on or before Friday, October 5.** Habitual tardiness, either alone or in combination with absences, will also adversely affect your final grade. It is your responsibility to keep up with your absences. It is also your responsibility to see me after class if you come in after attendance has been taken, as failure to do so will result in your being marked absent for that class session.

(A minimum of 2 requested absences for religious observances not counted as part of the above).

This class meets two times per week and I expect you to come to class on time and to remain in class for the entire session unless you have a genuine emergency during class, (illness, etc.) or unless you speak to me prior to class and advise me that you need to leave early. I consider this to be common courtesy to everyone in attendance.

All requests to take a missed exam will be considered on an individual basis. Any student who misses an exam **must contact me ASAP** to inquire about the possibility of taking a makeup. Makeup exams, if permitted, will have to be taken at a time when I am available. **No makeups** will be given on weekly unannounced quizzes* however I will drop everyone's two lowest quiz grades prior to calculating final averages.

Warning: Technology is a wonderful thing. Having said that, you should be aware that I consider using a laptop/tablet, etc. in my class a privilege—not a right—and privileges can be taken away. Therefore, I respectfully ask that you use them only for taking notes. I will warn a student once for such an infraction—a second offense will result in the loss of stated privilege. Numerous violations of this request will result in the banning of laptops/tablets, etc. from class altogether. Similar discretion/judgment should be applied to **any** electronic device (**especially smart phones!**) that can be a distraction to you, your classmates, or instructor. If you are so important, in a truly global sense, that you cannot go 75 consecutive minutes without checking your social media accounts, email, etc., then you are clearly far too important to be wasting your valuable time and celebrity status here at UNCG. **I do not want to see you looking at your phones at any time while you are in class.**

Grading:

Class Participation	20%
Primary Source Analysis (2)	20%
Film Analysis	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
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Course Total	100%

(This course follows a 10 point scale.)

Course Outline:

Week One—(August 14, 16) Course Intro and Film

Week Two—(August 21, 23) Readings: *July 1914* TBA

Week Three—(August 28, 30) Readings: *July 1914* TBA

Week Four—(September 4, 6) Readings: *July 1914* TBA

Week Five—(September 11, 13) Readings: *July 1914* TBA

Week Six—(September 18, 20) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 1
First Primary Source Analysis Due Tuesday, September 18

Week Seven—(September 25, 27) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 2

Week Eight—(October 2, 4) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 3

No class Tuesday, October 9---FALL BREAK

Week Nine—(October 11) *MIDTERM EXAM (You will need a small format bluebook)

Week Ten—(October 16, 18) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 4

Week Eleven—(October 23, 25) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapters 5 & 6
Second Primary Source Analysis Due Tuesday, October 23

Week Twelve—(Oct 30, Nov 1) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapters 7 & 8

Week Thirteen—(November 6, 8) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 9

**Week Fourteen—(Nov 13, 15, 20*) Readings: Keegan *The First World War* Chapter 10
Film Analysis Due Tuesday, November 20**

No class Thursday, November 22---Thanksgiving Holiday

***FINAL EXAM Tuesday, November 27. (You will need a small format Bluebook)**

Academic Integrity Policy:

On all quizzes and exams you will be expected to abide by the UNCG Academic Integrity Policy, which may be reviewed at <http://studentconduct.uncg.edu/policy/academicintegrity>. Please review this important document with an attention to detail, and feel free to ask questions if there is any part of the policy which you do not understand.

**If you have a documented disability and wish to discuss academic accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible.*

“The greatest error of modern history”

--- Niall Ferguson

“The First World War was a tragic and unnecessary conflict.”

--- John Keegan

“We did not break down, but adapted ourselves; our twenty years, which made many another thing so grievous, helped us in this. But by far the most important result was that it awakened in us a strong, practical sense of *esprit de corps*, which in the field developed into the finest thing that arose out of the war—comradeship.”

--- Erich Maria Remarque

"The Allied and Associated Governments affirm and Germany accepts the responsibility of Germany and her allies for causing all the loss and damage to which the Allied and Associated Governments and their nationals have been subjected as a consequence of the war imposed upon them by the aggression of Germany and her allies."

--- Article 231 *Treaty of Versailles* June 28, 1919