

Fall 2023

## Syllabus

### HIS348-01 The World at War, 1914-1918

Instructor: Mark Moser [mamoser@uncg.edu](mailto:mamoser@uncg.edu) MHRA 2104

Meeting Time/Location: MW 2:00 to 3:15 MHRA 2211

Office Hours Fall 2023: MWF 9:30 to 10:30 MW 12:00 to 1:30 (and by appointment)

#### Required Texts:

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

**Note:** Other than the text listed above, all other readings, films, etc., for this course will be made available to you on Canvas.

#### 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 concerning World War I.
- **Historical Interpretation:** Students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to interpret the past coherently while developing and presenting original arguments, orally in class discussion and in all written assignments.

#### 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 fairly 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 grade per additional absence. 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 6.** 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.

**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 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:**

<b>Class Participation</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Weekly Discussion Postings</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Film Comparative Analysis</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>25%</b>
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<b>Course Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

(This course follows a 10 point scale.)

**Weekly Course Outline:**

**Week One**—(August 16)     **Course Introduction and Film: *Paths of Glory* (1957)**

**Week Two**—(August 21, 23)

**Readings: Kagan: “The First World War, 1914-1918” (pp. 81-141)**

**Week Three**—(August 28, 30)

**Readings: Kagan: “The First World War, 1914-1918” (pp. 142-204)**

**Week Four**—(September 6)    **\*No class Monday, September 4 Labor Day Holiday**

**Readings: Kagan: “The First World War, 1914-1918” (pp. 205-231)**

**Week Five**—(September 11, 13)

**Readings: Grayzel: *The First World War and the Making of a Modern Global Conflict*”**

**Week Six**—(September 18, 20)

**Readings: Primary Source Documents**

**Week Seven**—(September 25, 27)

**Readings: Primary Source Documents**

**Week Eight**—(October 2, 4)    **Midterm Exam Review Session Monday, October 2**

**\*Midterm Exam Wednesday, October 4 (You will need a small format Bluebook)**

**Week Nine**—(October 11) No class Monday, October 9 --- Fall Break  
Film: *King and Country* (1964)

**Week Ten**—(October 16, 18)  
Readings: Primary Source Documents

**Week Eleven**—(October 23, 25)  
Readings: Primary Source Documents

**Week Twelve**—(October 30, November 1)  
Readings: Primary Source Documents

**Week Thirteen**—(November 6, 8) Film: *1917* (2019)  
Readings: *All Quiet on the Western Front* Chapters One through Six

**Week Fourteen**—(November 13, 15)  
Readings: *All Quiet on the Western Front* Chapters Seven through Twelve  
Film Analysis due by 11:59PM Wednesday, November 15

No class Wednesday, November 22---Thanksgiving Holiday

**Week Fifteen**—(November 27, 29) Review for final exam Wednesday, November 29  
Readings: Keegan: “America and Armageddon”

- Last Day of Class Wednesday, November 29

**\*FINAL EXAM** Monday, December 4 from 3:30-6:30PM. (You will need a small format Bluebook)

**\*\*Whenever possible throughout the semester I will strive to interject aspects of historiography into our class discussions.**

### **Academic Integrity Policy:**

*On all assignments 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.*

### **Significant perspectives on the First World War:**

**“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**