

HIS: 217-03 The World in the Twentieth Century (1900-1945) – “Total War”

HIS 217-03 – Tuesday, Thursday 3:30-4:45, MHRA 1215

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Office: MHRA 2114

Office hours: 2:00-3:00 on Tuesday, or by appointment



This syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence.”

Abigail Adams

“The truth is rarely pure and never simple.”

Oscar Wilde

“The historian makes histories. Histories do not exist as preformed narratives awaiting discovery.”

Raymond D. Fogelson

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The world underwent significant changes in the first half of the twentieth century; many of these changes were brought on by the armed conflicts that occurred from 1900-1945, particularly the first and second World Wars. This class will examine this period of world history through the lens of “total war,” utilizing the conflicts as an organizing framework. Because our theme is “total war” we will examine the changes in military mechanization, battle strategy and tactics, and wartime atrocities, but we will be most interested in how these points, and others, shaped the participating societies. As belligerent governments demanded more of their populations, from a non-professional soldier force to a female industrial labor force, individuals began to demand more from their governments, in terms of citizenship, suffrage, and welfare. We will focus on how the changes brought by “total war” influenced fighting men (and women) and the societies they represented. Four empires/nations will structure our examination: Great Britain, Germany, Russia, and Japan. We will analyze how these empires/nations waged war, and how the conflicts in which they engaged impacted the individuals that made up their societies.

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of this course students will be able to:

1. Explain the significance of the major events, people, and debates in the history of the world from 1900-1945.
2. Demonstrate, in written and verbal form, an understanding of “total war” and its impacts on society.
3. Source and contextualize primary sources.
4. Evaluate historical arguments in secondary sources.
5. Utilize library resources for research purposes, and demonstrate this knowledge in an annotated bibliography and research paper.
6. Discuss the use of a novel as a historical source.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Not So Quiet: Stepdaughters of War by Helen Zenna Smith
Empire of the Sun by J. G. Ballard

**IF YOU HAVE ISSUES ACQUIRING THE BOOKS PLEASE LET ME KNOW.
IT IS UNACCEPTABLE TO CONTACT ME THE WEEK BEFORE OUR
DISCUSSION TO TELL ME THAT YOU COULD NOT LOCATE THE BOOK!
THESE NOVELS ARE INEXPENSIVE AND CAN ALSO BE CHECKED OUT OF
UNIVERSITY AND LOCAL LIBRARIES.**

**ADDITIONAL READINGS WILL BE POSTED TO BLACKBOARD, OR
DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.**

COURSE POLICIES:

Course Structure:

This course is designed to hone your critical thinking and communication skills through the sourcing and contextualizing of historical sources. Rather than require you to memorize various facts, figures, and other data, this course will teach you how to employ the skills of a historian to read, analyze, and interpret historical documents and arguments. In addition to contextualization, you will also learn how to scrutinize historical arguments in secondary sources.

Unplugged:

This class will be a technology free zone. Laptops and other smart devices such as tablets are not permitted. Cell phones must be turned off or placed on vibrate. **Students who fail to comply will be excused from class.**

Respect:

Your active participation in this course is necessary to ensure the success of the class and your grade. During a discussion thoughtful comments and questions are encouraged and expected; however, it is also imperative that mutual respect be maintained at all times. Students will treat their peers and instructor with respect at all times. **Students who fail to comply will be excused from class.**

Academic Integrity:

Students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity. UNCG considers academic dishonesty to be a serious offense. Dishonest behavior in any form, including cheating, plagiarism, deception of effort, and unauthorized assistance, may result in a failing grade on an assignment or failure in the course (depending on the nature of the offense). It is your responsibility to avoid even the appearance of dishonesty regarding your work. UNCG's Academic Integrity policy is available online:

<http://sa.uncg.edu/handbook/academic-integrity-policy/>

Many students innocently commit plagiarism because they do not understand the writing and citation process. *To ensure that everyone understands plagiarism, you are each responsible for completing the UNCG library tutorial:*

<http://library.uncg.edu/tutorials/index.aspx?m=8>

Electronic Communication:

Students are responsible for checking their UNCG iSpartan email on a regular basis. Students are encouraged to utilize email to contact the instructor (j_mize@uncg.edu). **All emails must be professional including an appropriate greeting, complete sentences, and a salutation. I will not respond to emails that fail to follow these instructions or that contain informal language such as Yo!, Hey!, or any text language deemed inappropriate for professional correspondence.** Please be aware that an email response will not be immediate. Please allow for a 24-hour (48 hours on the weekend) response time. If you fail to receive an email response after 24 hours (48 on the weekend) please contact me again.

Professional Email Example:

Dear Ms. Mize,

I am having difficulty understanding the instructions for Assignment #2. Could you please clarify part “x” of the instructions? Thank you.

Valerie June

Unacceptable Email Example:

Hey, im confused i need 2 speak to you 2day.

Blackboard:

It is the responsibility of all students to ensure that they are able to logon to Blackboard. As you will see, most of your readings will be located on Blackboard; therefore, it is imperative that you be able to access Blackboard to complete your assignments. If you are having issues accessing Blackboard please note that I am not a technician and cannot assist you in resolving these issues. If you are having difficulty logging into Blackboard, first contact 6-Tech Online at:

https://6-tech.uncg.edu/ra/login_raremedy.jsp?lang=en. If you continue to have logon issues, contact the Registrar’s Office.

Late Paper Policy:

Late papers will be accepted with 1/3 letter grade deduction for each day late. After one week, however, **late work will not be accepted and a 0 will be recorded.** (Example: Your first paper is due Tuesday, March 3rd. A B+ paper submitted on Thursday, March 5th would earn a grade of a B after the deduction, a B- if submitted on Tuesday, March 10th. Tuesday, March 10th is the last day to submit a paper.)

CLASS FORMAT:

History Labs:

As mentioned earlier, this course will focus on the activities of historians. To this end, students will participate in labs, on designated days, in which we will source and contextualize primary sources.

Discussion:

A large part of class time will be devoted to discussing your weekly readings in conjunction with the other information provided to you in class. Students are expected to bring their readings with them to class. This means that you will need to print your readings out in advance, and bring them to class.

Writing:

Regardless of your major or your future occupation, the ability to write clearly will be of great benefit to you. We will work on aspects of writing throughout this course, and your efforts will culminate in two papers.

ASSESSMENT:

Quizzes: (SLO 4) & (SLO 6)

Students will complete 11 quizzes located on Blackboard covering the week's readings. All quizzes are worth 5 points with the exception of novel quizzes, which are worth 10. **Quizzes will close at 2:30 pm, Tuesday (before class)!**

Team Library Activities: (SLO 5)

In teams students will discover and acquaint themselves with library resources, including online journal articles, the digital catalog, and other sources. Students will demonstrate their ability to access and utilize library resources through the creation of an annotated and justified bibliography. The bibliography will be made up of two sources, a journal article and a historical monograph. Students will also include these sources in their final research paper, due Thursday, April 23rd. Teams will do brief presentations of their research to the class on designated days. **Bibliographies are due on the day of your presentation.**

Participation: (SLO 2), (SLO 3), (SLO 4), & (SLO 6)

Students are expected to participate in discussions, labs, and any other in-class activities. Students will earn a grade for participation every class. Students are assessed on a scale of 1-10, with 10 being excellent. Students may contact the instructor at any point to determine how they are performing.

Papers: (SLO 1), (SLO 2), (SLO 3), (SLO 4), & (SLO 6)

You will write two papers in this class. The details are as follows:

*The first paper is a **3-4 page paper, due Tuesday, March 3rd at the beginning of class**. This paper should include: a title; page numbers; your name; standard 1" margins; and Times New Roman, 12 point font. A bibliography or works cited page is not required. Your first paper will use one of the following theses (you decide which you want to argue):

1) World War I was a total war. 2) World War I was not a total war.
You will utilize the novel, *Not So Quiet...*, to support your argument.
*The second paper is a **6-8 page paper, due Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00 pm**. This paper should include: a title; page numbers; your name; standard 1" margins; and Times New Roman, 12 point font. A bibliography IS required. Your bibliography should include the sources collected by your team in the library assignments, as well as any other sources that you utilize. You will create your own thesis for this paper, based upon the course theme of "total war" and your evidence. Your thesis is due Thursday, March 26th. You MUST utilize the sources collected through your library assignments. You may incorporate any of the primary or secondary sources used in class—do not use additional outside sources.

Final Exam: (SLO 1), (SLO 2), (SLO 3), & (SLO 4)

There is only one exam in this class: the final. Students will be tested on content, sourcing and contextualization skills, and the ability to analyze historical arguments. The final exam is open book/open note.

EVALUATION:

This course is based upon 700 points and will use the point range scale below.

A = 700 – 630

B = 629 – 560

C = 559 – 490

D = 489 – 420

F = 419 and below

Quizzes = ~11%

Library Activities = ~18%

Participation = ~34%

Papers = ~22%

Final Exam = ~14%

ASSIGNMENT GRADES:

QUIZZES = 75 points

 7 quizzes/5 points

 4 novel quizzes/10 points

TEAM LIBRARY ACTIVITIES = 125 points

 Journal article = 40 points

 Library visit and worksheet = 25 points

 Annotated bibliography = 50 points

 Presentation = 10 points

PARTICIPATION = 240 points

 24 classes/10 points

PAPER #1= 50 points

PAPER #2 = 110

 Thesis = 10 points

 Paper = 100 points

FINAL EXAM = 100 points

COURSE SCHEDULE:

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION

Tuesday, January 13th **Class Introduction**
Thursday, January 15th **The Close of the 19th Century**
History Lab: Prince Ukhtomskii: Russia's Imperial Destiny, 1891

WEEK TWO: 1900-1914

Tuesday, January 20th **The Russo-Japanese War**
Quiz: *Competing Visions* p. 213-229
Thursday, January 22nd **Russia and Germany, 1900-1914**
History Lab: Stairways for the "Entitled" [*Herrschäften*] and the "Untitled" [*Nichtherrschäften*], 1903

WEEK THREE: 1900-1914 continued

Tuesday, January 27th **Approaching war...**
Quiz: *George, Nicholas, and Wilhelm* p. 334-356
Thursday, January 29th **Great Britain, 1900-1914**
History Lab: *London Times* Women's Suffrage Op-ed
Team Journal Articles Due!

WEEK FOUR: WORLD WAR I

Tuesday, February 3rd **Britain's Home Front**
Quiz: *The Blood of Our Sons* p. 35-51
Thursday, February 5th **World War I in Germany and Russia**
History Lab: Lenin: Call to Power, Oct 24, 1917

WEEK FIVE: WORLD WAR I continued

Tuesday, February 10th **World War I in Britain**
Quiz: *Not So Quiet...* chapters 1-6
History Lab: Private Donald Fraser, Canadian Expeditionary Force:
Selections from *My Daily Journal*, 1915-1916
Thursday, February 12th **World War I in the Colonies**
History Lab: Letters from Indian Soldiers

WEEK SIX: WORLD WAR I continued

Tuesday, February 17th World War I & Society

Quiz: *Not So Quiet...* chapters 7-12

Thursday, February 19th World War I End & Nationalism

History Lab: Ho Chi Minh on Nationalism

WEEK SEVEN: TREATY OF VERSAILLES

Tuesday, February 24th Wilson, Nationalism, & the Treaty of Versailles

Quiz: *Competing Visions* p. 121-142

Thursday, February 26th LIBRARY DAY—NO CLASS!

WEEK EIGHT: INTERWAR?

Tuesday, March 3rd PAPERS DUE!!

Video & worksheet – Agatha Christie's *The Dead Man's Mirror*

Thursday, March 5th Interwar Britain/Interwar Russia

WEEK NINE: INTERWAR?

Tuesday, March 17th Germany & the Great Depression

Quiz: *Life and Death in the Third Reich* p. 38-65; 76-91

Group Presentation – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Thursday, March 19th Japanese Imperialism

History Lab: Japanese Government Official on Empire

WEEK TEN: WORLD WAR II

Tuesday, March 24th World War II in Japan and Russia

Quiz: *Empire of the Sun* chapters 1-21

Group Presentation – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Thursday, March 26th MEETING DAY—NO CLASS!

Scheduled meetings with instructor to discuss research papers.

Thesis Due – submit at meeting!!

WEEK ELEVEN: WORLD WAR II

- Tuesday, March 31st** **World War II in the Colonies**
Quiz: *Empire of the Sun* chapters 22-42
Group Presentation – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
- Thursday, April 2nd** **World War II in Germany & the Western Front**
History Lab: Winston Churchill: "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat", May 13, 1940
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WEEK TWELVE: WORLD WAR II

- Tuesday, April 7th** **World War II & the Eastern Front**
Quiz: *Ivan's War* p. 299-335
Group Presentation – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
- Thursday, April 9th** **Atrocities in World War II**
History Lab: The Nanking Massacre, 1937
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WEEK THIRTEEN: WORLD WAR II

- Tuesday, April 14th** **Racism in World War II**
Quiz: *Battle* p. 219-280
Group Presentation – BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
- Thursday, April 16th** **World War II in the Pacific**
History Lab: Eye-witness accounts of the bombing of Hiroshima
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WEEK FORTEEN: CONCLUSION

- Tuesday, April 21st** **Conclusion and Legacy**
Thursday, April 23rd **PAPERS DUE—NO CLASS!!**
PLACE PAPERS IN THE BOX OUTSIDE THE OFFICE BY **6:00 PM.**
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FINAL EXAM: TUESDAY, MAY 5TH 3:30-6:30
