

Fall 2013

HIEU 144: The First World War

Room: CSB 004

Time: Tues/Thurs 5:00 – 6:20

Instructor: Ryan Zroka

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Course Website: <http://zrokahieu144.wordpress.com>

Office: HSS 4063

Office Hour: Tues/Thurs 4:00 – 5:00

Course Summary

George Kennan, a prominent American diplomat, once called the First World War the “Ur-Katastrophe” of the twentieth century. By that, he meant the First World War was the trigger for the century’s other great wars and atrocities – the Russian Civil War, World War II, the Holocaust, the Cold War, ongoing conflict in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Had the First World War never occurred, the history of the last hundred years would no doubt have unfolded very differently. The basic aim of this course is to provide you with a better understanding of this critical historical moment.

This course will examine the war from several angles. Sometimes, we will be looking at the war from a “top down” perspective. That is, we will be outlining the big events of the war – great battles, major diplomatic developments, key political decisions, and so forth. But we will also spend a great deal of time discussing the war’s ordinary participants – the soldiers who fought, and the civilians who sustained the war effort. We will consider how they experienced the war, how the war changed their lives, and why they supported the conflict (or why they failed to do so).

Assigned Texts and Readings

There are two texts assigned for the course, both of which are available through the UCSD bookstore. They are:

All Quiet on the Western Front, by Erich Remarque

The Great War, 1914-1918, by Marc Ferro

In an effort to reduce textbook costs, all the other readings are available in electronic format, either as an e-reserve through library, or through the course website, as noted on the syllabus. Articles on e-reserve can be accessed at <http://reserves.ucsd.edu>. To access them, you will need to use the course password: **rz144**.

To view most of the online readings from your home computer, you will need to have set up a UCSD web proxy server. If you need instructions on how to do this, see libraries.ucsd.edu/proxy (Setting this up is actually a snap, it takes only a minute or two). For those unfamiliar with library reserves or online materials, the website contains full instructions on how to access them.

Course Requirements

There will be two exams for the course: an in-class midterm exam, and a take-home final exam. Both exams will consist of a combination of essay questions. I will provide further details about the content of the exams as the quarter progresses.

You will also be asked to write a short paper (3-4 pages), which analyzes a primary source. For complete instructions, please refer to the handout provided (also posted on the course website).

In addition to the formal requirements of the course, I require that you attend lectures regularly. As the material permits, we will be having discussions in class. Regular and insightful contributions to our in-class discussions will be factored into your course grade.

The final exam will be worth 40% of the course grade. The midterm exam will be worth 35%, and the primary source analysis will be worth 25%.

Schedule of Lectures and Assignments

Thursday, Sep. 26 –Europe in 1914

Readings: Ferro, pp. 5-38

Tuesday, Oct. 1 – The Outbreak of War

Readings: Excerpt from *The Spirit of 1914*, by Jeffrey Verhey (e-reserve)

Thurs. Oct. 3 – Home Before the Leaves Fall: The Schlieffen Plan and the Marne

Readings: Excerpt from *Rehearsals: The German Army in Belgium*, by Jeff Lipkes (e-reserve)

Tuesday, Oct. 8 – Stalemate and Trench Warfare

Readings: Ferro, pp. 49-73

Thursday, Oct. 10 -- The Widening War: Italy, the Balkans, and the Middle East

Readings: “Between Death and Desertion: The Experience of the Ottoman Soldier in World War I,” by Erik Jan Zürcher (course website)

Tuesday, Oct. 15 – War of Machines: Planes, Subs, Gas

Readings: “Dulce et Decorum Est,” by Wilfred Owen (course website)

Thursday, Oct. 17 – War and the European Empires

Readings: "Indians at Home: Mesopotamia and France, 1914-1918: Towards and Intimate History" by Santana Das (e-reserve); Ferro, pp. 98-112

Tuesday, Oct. 22 – “The Big Push:” The Somme and Verdun

Readings: excerpt from ““The First Day on the Somme" by Martin Middlebrook (e-reserve)

Thursday, Oct. 24 – Who’s Running this Thing? Politics, War Aims, Civil/Military Relations

Readings: Ferro, pp. 127-144

Tuesday, Oct. 29 – MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday, Oct. 31 – Total War: Economic and Human Mobilization

Readings: "Behind the Lines: Working-Class Family Life in Wartime Vienna," by Reinhard Sieder, (e-reserve)

Tuesday, Nov. 5 -- Living Total War: Life on the Home Front

Readings: excerpt from *The Great War and Urban Life in Germany*, by Roger Chickering (e-reserve)

Thursday, Nov. 7 – Political Mobilization: Propaganda, Censorship, Repression

Readings: "'The Eagle Soars over the Nightingale:’ Press and Propaganda in France in the Opening Months of the Great War" by Michael Nolan (e-reserve)

Tuesday, Nov. 12 – Eye Deep in Hell: The Soldier’s Life

Readings: Excerpt from “If Only This War Would End,” by Ryan Zroka (course website)
Ferro, pp. 85-97

Thursday, Nov. 14 -- How Can We Go On? Morale and Motivation

Readings: Excerpt from *The Pity of War* by Niall Ferguson (e-reserve)

Complete *All Quiet on the Western Front*, by Erich Remarque

Tuesday, Nov. 19 – Turning Points: American Intervention and the Russian Revolution

Readings: Excerpt from *The End of the Russian Imperial Army*, by Alan Wildman (e-reserve)

Thursday, Nov 21 – 1918: The Last Gasp

Readings: Ferro, pp. 214-227

Tuesday, Nov. 26 – Mutiny, Resistance, Revolution

Readings: Ferro, pp. 147-188

Thursday, Nov. 28 – NO CLASS; Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, Dec. 3 – Costs and Consequences of the War

Readings: Excerpt from *War Come Home*, by Deborah Cohen (e-reserve)

Thursday, Dec. 5 – Life in the Wasteland: Cultural Responses to the War

Readings: "The Wasteland," by T.S. Eliot (course website); excerpt from *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning* by Jay Winter (e-reserve)
FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT ANALYSIS DUE.

Friday, Dec. 13 – FINAL EXAM DUE.
Exam must be submitted to my office (HSS 4063) by 1 pm.