

The Great War and Modern Memory
HISTORY 30055 / GERMAN 33245
Debartolo Hall 240
MW 12:30-1:45

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Office Hours:
MW 2–3

Office Hours:
Sundays, NDH Marketplace,
17:45–19:45

Course Description

In this course students will be introduced to the general narrative of the First World War. From there, we will examine three different topics and eventually show how they are interrelated. First, we will study historiography; that is, the evolution of how historians have written about and understood the First World War. Students will quickly learn how historians work with narrative and elements of story-telling both to explain and to argue (with and against one another). Taking the idea of narrative as a point for opening up our understandings of the past, we will then examine works of fiction, memoirs, and poetry that focus on the First World War. The Great War was distinguished by being a “People’s War,” which meant that all people of all classes fought side by side, farmers next to scholars, workers next to noblemen. There were thus many men at the front who were capable of recording what they saw and felt in both prose and poetry, leaving an extraordinary and unprecedented literary record of their experiences. Finally, students will study memorialization and public history work on the First World War. We will see how history-writing, literature, art, and memorialization are present in the way museums and memorials tell their own stories about trauma, heroism, social inequality, and—in the main—seek to impart understandings about the past.

Course Goals

- Develop a body of knowledge about the First World War.
- Be able to recognize and articulate how History involves narratives.
- Learn to critically read literature in historical context. Be able to articulate how literature uses narratives as well.
- Develop a body of knowledge about museum work and curation.

- Be able to critically evaluate narratives, whether from literature, history, or museum work. Articulate how historical, literary, and museum work narratives are in conversation with one another.

Course Requirements and Bases for Assessment

Assessment will be based on attendance and participation and written assignments. There will be three types of assignments during the course of the semester. All of the assignments are written assignments. The last written assignment will be due during finals week in lieu of an exam.

1. Attendance and participation (20 %).
2. Response papers (20%). Students will write response papers to the reading. Professors will post response questions for every week. Students must submit a 2-3 page response paper for six out of 12 weeks.
3. Three papers (8-10 pages each). Due in week 5; Week 11; Finals Week. Students will write papers answering a larger question posed from the readings in the course. (60 % total: 20 %r per paper).

Books

All books are on reserve at the front desk of Hesburgh Library.

To purchase online

1. Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker. *14-18. Understanding the Great War*. New York, Hill and Wang, 2002.
2. Herwig, Holger H. *The Marne, 1914: The Opening of World War I and the Battle That Changed the World*. New York: Random House, 2011.
3. Paul Fussel, *The Great War and Modern Memory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1975; new edition 2013.)
4. Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*. New York: Penguin Books, 2004.
5. Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Multiple editions available.
6. Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire*. New York, Penguin, 2004.
7. Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*. New York, Penguin, 2005.
8. Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*. Multiple editions. Also available online at the Library's website.

And one of the following for your first paper.

1. Lloyd, Nick. *Passchendaele: A New History*. [New York]: Viking, 2017.
2. Jankowski, Paul. *Verdun: The Longest Battle of the Great War*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014.

3. Sebag-Montefiore, Hugh. *Somme: Into the Breach*. 1 edition. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 2016.
4. Boff, Jonathan. *Haig's Enemy: Crown Prince Rupprecht and Germany's War on the Western Front* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018).
5. Horne, Alistair. *The Price of Glory; Verdun 1916.*, 1963.
6. Mastriano, Douglas V. *Thunder in the Argonne: A New History of America's Greatest Battle*. Lexington, Ky: University Press of Kentucky, 2018.

Online through the Library

1. Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002). [This is also available on the library website.]
2. *Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay M. Winter. 3 vols.
 Volume 1: http://onsearch.library.nd.edu/NDU:nd_campus:ndu_aleph004330813
 Volume 2: http://onsearch.library.nd.edu/NDU:nd_campus:ndu_aleph004330801
 Volume 3: http://onsearch.library.nd.edu/NDU:nd_campus:ndu_aleph004330819

Support for Student Mental Health at Notre Dame

Care and Wellness Consultants provide support and resources to students who are experiencing stressful or difficult situations that may be interfering with academic progress. Through Care and Wellness Consultants, students can be referred to The University Counseling Center (for cost-free and confidential psychological and psychiatric services from licensed professionals), University Health Services (which provides primary care, psychiatric services, case management, and a pharmacy), and The McDonald Center for Student Well Being (for problems with sleep, stress, and substance use). Visit care.nd.edu.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

As with all university classes, the academic code of honor will be strictly enforced. It is expected that all of the written work that you submit, as well as the ideas expressed therein, are your own. Whenever you do group work, all members of the group should contribute in roughly equal part. Evidence of intentional plagiarism will result in the appropriate punishment, up to and including course failure. You may find further information on Notre Dame's honor code at the following web site: <http://www.nd.edu/~hnr/code/>.

Course reading schedule:

28 August (Wed): Introductions: Great War and Modern Memory

2 September (Mon): Narratives of the First World War

Reading: Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*

4 September (Wed): July 1914. Crisis

Reading:

1. Berghahn, Volker R. "Origins." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:16–38.
2. Becker, Jean-Jacques, and Gerd Krumeich. "1914: Outbreak." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:39–64.

9 September (Mon): A Shift in Interpretation? Part I.

Reading:

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14-18. Understanding the Great War: Introduction, chs. 1-2.

11 September (Wed): August 1914: Jubilation and Fear

Reading:

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14-18. Understanding the Great War: chs.4-5.

16 September (Mon): Class 6 Battle of the Marne

Reading: Herwig, Holger H. *The Marne, 1914: The Opening of World War I and the Battle That Changed the World*. New York: Random House, 2011.

18 September (Wed): Class 7 Battle of the Marne

Reading: Herwig, Holger H. *The Marne, 1914*. Finish.

23 September (Mon): Class 8 Stalemate and Its Landscape

Reading:

1. Audoin-Rouzeau, Stéphane. "1915: Stalemate." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:65–88.
2. Prior, Robin. "The Western Front." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:204–33.

25 September (Wed): Class 9 Stalemate and Its Meanings

Reading:

1. Horne, John. "Atrocities and War Crimes." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:561–84.

- Audoin-Rouzeau, Stéphane. "Combat and Tactics." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 2:151–73.

First Paper due Friday, 27 September, 5 PM.

30 September (Mon): **Class 10** **1916: Verdun and the Somme**

Reading:

- Prior, Robin. "1916: Impasse." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:89–109.
- Krumeich, Gerd. "Verdun" in *Brill's Encyclopedia of the First World War*. Leiden: Brill, 2012.
- Robert T. Foley, "Verdun: The Killing Field". In *History Today*, Vol. 66 (September 2016).
- Gary Sheffield, "The Somme: An exercise in futility?" In *History Today*, Vol. 66 (July 2016).

2 October (Wed): **Class 11** **1916: Verdun and Homefront**

Reading:

- Martha Hanna, *Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War*. Cambridge: Harvard, 2006. Chapter 2.
- Grayzel, Susan R. "Men and Women at Home." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 3:96–120..

7 October (Mon): **Class 12** **1917**

Reading:

- Neiberg, Michael S. "1917: Global War." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:110–32.
- Kramer, Alan. "Blockade and Economic Warfare." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 2:460–90.

9 October (Wed): **Class 13** **1918**

Reading:

- Mick, Christoph. "1918: Endgame." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:133–71. The Cambridge History of the First World War. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. doi:10.1017/CHO9780511675669.009.
- Cabanes, Bruno. "1919: Aftermath." Chapter. In *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, edited by Jay Winter, 1:172–98. The Cambridge

History of the First World War. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. doi:10.1017/CHO9780511675669.010.

14 October (Mon): **Class 14** **Memorializing the War**

Reading:

1. J. M. Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*.
2. Brian Osborne, "Reflecting on the *Great War* 1914-2019: How has it been defined, how has it been commemorated, how should it be remembered?"

In Wallis, James, and David C. Harvey, eds. *Commemorative Spaces of the First World War*

16 October (Wed): **Class 15** **Managing the Past**

Reading:

1. James Wallis and James Taylor, "The art of war display – the Imperial War Museum's First World War galleries, 2014."
2. Catriona Pennell, "'To leave a wooden poppy cross of our own': First World War battlefield spaces in the era of post-living memory."

Both in Wallis, James, and David C. Harvey, eds. *Commemorative Spaces of the First World War*.

*****FALL BREAK STUDY TRIP*****

18 October Friday. Depart South Bend on Friday Afternoon for Chicago O'Hare.

19 October Saturday. Arrive London. IWM.

20 October Sunday. Depart London. Train to Ieper / Ypres.

21 October Monday. Ieper / Ypres.

22 October Tuesday. Depart Ieper / Ypres. Arrive Somme Battlefield / Albert, France.

23 October Wednesday. Somme Battlefield. Thiepval. Lochnagar Mine.

24 October Thursday. Historical in Péronne, France. US Meuse-Argonne Cemetery and Memorial. Arrive Verdun.

25 October Friday. Verdun Battlefield Museum. Douaumont Ossuary. Forts Vaux and Douaumont.

26 October Saturday. Depart Verdun. Arrive London.

27 October Sunday. Return to US. [daylight saving Time ends US & Europe]

After break: Modern Memory

28 October (Mon): **Class 16** **The War in Literature**

Reading:

Paul Fussel, *The Great War and Modern Memory*, Chapters 1, 3, and 5

30 October (Wed): **Class 17** **War Poetry**

Reading:

George Walter, *The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry* (selections)

4 November (Mon): **Class 18** **Ernst Jünger**

Reading:

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*

6 November (Wed): **Class 19** **Jünger II**

Reading:

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*

Second Paper Due, Friday, 8 November at 5 PM.

11 November (Mon): **Class 20** **All Quiet**

Reading:

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

13 November (Wed): **Class 21** **All Quiet II**

Reading:

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

18 November (Mon): **Class 22** **Barbusse**

Reading:

Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire*

20 November (Wed): **Class 23** **Barbusse**

Reading:

Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire*

25 November (Mon): **Class 24** **Brittain**

Reading:

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

27 November (Wed): No class. Begin Thanksgiving holiday.

2 December (Mon): Class 25 Brittain

Reading:

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*

4 December (Wed): Class 26 Hemingway

Reading:

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

9 December (Mon): Class 27 Hemingway

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms*

11 December (Wed): Class 28 [Last day of class]

Final Exam / Final Paper Due: Wednesday, 18 December at 8 a.m.