



The First World War, H-318, Spring 2025

Instructor	Roger B. Beck
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Course Meeting Days and Time	Tuesday/Thursday 1:00 to 2:15
Required Experiential Learning Dates	
Office Hours	[Type your office hours here]

Catalog Description:

HIST-318 The First World War (3 credits)

Study the “war to end all wars,” from its origins in the 19th century to the consequences it had, and continues to have, on world history to the present day. All aspects of this first “total war” will be studied, from the battle front to the home front, the colonial experience to the Russian Revolution, the rise of the suffragette movement to the collapse of the European aristocracy, America and Japan taking leading roles on the world stage to the rise of Fascism in central Europe. The inspired artistic creations emanating from the war – in literature and poetry, painting and photography, music and war sculpture – will receive special attention.

Credit Hour Policy Statement:

Standard lecture:

“This class meets the federal credit hour policy of 1 hour of class with an expected 2 hours of additional student work outside of class each week for approximately 15 weeks for each hour of credit, or a total of 45-75 total hours for each credit.” (Def 1)

General Education Requirements:

This course meets the General Education requirements for A. International Diversity; E. Writing.

Course Learning Objectives:

Through this course the student will

- 1) identify the domestic and international causes of the war; the significant military, social, and political developments during the war; the social, economic, and political consequences of the war; and describe the major features of the postwar settlement and its impact in particular on Eastern Europe and the colonies.
- 2) evaluate historical interpretations regarding the causes of the war, its social, economic, and political impact on the belligerents.
- 3) locate and analyze primary source texts and place those texts within a historical context.
- 4) develop their own interpretation and support them with evidence.

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5) communicate those interpretations verbally and through written work.

TRANSFERABLE SKILLS

In addition, the course is designed for you to develop and demonstrate the following skills that are not discipline-specific but that are particularly well-developed among historians:

- 1) Critical thinking skills through analyzing and documenting written primary and secondary sources.
- 2) Writing skills through formulating research and analysis into coherent, clear arguments while demonstrating mastery of grammar, style, organization, and clarity.
- 3) Visual literacy through analyzing and documenting images and structures such as paintings, architecture, material culture, political cartoons, film.
- 4) Presentation/public speaking through classroom discussion.

Methods of Instructions:

Primarily through lecture with much time given over to discussion. The large archive of audio-visual materials available documenting the war will also be drawn upon to supplement the lectures and discussions.

Textbooks and Required Reading:

Hew Strachan, *The First World War* (Penguin Books paperback, 2005)

Jay Winter, Blaine Battett, *The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century* (Penguin, 1996)

Two novels selected by student from distributed list of novels relating to the Great War.

Other readings as assigned.

Course Schedule:

Tuesday, 01/14/2024

Introduction to Class; Why Study the Great War?

The first day we will review why the study of the Great War is necessary to fully understand the consequences it had for the remainder of the 20th century and up to the present.

Shaped 20th Century and Beyond: Geopolitical factors, Social Changes, Technological Advancements

Geopolitical:

Reshaped maps of Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia

Dissolution of Empires

New nations and borders

League of Nations

Rise of new ideologies (some leading to WW II)

Social Changes:

Women - in workforce, the vote, independence, outside the house

Sense of disillusionment and trauma, especially among returning soldiers



Cultural shifts and changes in literature, art, music

Political movements, leading to revolution and shifts in power.

Technological Advancements:

Warfare and Weaponry - Tanks, airplanes and airpower, gun (machines guns), chemical

Changed nature of warfare, total war

Medical technology - especially surgery (plastic surgery), and trauma care

Transportation

On and on...!

Thursday, 01/16/2025

We will look back at events in the “long” 19th century that contributed to the outbreak of war in July 1914.

Tuesday, 01/21/2025

The Immediate Origins of the Great War

Thursday, 01/23/2025

The War in Europe to Christmas 1914

Focusing on the outbreak of war in 1914 to Christmas 1914 on the Western Front in Europe

Tuesday, 01/28/2025

The Strategy of the Central Powers, 1914-1917

Thursday, 01/30/2025

Manœuvre Warfare

The Great War on the Eastern Front in Europe and Russia.

Tuesday, 02/04/2025

The Strategy of the Entente Powers, 1914-1917

Thursday, 02/06/2025

The Balkans, 1914-1918

The war on the Southern Front in Southeastern Europe, the Ottoman Empire and the Arabian Peninsula.

Colonial contributions to the war effort

Tuesday, 02/11/2025

Turkey's War

Thursday, 02/13/2025

The War in Africa

1915: Trench Warfare, a war of attrition in Flanders Fields, the “Cult of the Offensive.”

Tuesday, 02/18/2025

The War at Sea

Thursday, 01/20/2025

Economic Warfare

Total war and the Home Front



Women at War, from sock knitters to munitions factory workers, Red Cross women volunteers to Suffragettes.

Tuesday, 02/25/2025

Economic Mobilization, Money, Munitions

Thursday, 02/27/2025

The Role of Women in the War

1916: The Battles of Verdun and the Somme

MID-TERM BREAK Friday, 02/28/2025 - 03/09/2025

Tuesday, 03/11/2025

The Challenge to Liberalism: The Politics of the Home Front

Thursday, 03/13/2025

Eastern Front and Western Front, 1916-1917

Technological, industrial warfare - new, more deadly weapons on land, in the air, at sea.

Tuesday, 03/18/2025

Munities and Military Morale

Thursday, 03/20/2025

War Aims and Peace Negotiations

1917 - to November 11, 1918: America enters the war

Tuesday, 03/25/2025

Propaganda and the Mobilization of Consent

Thursday, 03/27/2025

Socialism, Peace, and Revolution, 1917-1918

The Russian Revolution

Tuesday, 04/01/2025

The Entry of the USA into the War and Its Effects

Thursday, 03/03/2025

The German Victories, 1917-1918

The Global War - Africa, Southeast Asia, India, Japan and the Pacific

Tuesday, 04/08/2025

The War in the Air

Thursday, 04/10/2025

The Allied Victories, 1918

The artistic legacy of the war - literature, poetry, painting, photography, sculpture, music.

Tuesday, 04/15/2025

The Peace Settlement



-- Thursday, 04/17/2025

No End to War

The Peace Treaties

Tuesday, 04/22/2025

Memory and the Great War

The Legacy of the War, in memory and reality

Thursday, 04/24/2025

Final Exam

Grading Criteria:

20% -- Reaction papers to two novels relating to the Great War (10% each)

25% -- First Exam

25% -- Second Exam

10% -- Attendance and class participation

20% -- Written assignments of various types – eg., analysis of a photo, caption for a cartoon, reflection on an artwork

Withdrawal and Attendance policies:

Harlaxton College expects regular class attendance by all students. Students are considered sufficiently mature to appreciate the necessity of regular and punctual attendance, to accept this personal responsibility and to accept the consequences of failure to attend. When absences occur due to emergency or medical reasons, students are expected to notify their instructors of the absence prior to class or to seek the assistance of the College nurse or a member of the Student Experience Team for help in notifying instructors.

Instructors have the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons upon review of appropriate documentation and professional recommendation supporting such a request. In the event of long-term illness, reasonable accommodations will be made to allow a student to complete a course. In these cases, the Dean will need to approve the long term nature of the accommodation.

The Dean of Harlaxton College has the authority to grant excused absences for medical, psychological, or personal reasons.

Each instructor is expected to maintain an attendance policy in keeping with the nature of the Harlaxton program and may consider it in evaluating performance in their courses.

Policy Governing Unexcused Absences:

Harlaxton College operates an attendance policy that is binding on all faculty and students. The number of unexcused absences that are allowed before incurring a penalty is related to the number of times a class meets each week. For courses which meet three times a week, students are allowed a maximum of three unexcused absences during the semester without attracting penalty points. For courses meeting twice a week two such absences are permitted, and for courses meeting once a week a single absence is allowed. Additional unexcused absences will attract a grade penalty.

If the student exceeds two unexcused absences for this class a third-letter grade penalty may be applied.



Policy Governing Excused Absences.

- Excused absences are not given to facilitate student travel independent of College-sponsored travel.
- Students may be permitted to miss class because of participation in academic field trips.
- Instructors must co-ordinate and confirm academic fieldtrips with the Dean, prior to the commencement of the Semester to ensure their inclusion in the Semester timetable.
- Where authorization for an academic fieldtrip is requested after the commencement of the semester, the request must be submitted to the Dean.

The following information is required:

- Purpose and brief description of the official Harlaxton event or academic fieldtrip.
- Dates, location, and times (as applicable).
- Alphabetical list of students involved [Last Name/First Name] along with their student identification number.

If approval is granted:

- Instructors affected will be notified at least one week prior to the class period during which absence is anticipated, or as soon as possible.
- Missed class time due to student participation is to be considered an excused absence.
- The grade of a student may not be lowered in any class due to excused absences.
- It is the student's responsibility - to take the initiative by consulting with their instructors before the absence occurs, and - to do what is required by the instructor to make up all missed assignments and/or examinations.
- Instructors are required to assist students in these occasional situations of excused absences.

Honor Code:

All students at the University of Evansville agree to the University honor code: *I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid, nor will I tolerate an environment that condones the use of unauthorized aid.*

AI may be used only with prior permission or direction by the instructor.

- All work submitted in this course must be your own.
- The use of generative AI composition tools, such as those offered by ChatGPT, Google Bard etc. is prohibited in this course except for specific assignments and subject to the instructor's guidelines.
- Work generated by such tools without proper attribution is plagiarism and, thereby, a breach of the University's Plagiarism and Academic Honesty policy.

Disability Policy:

It is the policy and practice of the University of Evansville to make reasonable accommodations for students with properly documented disabilities. Students should contact Disability Services within the Office of Counseling Services by calling 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

The University of Evansville Disability Services office will share the request for academic accommodations with the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College. Staff members at Harlaxton will meet individually with students to discuss needs and provide additional information related to examinations or other assessments.

Students from partner institutions should provide the appropriate letter of accommodation from their institution to the Academic Support team at Harlaxton College.



Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of Evansville expects all members of its community to treat each other with respect and civility. Harassing behaviors directed towards any member of our community will not be tolerated. As part of its commitment to non-discrimination, the University specifically prohibits harassment based on any other characteristics set forth in its nondiscrimination statement as follows: including race, color, gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, creed or religion, national origin, age, disability, veteran status and all federally protected groups/classes. Any form of harassment undermines the mission of the University and negatively impacts the University community as a whole.

Prohibited Conduct and Confidentiality

The University of Evansville is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and discrimination. This commitment includes identifying problems that may lead to sexual harassment and misconduct, as well as other forms of harassment and discrimination, by creating an atmosphere in which the entire University community is sensitive to preventing prohibited conduct. Additionally, the University is committed to providing support and resources to individuals who have experienced prohibited conduct. This commitment includes effectively responding when a student, visitor, guest or program participant is the victim of prohibited conduct.

All campus employees, students, and guests are required to abide by the Title IX and Other Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Harassment and Discrimination Policy, and the Consensual Sexual or Romantic Relationships Between Employees and Students Policy. Violation of these policies could result in disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion for students and termination for employees.

Faculty members at the University of Evansville are considered “Responsible Employees” under the applicable federal guidelines and the University’s policies. This means that I am unable to offer you confidentiality if you report any incidence of prohibited conduct to me as defined by Title IX statute. If I am made aware of a violation, I am required to report any known information to the Office of Institutional Equity.

You may choose to report the violation yourself the following ways:

Email: · Annie Sills, Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: cs175@evansville.edu ·

Keith Gehlhausen, Executive Director of HR and Institutional Equity: kg77@evansville.edu ·

Title IX: titleix@evansville.edu

Phone: 812-288-5261

Online: <https://www.evansville.edu/safety/report.cfm>

You may also choose to speak with a Confidential Resource. Confidential Resources are required to maintain confidentiality and cannot report violations to the Office of Institutional Equity:

University of Evansville

- Counseling Services: counselingservices@evansville.edu, 812-488-2633
- Health Center Professionals: healthcenter@evansville.edu, 812-488-2033
- University Chaplain: chaplain@evansville.edu, 812-488-5262

Harlaxton College

- College Nurse: Lesley Selby, RGN, +44 01476 403027, lselect@harlaxton.ac.uk
- Counselling Services: counselling@harlaxton.ac.uk

