

HISTORY OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

HIST 318

Harlaxton, Spring 2025

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Office Location	Harlaxton Manor	Email	rb172@evansville.edu ; rbbeck@eiu.edu
Course Meeting Days and Time	Tuesday-Thursday, 1-2:15	Student Drop-In Office Hours	Harlaxton – pretty much anytime we’re both free, including at meals.
Course Mode	In person		

Course Information

Catalog Description:

HIST-318 The First World War (3 credits)

Examines the causes, course, and consequences of the First World War. Traces the roots of the war to the European power politics of the 1870s and follows the consequences up to the rise of fascism. In studying the war itself, focuses on the experiences of individuals involved, women and men, combatants and non-combatants. Includes extensive discussion of painting, poetry, sculpture, photography, and the novel.

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 [Choose an outcome] Overlay A

International Diversity.

Course Learning Outcomes:

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 interpretations and support them with evidence.
- 5) communicate those interpretations verbally and through written work.

Program Learning Outcomes:

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.

Required Materials:

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

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

Other readings as assigned.

Methods of Instructions:

Primarily by lecture and class discussion. Audio-visual materials will be introduced where appropriate.

Field Trip to Imperial War Museum, London (Date not yet set)

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.

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 has more than two unexcused absences a third-letter grade penalty may be applied for each additional absence.

Grading Criteria:

Two reaction/reflection papers for two novels selected by student from distributed list (10% each) - 20%

Mid-term Exam - 30%

Final Exam - 30%

Occasional papers, readings - 10%

Attendance and Class Participation - 10%

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.*

[The above Honor Code is required. Optionally, it may be helpful to provide examples and to define, for your class, exactly what is meant by unauthorized aid.]

Course AI Policy:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty. The use of generative AI tools such as ChatGPT are prohibited and constitute a violation of academic integrity as examples of unauthorized aid.

If AI is permitted in specific circumstances:

In this course, submission of any work that is not entirely your own is considered academic dishonesty unless otherwise specified. This means that the use of generative AI tools is prohibited, except for certain assignments for which you are given specific guidelines and examples of appropriate AI use. When permitted, you must clearly identify and cite the AI tools used. Submitting AI-generated work as your own constitutes a violation of academic

Course Schedule:

[Specific reading assignments will be assigned to appropriate class days just before semester begins when I am sure the texts I have requested are available.]

Tuesday, 01/14/2025: 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, on and on...!

Thursday, 01/16/2025

Events in the 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 Strategy of the Entente Powers, 1914-1917

The Strategy of the Central Powers, 1914-1917

Tuesday, 01/28/2025

Great War on the Western Front in Europe – July 1914 – Christmas 1914

Great War on the Eastern Front in Eastern Europe and Russia, 1914

Thursday, 01/30/2025

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

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

Tuesday, 02/04/2025

The Global (“World”) War – Africa, Southeast Asia, India, Japan and the Pacific

Thursday, 02/06/2025

“Total War” and the Home Front

Tuesday, 02/11/2025

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

First reaction paper to a novel about World War I due.

Thursday, 02/13/2025

The Great War at Sea

The Submarine in the Great War

Tuesday, 02/18/2025

Economic Warfare -- Economic Mobilization, Money, Munitions

Thursday, 02/20/2025

Propaganda and the Mobilization of Consent

Tuesday, 02/25/2025 – Catch-up, review day.

Thursday, 02/27/2025 -- Mid-Term Exam

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

Western Front, 1916-1917

Munitions and Military Morale, Conscripted and Conscientious Objectors

Tuesday, 03/18/2025

The Great Battles of World War I

(The Marne, Gallipoli, Passendale/Ypres, Verdun, the Somme, etc.)

Thursday, 03/20/2025

European Socialism and The Russian Revolution, 1905-1918

Tuesday, 03/25/2025

The Russian Revolution, 1905-1918

Thursday, 03/27/2025

April 1917 – to November 11, 1918: America enters the war

Americans in battle.

Tuesday, 04/01/2025

1918 Great Flu Pandemic

Thursday, 04/03/2025

The German Victories, 1917-1918

The Allied Victories, 1918

Tuesday, 04/08/2025

The Peace Settlement

Second reaction paper to a novel about World War I due.

Thursday, 04/10/2025

No End to War -- WW I to WW II

Tuesday, 04/15/2025

The artistic legacy of the war – literature, poetry, painting, photography, sculpture, music, popular culture.

Thursday, 04/17/2025

The Legacy of the War, in memory and reality

Tuesday, 04/22/25

Catch-up; review

Tuesday, 04/24/2025 -- Final Exam

University Policy Statements

Disability Policy:

The University of Evansville is committed to providing an accessible and supportive environment for students with disabilities. 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 at 812-488-2663 to seek services or accommodations for disabilities. Written notification to faculty from Disability Services is required for academic accommodations.

Institutional Equity and Title IX

UE is committed to fostering an atmosphere free from harassment and creating an inclusive campus for all members of the University community regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, religion, ethnicity, country of origin, ability, or veteran status. All Faculty members are considered Responsible Employees and required to report instances of discrimination, harassment, or sexual violence to the Office of Institutional Equity

You may also choose to speak to a Confidential Resource about your experience. Confidential Resources at the University include:

Counseling Services: 812-488-2663, counselingservices@evansville.edu

Crayton E. and Ellen Mann Health Center: 812-488-2033, healthcenter@evansville.edu

Spiritual Formation Coordinator: 812- 488-5265, spiritualformation@evansville.edu

If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or discriminated against you can find the appropriate resources by contacting the Assistant Director of Institutional Equity and Title IX Coordinator: email titleix@evansville.edu ; phone (812) 488-5261. For more information visit <https://www.evansville.edu/offices/titleix/policy.cfm> .

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. For more information contact the [Center for Inclusive Excellence](#).

Campus Safety

All members of the UE community are automatically enrolled in the Ace Alerts Emergency Alert System. When the system is activated, emergency notification information is sent in the following manner: calls to campus IP phones, text messages, emails, campus housing speaker system, active threat sirens (non-weather related), digital signage, and AlertUS desktop on campus-owned computers.

To contact the Office of Public Safety:

Emergencies: 812-488-6911

Non-emergencies: 812-488-2051

Complaints, Grievances, and Appeals

The University of Evansville seeks to resolve all student concerns in a timely and effective manner through policies and processes documented in the University [Course Catalog](#) and [Student Handbook](#).

Student Resources

Access the links below to connect with departments and resources that are here to support all UE students.

Academic Services: Contact the Center for Academic Advising to connect with academic support services including supplemental instruction, tutoring, and time management and study skills help.

Blackboard Guides: Blackboard is the University of Evansville's course management system for online courses. Guides on using Blackboard can be found within [MyUE](#).

Writing Center : The Writing Center provides access to writing resources, appointments for one-on-one writing help, and assistance with any stage of the writing process.

Counseling Services: Counseling Services provides general, short-term counseling that assists students in identifying barriers and setting goals while improving coping strategies to achieve personal and academic goals.

University Libraries: Conduct research, access resources, and contact librarians for any research related help.