
HIST 273 01 (F09)

Europe in the age of total war, 1914-45

History 273A

Fall Term 2009

Professor Jay Winter

Lectures: Monday and Wednesday, 11:30-12:20

Discussion Groups: to be arranged through on-line registration

Office Hours: Mondays at 4pm in 300e HGS

This course covers European history in the period of the two world wars. It entails lectures and readings on the subjects listed in the following syllabus. The mid-term examination is in the form of an essay. Each student will prepare a 10-page paper comparing any two of the following novels or memoirs of the First World War.

1. H. Barbusse, Under Fire
2. E. Jünger, Storm of Steel
3. Céline, Journey to the End of the Night
4. E.M. Remarque, All Quiet on the Western Front
5. R. Graves, Goodbye to all that
6. F. Manning, Her Privates We
7. S. Sassoon, Sherston's Progress
8. F.M. Ford, Parade's End
9. R.C. Sherriff, Journey's End
10. A. Zweig, The Case of Sergeant Grischa
11. K. Kraus, The Last Days of Mankind
12. E. Blunden, Undertones of War
13. R. Aldington, Death of a Hero
14. V. Brittain, Testament of Youth
15. J. Hasek, The Good Soldier Schweik
16. E. Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms
17. R.H. Mottram, The Spanish Farm Trilogy
18. R. West, Return of the Soldier
19. A.P. Herbert, The Secret Battle
20. G. Coppard, With a machine gun to Cambrai
21. C. Carrington, Soldiers from the wars returning

There will be a final examination, covering the readings and lectures on the entire term's work.

The final grade in the course will be an average of the three grades given for:

- (a) The mid-term essay;**
- (b) The final examination; and**
- (c) Participation in discussion groups.**

Each of these grades is equal in weight to the other two.

Syllabus and readings

For the term as a whole: six paperback books are to be purchased:

Eric Hobsbawm, *The age of extremes*

Paul Fussell, *The Great War and modern memory*

Helen Graham, *The Spanish Civil War. A very short introduction*

Norman Davies, *No simple victory*

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*

These books may be found in Labyrinth Bookstore on York Street.

Other readings, indicated by an asterisk in the reading list (*), will be available in a reader sold by Tyco, on Broadway near the corner of York Street.

Week 1

Lecture 1: Origins of the Great War

Wednesday 2 September

Readings:

1. Sir Michael Howard, 'The First World War reconsidered', in Jay Winter, Geoffrey Parker, and Mary Habeck (eds), *The Great War in the twentieth century*.*
 2. Niall Ferguson, *The pity of war*, ch. 7.*
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Week 2

Lecture 2: Conduct of the Great War

Monday 7 September

Readings:

1. Martin van Creveld, *Command in war*, pp. 148-88.*

Lecture 3: Total War

Wednesday 9 September

Readings:

1. J.M. Winter and Blaine Baggett, *The Great War and the shaping of the twentieth century*, ch. 3, pp. 107-53.*

2. John Horne and Alan Kramer, 'German "atrocities" and Franco-German opinion', *Journal of modern history* (1994), pp. 1-33.*

Week 3

Lecture 4: Slaughter

Monday 14 September

Reading:

1. John Keegan, *The face of battle*, pp. 207-89.*

Lecture 5: Mutiny and revolution

Wednesday 16 September

Readings:

1. Winter and Baggett, *The Great War*, pp. 209-319.*

2. J.P. Nettl, *The Soviet achievement*, pp. 39-72.*

Week 4

Lecture 6: Shell shock

Monday 21 September

Readings:

1. Eric Leed, *No man's land*, pp. 163-213.

2. Elaine Showalter, 'Rivers and Sassoon: the inscription of male gender anxieties', in Margaret Higonnet *et al.* (eds), *Behind the line*, pp. 61-70.*

Lecture 7: Armistice

Wednesday 23 September

Readings:

1. Wilhelm Deist, 'The military collapse of the German empire: The reality behind the stab in the back myth', *War in history*, 3 (1996).*

Week 5

Lecture 8: Peacemaking

Monday 28 September

Readings:

1. Winter and Baggett, *The Great War*, pp. 321-409.*

2. Margaret Macmillan, *Paris 1919: Six months that changed the world*, ch. 19 and conclusion.*

Lecture 9: Commemorations

Wednesday 30 September

Readings:

1. Antoine Prost, 'War memorials', in Prost, *Republican identities in war and peace*, ch. 1.*

2. Jay Winter, *Sites of memory, sites of mourning*, chapters 3 and 4.*

Week 6

Lecture 10: Veterans' Politics

Monday 5 October

Readings:

1. Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, chapter 7.*

2. Antoine Prost, *In the wake of war*, pp. 27-78.*

Lecture 11: Imagining the war: war literature**Wednesday 7 October**

Readings:

1. Paul Fussell, *The Great War and modern memory*
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Week 7**Lecture 12: Civil War, revolution and counter-revolution Monday 12 October**

Readings:

1. Hobsbawm, *The Age of extremes*, pp. 54-84.
2. Hans Mommsen, *The rise and fall of Weimar democracy*, ch. 2, pp. 20-50.*
3. Donald Sassoon, *Mussolini and the rise of fascism*, pp. 9-30 and 89-143.*

Lecture 13: The crash**Wednesday 14 October**

Readings:

1. Hobsbawm, *The age of extremes*, pp. 85-141.
 2. Milo Keynes (ed.), *Essays on John Maynard Keynes*, pp. 82-107.*
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Week 8**Lecture 14: Fascism in comparative perspective****Monday 19 October**

Readings:

1. Robert Paxton, *The anatomy of fascism*, chs 2, 8 (online book).

Lecture 15: From Leninism to Stalinism**Wednesday 21 October**

Readings:

1. Geoffrey Hosking, *A history of the Soviet Union*, pp. 183-226.*
 2. Moshe Lewin, 'Stalin in the mirror of the other', pp. 107-34.*
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Mid-term paper due in class in on 26 October

Week 9**Lecture 16: The Spanish Civil War****Monday 26 October**

Readings:

1. Helen Graham, *The Spanish Civil War. A very short introduction*, chs 2-5.
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Lecture 17: From Guernica to the Grand Illusion: Art and Power**Wednesday 28 October**

Readings:

1. Alexandre Sesonske, *Jean Renoir. The French films, 1924-1939*, pp. 282-322.*
 2. Jay Winter, *Dreams of peace and freedom*, ch. 3.*
 3. Anna Akhmatova's 'Requiem, 1935-1940', trans. Robin Kempball, *Russian Review*, xxxiii, 3 (Jul., 1974), pp. 303-12.*
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Week 10

Lecture 18: Appeasement

Monday 2 November

Readings:

1. A.J.P. Taylor, *The Origins of the Second World War*, pp. 146-293.
2. Tim Mason, 'Some origins of the Second World War', *Past & Present* (1964), pp. 67-87.*

Lecture 19: The European War: 1939-40

Wednesday 4 November

Readings:

1. Norman Davies, *No simple victory*, parts 1 and 2.
2. Ian Kershaw, *Fateful choices*, chapter 1, pp. 11-53.*

Week 11

Lecture 20: Hitler's War: 1940-45

Monday 9 November

Readings:

1. Norman Davies, *No simple victory*, parts 3 and 4.
2. Ian Kershaw, *Fateful choices*, Chapter 2, pp. 54-90, and Afterthoughts, pp. 471-83.*

Lecture 21: Why the Allies won

Wednesday 11 November

Readings:

1. Richard Overy, *Why the Allies Won*, pp. 101-207, and 314-25.*
2. Omer Bartov, *The Eastern Front, 1941-45*, pp. 106-56.*

Week 12

Lecture 22: The Blitz: Warfare and welfare

Monday 16 November

Readings:

1. Angus Calder, *The People's war*, pp. 163-227.*
2. T.S. Eliot, 'Little Gidding', from *The Four Quartets*.*

Lecture 23: Collaboration and Resistance

Wednesday 18 November

Readings:

1. Robert Paxton, *Vichy France: Old guard and new order, 1940-1944*, pp. 234-383.*
2. H.R. Kedward, *Occupied France: Collaboration and resistance, 1940-1944*, pp. 1-80.*

Thanksgiving break

Week 13

Lecture 24: The Holocaust: Perpetrators and Victims

Monday 30 November

Readings:

1. Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*
2. Inga Clendinnen, *Reading the Holocaust*, pp. 163-84.*
3. Ian Kershaw, *Fateful choices*, chapter 10, pp. 431-70.*
4. Wolfgang Sofsky, *Order of Terror*, chapter 2, pp. 16-27 and chapter 17, pp. 199-205.*

Lecture 25: Witnesses and commemoration

Wednesday 2 December

Readings:

1. Hannah Arendt, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, pp. 213-56.*
2. Annette Wieviorka, 'From survivor to witness: Voices from the Shoah', in Jay Winter and Emmanuel Sivan (eds), *War and remembrance in the twentieth century*, pp. 125-41.*
3. Paul Celan, 'Death Fugue', in *Poems of Paul Celan*.*