

HIST 404: The First World War, 1914-1918

Dr. Alexander Howlett

howlettalexander@gmail.com

Winter 2020, Tuesdays & Thursdays

Course Subject

The globalized 21st century international order that exists today originated in the aftermath of the First World War. This course examines the war in totality, from its origins, to the fighting of global military campaigns on multiple fronts in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East, including the home front and the socio-cultural impact of total war on the international order.

Learning Outcomes

Students will gain an appreciation for the military and naval events of the war, the technological and military developments that defined mass warfare, the impact of total war mobilization including new dimensions of warfare such as air power and submarines. Students will develop knowledge of the transformation on the home front, the impact on pre-war conceptions of class, race and gender, and the introduction of modern state institutions that emerged as a result of the war. Students will learn about the creation of the post-war League of Nations, the Versailles treaty system, and the collapse of the *ancien regime* empires. The creation of new Republics, in Germany, Austria and Turkey will be examined, and the historiography of the Bolshevik Revolution and Russian Civil War introduced. Students will be equipped to understand the operational conduct of the war, the political and diplomatic outcome, and the modernization of socio-economy on the home front. Students will cultivate the ability to discuss important controversies and debates in First World War historiography, while developing analytical skills for critical reading of primary sources.



Course Structure

The course is divided into four units, organized chronologically and thematically. Each week will discuss a key campaign or military action, while also introducing important developments elsewhere. Weekly lecture topics are addressed on Tuesdays, with seminars held on Thursdays for discussion of assigned journal articles and other readings including primary sources.

Assignments

Participation: 25%

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, prepared to engage, with readings completed.

Group Presentations: 25%

Students will be divided into groups of three at the beginning of the class. Rotating groups will prepare summaries and analysis of the weekly reading material, and one group member will present each week. Students will become familiar with speaking in an academic setting, developing analysis collectively, and engaging with their colleagues. Students should for class discussions by 1) briefly summarizing the reading material 2) highlighting important areas of interest 3) preparing questions for the seminar group.

Research paper review: 20%

Students will complete a short 1,500 midterm literature review, utilizing secondary and primary sources. Students will be graded based on engagement with the material and depth of analysis.

Final paper: 30%

Students will prepare a 2,500-word final research paper based on selected topics, or topics of their choosing. Make sure to clear topics in advance with the professor. Students will be graded based on 1) clarity of thesis, 2) coherency of argument, 3) depth of research, and 4) engagement with the material and primary sources.

All assignments must be submitted one time, should be printed, double spaced, in 12 point Times New Roman, and include page numbers and the students' name and student numbers.

Grading Assessment

%	0-49	50-54	55-59	60-63	64-67	68-71	72-75	76-79	80-84	85-89	90-100
Letter	F	D	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A	A+

Reading Materials

Required:

Jay Winter, ed. *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, Volume I: Global War, 2014

Jay Winter, ed. *The Cambridge History of the First World War*, Volume III: Civil Society, 2014

Suggested:

John Keegan *The First World War*, 2000

Michael Howard, *The First World War, A Very Short Introduction*, 2007

William Philpott, *War of Attrition: Fighting the First World War*, 2014

Hew Strachan, *The First World War*, Volume I, 2001

Dennis Showalter, *Instrument of War, the German Army 1914-18*, 2016

Margaret MacMillan, *Paris 1919*, 2003

Annika Mombauer, ed. *The Origins of the First World War*, 2013

Dominic Hughes & Benedict Phillips, *The Oxford Union Guide to Successful Public Speaking*

David Zabecki, *Generals' War, Operational Level Command on the Western Front in 1918*, 2018

David Jordan, *The Eastern Front, 1914 – 1918, From Tannenberg to the Russo-Polish War*, 2011



The Taking of Vimy Ridge, Easter Monday 1917 by Richard Jack. The arrest of Gavrilo Princip in Sarajevo, July 1914, and a merchant convoy at sea in 1918



Unit I: Origins of War, July Crisis & the 1914 campaign

Week 1, January 9: Introduction

Lecture: The Historiography of the First World War after the Centenary

Week 2, January 14: The Origins of the War

Lecture: Militarism, Social Darwinism, the rise of Germany, the naval arms race, the Franco-Russian entente, the Central Powers.

Winter, vol. I, Chapters 1 & 15.

Winter, Vol. III, Chapter 16

Week 2, January 16

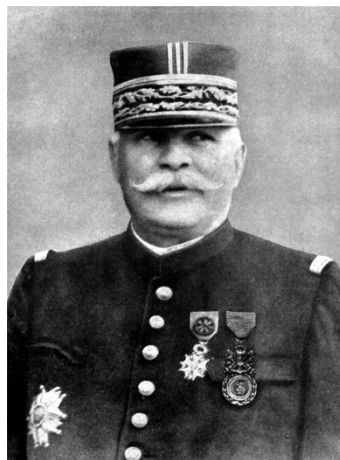
Seminar: Historiography of the July Crisis, Wartime mobilization, planning (Schlieffen, Plan XVII), military operations on the Western Front

Mario Draper, “‘Are We Ready?’: Belgium and the *Entente*’s Military Planning for a War Against Germany, 1906-1914, *The International History Review*, Vol. 41, No. 6, 2019, 1216-1234

Donald Wright, “‘Clouds Gathering on the Horizon’: The Russian Army and the Preparation of the Imperial Population for War, 1906 – 1914”, *Journal of Military History*, Vol. 83, No. 4, October 2019, 1133-1160

Annika Mombauer, “Sir Edward Grey, Germany, and the Outbreak of the First World War: A Re-Evaluation,” *The International History Review*, Vol. 38, No. 2, March 2016, 301-325

Annika Mombauer, “A Reluctant Military Leader? Helmuth von Moltke and the July Crisis of 1914”, *War in History*, Vol. 6 No. 4, 1999, 417-446



Franz Conrad von Hotzendorf, Chief of Staff of the Austro-Hungarian Army. Joseph Joffre, Commander-in-Chief of the GQG and the French Army. Helmuth von Moltke, Chief of the German General Staff.

Week 3, January 21: The Guns of August

Lecture: Battle of the Frontiers, The Marne, First Ypres, Trench Warfare, the Race to the Sea

Winter, Vol. I, Chapters 2, 8

Robert Foley, "Preparing the German Army for the First World War: The Operational Ideas of Alfred von Schlieffen and Helmuth von Moltke the Younger" *War & Society*, Vol. 22, No. 2, 2004, 1-25

Elizabeth Greenhalgh, "The French Army on the Western Front" *War & Society*, Vol. 38, No. 4, 2019, 250-267

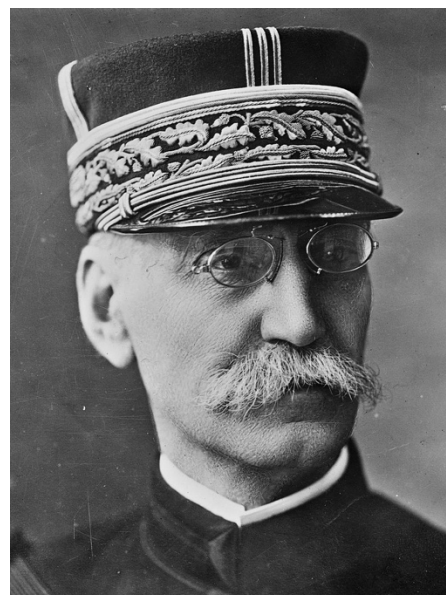
Week 3, January 23: Miracle at the Marne

Seminar: Case Study, the Battles of the Frontiers and Marne

William Philpott, "The strategic ideas of Sir John French," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 12, No. 4, 1989, 458-478

Annika Mombauer, "The Battle of the Marne: Myths and Reality of Germany's 'Fateful Battle'", *The Historian*, Vol. 68, No. 4, Winter 2006, 747-769

Matthew Furlmann, Nathan Edwards & Michael Salomone, "The German Offensive of 1914: A New Perspective" *Defense and Security Analysis*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2005, 37-66



Churchill and Fisher, Joseph Gallieni

Week 4, January 28: The Eastern Front

Lecture: Invasion of Serbia, Masurian Lakes, Battle of Warsaw, Conrad von Hotzendorf

Winter, Vol. 1, Chapters 3, 9

F. R. Bridge, "The British Declaration of War on Austria-Hungary in 1914, *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 47, No. 109, July 1969, 401-422

Week 4, January 30: Tannenberg and Beyond

Seminar: Case Study, Ludendorff and Hindenburg, Rennenkampf, Samsonov, battle of Tannenberg

Dennis Showalter, "Even Generals Wet Their Pants: The First Three Weeks in East Prussia, August 1914" *War & Society*, Vol. 2, No. 2, 1984, 61-86

Kevin Windle, "The Theme of Fate in Solzhenitsyn's 'August 1914'", *Slavic and East-European Studies*, Vol. 16, 1971, 80-89

Jamie Cockfield, "General Aleksei Brusilov and the Great Retreat, May—November 1915", *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, Vol. 26, No. 4, 2013, 653-672

Gunther Kronenbitter, "The Austro-Hungarian Experience of Coalition Warfare, 1914-1918", *Royal United Services Institute Journal*, Vol. 159, No. 4, 2014, 76-82



The Czar and Grand Duke Nicholas, Aleksei Brusilov

Unit II: Stalemate and Expansion, 1915 - 1916

Week 5, February 4: The Naval War

Lecture: Escape of the *Goeben*, Battle of Heligoland Bight, Coronel and Falklands Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, *Lusitania*

Peter Overlack, "The Force of Circumstance: Graf Spee's Options for the East Asian Cruiser Squadron in 1914", *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 60, No. 4, October 1996, 657-682

Dirk Steffen, "The Holtzendorff Memorandum of 22 December 1916 and Germany's Declaration of Unrestricted U-boat Warfare", *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 68, No. 1, January 2004, 215-224

Week 5, February 6: Gallipoli

Seminar: Turkey and The Dardanelles campaign, Second Ypres, gas warfare, May crisis, Italy

Winter, Vol. I, chapter 17

Ulrich Trumpener, "Liman von Sanders and the German-Ottoman Alliance", *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 1, No. 4, October 1966, 179-192

A. L. Macfle, "The Straits Question in the First World War, 1914-18", *Middle Eastern Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 1, January 1983, 43-74

A. J. Heywood, "The Logistical Significance of the Turkosh Straits, Russo-Ottoman War and Gallipoli Campaign in Imperial Russia's Great War, 1914 - 1917", *Revolutionary Russia*, Vol. 30, No. 1, 2017, 6-34

Week 6, February 11: The Home Front

Lecture: Zeppelin raids, mass mobilization, the New Armies, blockade

Winter, Vol. I, Chapters 13

Winter, Vol. III, Chapters 4 & 16



Sinking of the *Lusitania*, Lord Kitchener

Week 6, February 13: Total War and Conscription

Seminar: War against Civilians, Attrition

Alexander Watson, “Unheard-of Brutality: Russian Atrocities against Civilians in East Prussia, 1914-1915”, *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 86, No. 4, December 2014, 780-825

Tamara Scheer, “Denunciation and the decline of the Habsburg home front during the First World War”, *European Review of History*, Vol. 24, No. 2, 2017, 214-228

Christopher Deverell, “Haig versus Rawlinson,- Manoeuvre versus Attrition: The British Army on the Somme, 1916”, *Defence Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 1, 2005, 124-137

Week 7, February 18: The Mincing Machine, 1916

Lecture: Falkenhayn, Haig, Joffre, Petain, the Verdun Offensive, the Somme

Winter, Vol. I, Chapter 4

James Edmonds, “Verdun and the Somme” *Royal United Services Institution Journal*, Vol. 76, No. 501, 1931, 150-53

Roy Pete, “Joffre and the Origins of the Somme: A Study in Allied Military Planning” *Journal of Military History*, Vol. 73, No. 2, April 2009, 417-448

Week 7, February 20, The War at the Margins.

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Seminar: Arabia, Africa, China, Guerilla Warfare

Winter, Vol. I, Chapter 16 & 18

H. J. B. Armitage, “T. E. Lawrence: a Centennial Lecture” *Asian Affairs*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 1989, 5-24

Bill Nasson, “More Than Just von Lettow-Vorbeck: Sub-Saharan Africa in the First World War”, *Geschichte und Gesellschaft*, Vol. 4, No. 2, June 2014, 160-183



T. E. Lawrence, Edmund Allenby, Paul von Lettow Vorbeck

Unit III: The Breaking of Armies, 1917

Week 8, February 25: The Eastern Front and Russian Revolution

Lecture: Brusilov Offensive, Provisional Government, Lenin, Red October

Neil M. Heyman, "Leon Trotsky's Military Education: From the Russo-Japanese War to 1917", *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 48, No. 2, June 1976, 71-98

V. N. Vinogradov, "Romania in the First World War: The Years of Neutrality, 1914-1916", *The International History Review*, Vol. 14, No. 3, 1992, 452-461

W. E. Mosse, "Interlude: The Russian Provisional Government, 1917", *Soviet Studies*, Vol. 15, No. 4, April 1964, 408-419

Week 8, February 27: Jutland

Seminar: The North Sea and the Battle of Jutland,

Winter, Vol. I, Chapter 12

Derek Nudd, "The Battle of Jutland, Through a Looking-glass", *The Mariner's Mirror*, Vol. 105, No. 4, 2019, 425-441

Week 9, March 3: The Tipping Point

Lecture: Nivelle Offensive, Messines, Arras, Hindenburg Line

Winter, Vol. I, Chapter 5

Robert Foley, "A Case Study in Horizontal Military Innovation: The German Army, 1916-1918" *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 35, No. 6, 2012, 799-827

Mike Bechthold, "Command, Leadership, and Doctrine on the Great War Battlefield: The Australian, British, and Canadian Experience at the Battle of Arras, May 1917" *War & Society*, Vol. 32, No. 2, 2013, 116-137



RN Grand Fleet dreadnoughts, Robert Nivelle, Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig

Week 9, March 5: The Crisis of the Naval War

Seminar: Unrestricted Submarine Warfare

Vaclav Horcicka, "Austria-Hungary, Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, and the United States' Entrance into the First World War", *The International History Review*, Vol. 34, No. 2, June 2012, 245-269

Elizabeth Brutson & Paul Coleman, "Listening in the dark: audio surveillance, communication technologies, and the submarine threat during the First World War", *History and Technology*, Vol. 32, No. 3, 2016, 245-268

Week 10, March 10: Caporetto & Passchendaele

Lecture: Italy, Caporetto, Gotha Raids, Ypres III, The Battle of Cambrai

Vanda Wilcox, "Morale and Battlefield Performance at Caporetto, 1917", *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 6, 2014, 829-854

Robert S. Feldman, "The Russian General Staff and the 1917 offensive", *Soviet Studies*, Vol. 19, No. 4, 1968, 526-543

Week 10, March 12: Civilians at the Front Lines

Seminar: Occupation and Resistance, Neutrality

Winter, Vol. III, chapter 8 & 10

Alex Dowdall, "Civilians in the combat zone: Allied and German evacuation policies at the Western Front, 1914 – 1918" *First World War Studies*, Vol. 6, No. 3, 2015, 239-255

Javier Ponce, "Neutrality and submarine warfare: Germany and Spain during the First World War", *War & Society*, Vol. 34, No. 4, 2015, 287-300

Susan Grayzel, "'The Souls of Soldiers': Civilians under Fire in First World War France," *The Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 78, No. 3, September 2006, 588-622



Depth Charge Attack, by William Wyllie

Unit IV: Revolution and Victory, 1918

Week 11, March 17: The Supreme Command

Lecture: Foch, David Lloyd George and Haig

Winter, Vol. I, Chapter 6

Chris Kempshall, "Beyond 'Parade Ground Soldiers': French Army Assessments of the British in 1918

James Edmonds, "Foch", *Royal United Services Institution Journal*, Vol. 74, No. 494, 1929, 311-316

Week 11, March 19: The Russian Civil War

Seminar: Allied intervention and the Russian Civil War

Michael Carley, "Allied Intervention and the Russian Civil War, 1917-1922", *The International History Review*, Vol. 11, No. 4, 1989, 689-713

Charlotte Alston, "British Journalism and the Campaign for Intervention in the Russian Civil War, 1918-1920", *Revolutionary Russia*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 2007, 35-49

J. D. Smele, "'What Kolchak wants': Military versus polity in White Seberia, 1918-1920", *Revolutionary Russia*, Vol. 4, No. 1, 1991, 52-110

Week 12, March 24: Genocide

Lecture: Armenia, the collapse of Austria.

Winter, Vol. I, chapter 21, 22

Robert Melson, "Recent Developments in the Study of the Armenian Genocide", *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 2, 2013, 313-321

Week 12, March 26: The Final Gamble

Seminar: Brest-Litovsk, Operation Michael, Second Marne.

Gary Weir, "Naval Strategy and Industrial Mobilization at the twelfth hour: The Scheer Programme of 1918", *The Mariner's Mirror*, Vol. 77, No. 3, 1991, 275-287

Jonathan Boff, "The Morale Maze: the German Army in Late 1918", *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 6, 2014, 855-878

Week 13, March 31: Road to Victory

Lecture: The 100 days, Pershing and the American Expeditionary Force (AEF)

Winter, Vol. I, chapter 7

Winter, Vol. III, chapter 14

Tim Travers, "The Evolution of British Strategy and Tactics on the Western Front in 1918: GHQ, Manpower, and Technology", *The Journal of Military History*, Vol. 54, No. 2, April 1990, 173-200

Martin Samuels, "Shock and friction as explanations for disaster at the Battle of Amiens, 8 August 1918", *War & Society*, Vol. 35, No. 4, 2016, 275-297

Week 13, April 2: Aftermath

Seminar: Spanish Influenza, War in Turkey, 1919 plans

Winter, Vol. III, Chapter 14

Ian Brown, "The British expeditionary force and the difficult transition to 'peace', 1918-1919" Vol. 19, No. 4, 1996, 89-104

Meighen McCrae, "'Ambushed by Victory': British French and American Military Plans to Defeat Germany in 1919", *War & Society*, Vol. 38, No. 4, 2019, 320-333

Week 14, April 7: The New Order

Lecture: the Versailles treaty

Winter, vol. III, chapter 21, 22

Frederick A. Hale, "Fritz Fischer and the Historiography of World War One", *The History Teacher*, Vol. 9, No. 2, 1976, 258-279

Week 14, April 9

TERM PAPERS DUE

Seminar: Retrospective on the First World War after the Centenary

Winter, Vol. III, chapter 24

John Terraine, "Lessons of coalition war: 1914 and 1939", *The Royal United Services Institution Journal*, Vol. 134, No. 2, 1989, 57-62

David Morgan-Owen, "Re-fighting the First World War: Internationalism, strategy, law", *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 42, No. 7, 2019, 1015-1026