

HIST 407  
THE ROAD TO WORLD WAR I: EUROPE 1870-1919  
Fall 2010

Professor Whitney Walton  
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Office hours: MWF 9:30-10:20 A.M.. and by appointment

This course is a social and cultural history of the road to World War I and of the war itself. It focuses on three related themes relevant to the period 1870-1919 in European history, namely: empire, modernity, and war. Students will read and discuss significant historical works on these subjects to gain an understanding of how historians do research, analyze primary sources, and conceptualize these key subjects. They will also learn how historians disagree with one another, and how historical scholarship engages debates about research and interpretation.

The goal of this course is to engage students in learning and questioning the latest findings and interpretations of this formative period in recent history. Additionally, this course intends to develop students' analytical, verbal communication, and writing skills. To achieve this, students will read and discuss recent and important scholarship on modernity, empire, and the Great War in Europe. Occasional lectures will guide students through this body of learning, and add to it. Short papers will be assigned on the readings. Class time will also be devoted to research methods appropriate for this subject matter. A lengthy research paper based on primary sources will allow students to apply the knowledge and debates covered in class, and to write history themselves.

Textbooks to be purchased at Folletts or University Bookstore:

Hochschild, *King Leopold's Ghost*

Schwartz, *Spectacular Realities*

Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*

Hanna, *Your Death Would Be Mine*

Additional required reading will be posted on Blackboard or available online.

Course requirements:

Participation in class discussions	18%
Short papers on assigned readings	52%
Research paper (including incremental assignments)	30%

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M 23 Aug	Introduction to course and to one another; lecture outlining Europe, 1870-1919
W 25 Aug	Brief history of origins of European empires overseas Why and how do historians write? Motivations, sources, others' perspectives Hochschild, pp. 1-18
F 27 Aug	Finding primary sources; research methods with Larry Mykytiuk Meet in HSSE Library, CSC (glass room to left of entrance) Come to class with topic ideas, and receptivity to suggestions
M 30 Aug	Lecture on New Imperialism, 1870-1914 Use appropriate model for BIBLIOGRAPHY entries found in: <a href="http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c10_s2.html">http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c10_s2.html</a> *First bibliography due – primary sources and topic
W 1 Sep	Two curious figures and the start of an empire Hochschild, chs. 1-3 Student leaders:
F 3 Sep	Philanthropy and profit and European relations

- Hochschild, chs. 4-6  
Student leaders:
- M 6 Sep Labor Day – no class
- W 8 Sep Film: *Zulu*; Anglo-Zulu wars 1879  
Last scene: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrZbUS0MaY4>  
Lieven (on Blackboard)
- F 10 Sep Film: *Zulu*; how historians write articles  
Lieven (on Blackboard)
- M 13 Sep Finding journal articles; research methods with Larry Mykytiuk  
Meet in HSSE Library, CSC (glass room to left of entrance)  
\*short (1 page max) review of Lieven due
- W 15 Sep Ivory to rubber – new slavery  
Hochschild, chs. 7-11  
Student leaders:
- F 17 Sep Challenging abuse  
Hochschild, chs. 12-15  
\*revised bibliography due – primary sources and journal articles
- M 20 Sep Considering violence and civilization  
Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1902) – excerpts on Blackboard; full text online:  
<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/526>  
Student leaders:
- W 22 Sep Outing and forgetting a holocaust  
Hochschild, chs. 16-19  
Student leaders:
- F 24 Sep Lecture on society and politics at the turn of the century
- M 27 Sep Film: *The Shock of the New*  
\*paper due on empire
- W 29 Sep Lecture on New Women, sexuality – freedoms and anxieties of modernity
- F 1 Oct Murder and mayhem in late Victorian England  
Walkowitz (on Blackboard)  
Student leaders:
- M 4 Oct Finding scholarly books; review of referencing forms  
Maybe another session in HSSE Library with Larry Mykytiuk  
\*short (1 page max) review of Walkowitz due
- W 6 Oct Modernity and mass culture in Paris  
Paris 1900: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-4R72jTb74>  
Schwartz, pp. 1-44
- F 8 Oct Visualizing the modern; the morgue and the wax museum  
Schwartz, chs. 2-3  
Student leaders:

- M 11 Oct Fall Break – no class
- W 13 Oct Toward movies: the real and imagined  
Schwartz, pp. 149-204  
Student leaders:
- F 15 Oct Modernity in Austrian politics  
Schorske (on Blackboard)  
Student leaders:
- M 18 Oct No class – individual meetings with professor  
\*Research paper proposal or outline, with bibliography
- W 20 Oct Film: *The Great War*; some lecture
- F 22 Oct No class
- M 25 Oct Lecture on World War I and film: *The Great War* or *Rite of Spring*  
\*Paper due on modernity
- W 27 Oct Film: *Rite of Spring*  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjX3oAwv\\_Fs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjX3oAwv_Fs)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vb8njeKBfgw&feature=related>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mK64sTi4mKc&feature=related>
- F 29 Oct Making the case for a modernist war; ballet and war?  
Eksteins, pp. xii-xvi, 1-54
- M 1 Nov Outbreak of war; modernist Germany and traditional Britain  
Eksteins, chs. 2-3  
Student leaders:
- W 3 Nov Understanding war through modernism  
Eksteins, chs. 4-5  
Student leaders:
- F 5 Nov No class – work on research papers
- M 8 Nov Student presentations of research
- W 10 Nov Student presentations of research
- F 12 Nov Understanding war through modernism (con't)  
Eksteins, chs. 6-7  
Student leaders:
- M 15 Nov Film: *Gallipoli* (or *All Quite on the Western Front* or *Paths of Glory*)  
\*Draft of research paper due
- W 17 Nov Film: *Gallipoli*
- F 19 Nov A soldier's account  
Jünger (on Blackboard)  
Student leaders:

M 22 Nov Work on research papers – no class

Thanksgiving Break

M 29 Nov Letters as a source for WWI  
Hanna, intro, ch. 1  
Student leaders:

W 1 Dec Soldiers and civilians  
Hanna, chs. 2-3  
Student leaders:

F 3 Dec Different meanings of modern  
Hanna, chs. 4-5

M 6 Dec Film: TBA  
Hanna, concl.

W 8 Dec Film: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-280028869456988957#>  
*Last Day of World War I*  
\*paper due on WWI

F 10 Dec Memory, mourning, and unresolved issues  
Eksteins, ch. 8-10

T 14 Dec \*Final versions of research papers due

Policies and comments

Regular attendance is required. Additionally, students are expected to have done assigned reading and be prepared to discuss it on designated class days. The professor will provide guidance on preparing for discussions either orally in the previous class or with a handout. Additionally, students will be called upon to prepare discussion questions in advance and lead discussions themselves. At least once during the semester, and more often on request, students will be informed of their approximate class participation grades. Criteria for grading class participation include the following: frequency (or quantity), accuracy in answering questions provided in advance, evidence of thoughtful engagement with the reading, appropriate application of knowledge from other class materials, ability to further discussion in new, appropriate directions. Active and engaged participation is essential for each student's success and for the success of the class as a whole. **More than 3 unexcused absences will lower the final grade. Excessive absences (8-9 or more) will result in an overall failing grade.**

Since there are no exams in this course, participation in class discussion and papers are the means of conveying knowledge and assessing learning.

The research paper allows students to use the knowledge accumulated in the course for the writing of a work of original historical analysis based on primary sources. Incremental assignments will be due throughout the semester; these build toward the final version of the research paper. The incremental assignments will be graded, and included in the final grade for the research paper. Students should be prepared to submit to the professor the books and articles they use for the research paper.

The professor is always glad to meet with students outside of class to discuss paper drafts, research paper topics, class participation grades, the content of assigned readings, letters of recommendation, or other matters relevant to the course. If office hours are inconvenient, an appointment at another time is easily arranged.

Students must submit papers in class on the designated days. Early submissions are welcome. Papers submitted after 5:00 P.M. on the due date will not be accepted. All written work must be submitted on time in order to be eligible to pass the course.

Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty will be punished as much as Purdue University policies allow. A likely consequence for a finding of academic dishonesty is an F for the course and materials given to the Dean of Students office. Plagiarism means reproducing or paraphrasing the words or ideas of someone else without proper attribution, and passing this work off as one's own. There are no excuses for plagiarism (i.e., ignorance, time pressure, lack of original ideas, etc.) All of the written assignments for this course are designed to help students avoid plagiarism, and handouts will offer specific information on proper referencing of other people's words and ideas.

This syllabus provides a basic schedule for the semester; however, changes are possible. Such changes would be announced in class and in time to benefit rather than inconvenience students. Students are individually responsible for learning about any changes in the schedule even if they are absent from class the day a change is announced. In general, students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class whether or not they are in class; absence is not an excuse.

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirement, deadlines, and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances. Ways to get information about such changes are via the professor's e-mail address ([awhitney@purdue.edu](mailto:awhitney@purdue.edu)), office phone (494-9435), and, if I can manage it, WebCT Vista webpage.

Contact information for Larry Mykytiuk, History Bibliographer  
 HSSE Library, Room 241                      494-3605                      [larrym@purdue.edu](mailto:larrym@purdue.edu)

#### Recommended books for background information

Students who wish to consult a textbook covering this period of history for background information confront a difficulty. Those books that cover the nineteenth century end with World War I, and those that cover World War I usually start with the war, or around 1900. The parameters of this course were set long before I arrived at Purdue University, and they raise an interesting question about periodization generally, and the meaning of World War I in particular.

With this in mind, here are a few suggestions.

Eric Hobsbawm, *The Age of Empire, 1875-1914* is a good, dense, chronological social history of most of the period covered in this course.

Felix Gilbert and David Clay Large, *The End of the European Era: 1890 to the Present*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed., is a helpful, straightforward history; the first four chapters are relevant to this course.

Leo A Loubère, *Nineteenth-Century Europe: The Revolution of Life* is thematically arranged and covers the period from the French Revolution to 1914; the latter half of the book is relevant to this course, though it does not cover World War I. It is quite up to date, though not exactly a page turner.

Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, *14-18: Understanding the Great War* is a recent reconsideration of World War I, offering an international perspective and focusing on the themes of violence, crusade, and mourning.

Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*, is a concise summary.

John Keegan, *The First World War*, is a fine military history.

Just about any textbook of European or global history (for example, those assigned for HIST 104 or HIST 105) can provide basic information relevant to this course in the chapters that address 1870-1919.