200 years ago the Battle of Waterloo (1815) ended 20 years of almost constant warfare in Europe. War affected everyone’s lives, soldiers as well as civilians, throughout Europe and beyond. This course will examine the experiences of men and women, and the ways that war affected masculine and feminine behaviors. Although the war began with the French Revolution, Napoleon Bonaparte is the central figure associated with this period, and we will analyze his contributions to gendered identities and gender relations, as well as to war. The format will be mostly seminar-style discussions of common readings, with a few lectures and films. Students will write papers, occasionally lead discussion, and do a guided and limited research project.

Possible textbooks include the following: David A. Bell, The First Total War; Rafe Blaufarb and Claudia Liebeskind, Napoleonic Foot Soldiers and Civilians; Alan Forrest, Karen Hagemann, and Jane Rendall, Soldiers, Citizens, and Civilians: Experiences and Perceptions of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1790-1820; Nadezhda Durova, The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars; Jakob Walter, The Diary of a Napoleonic Footsoldier.