ISSS 4000-101 – THE GREAT WAR: LIFE AND LITERATURE

Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program/ University of Virginia

Undergraduate Course, 3.0 Credit Hours

Ann Marie Plunkett, Ph.D.      Fall  2014         Thursday, 7:00-9:45, Darden TBA  
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 CLASS OVERVIEW:  
One hundred years ago this summer Europeans went to war, and the world continues to live with the legacy of the Great War- World War I. Sparked by the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand and his wife Sophie by a young Bosnian Serb terrorist, the conflict resulted in a dramatic alteration in the nature of combat and of the political, social, cultural, and economic landscape of Europe and the world as a whole. Old empires collapsed and new nations in Europe and the Middle East were created in the aftermath. Drawing on historical and literary works, primary and secondary, this class will focus on the experiences and mentalities of those who fought and those who remained on the home front, and will examine the realities, myths, and enduring impact of the Great War. Along with military history- strategies, battles, weapons, war crimes—we will discuss the role of women, children’s lives, medical topics such as treatment of the physically and mentally wounded, propaganda, the role of writers and artists, and the actions of politicians and diplomats. Class activities will  include discussion of assigned readings, short lectures,  and viewing of  videos and websites.  We will use our UVA Collab site extensively for  supplementary readings and other resources, and  assignments will be found and

submitted there.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/ASSESSMENTS COMPONENTS

The student will gain knowledge about, and insight, into the Great War, and will demonstrate this by writing and speaking analytically about the subject. To achieve these objectives, students will be responsible for and graded as follows:  two short essays- 30% ; a longer essay that will be an analysis of a book written during/shortly after the Great War by a participant, set in the historical context, chosen by the student from a list that will be provided -25% ; oral report-5%; final essays- 25% and class participation, which includes attendance - 15%.

**REQUIRED READING:**

**Lewis, Jon E. ed, A Brief History of World War I: Eyewitness Accounts of the Great War**

**Running Press , 2014 (Paperback)**  | ISBN [9780762452309](http://www.runningpress.com/book?isbn=9780762452309)

Strachan, Hew, ed. Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War, New Edition ,Oxford University Press, 2014, Hardback or Kindle . ISBN-13: 978-0199663385

NOTE- The first edition of this book in paperback is available used online and would be fine.

Students will read one additional book as described above.  There will also be regular assigned  readings on Collab and some handouts.  
  
ALL WORK MUST BE PLEDGED! Please see more detailed Honor Code information below.

Criteria for Grading:

A   Assignment done completely with thought, care, and insight, well-written and on time.

B Assignment done completely and reasonably well, clearly written, on time.

C Assignment done just adequately, reflecting minimal effort, late.

D Assignment is poorly done and may be missing components, later.

Grading scale: A(93-99), A-(90-92), B+ (88-89), B (83-87), B- (80-82), C+(78-79),

C(73-77), C-(70-72), D+ (68-69), D ( 63-67), D- (60-62), F (below 60)

University of Virginia Honor System: All work should be pledged in the spirit of the Honor System at the University of Virginia. The instructor will indicate which assignments and activities are to be done individually and which permit collaboration. The following pledge should be written out at the end of all quizzes, examinations, individual assignments and papers: “I pledge that I have neither given nor received help a on this examination (quiz, assignment, etc.)”.

The pledge must be signed by the student. For more information please visit [Honor System](http://records.ureg.virginia.edu/content.php?catoid=28&navoid=747).

Technical Support Contacts:

* Login/Password: [scpshelpdesk@virginia.edu](mailto:scpshelpdesk@virginia.edu)
* UVaCollab: [collab-support@virginia.edu](mailto:collab-support@virginia.edu)
* BbCollaborate (Elluminate) Support: [scpshelpdesk@virginia.edu](mailto:scpshelpdesk@virginia.edu)
* [http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com](http://support.blackboardcollaborate.com/)

Special Needs: It is the policy of the University of Virginia to accommodate students with disabilities in accordance with federal and state laws. Any SCPS student with a disability who needs accommodation (e.g., in arrangements for seating, extended time for examinations, or note-taking, etc.) should contact the Learning Needs and Evaluation Center (LNEC) and provide them with appropriate medical or psychological documentation of his/her condition.

Once accommodations are approved, it is the student’s responsibility to follow up with the instructor about logistics and implementation of accommodations. Accommodations for test taking should be arranged at least 14 business days in advance of the date of the test(s). Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the LNEC:

434-243-5180/Voice, 434-465-6579/Video Phone, 434-243-5188/Fax

For more information visit [U.Va. Special Needs Website](http://www.virginia.edu/studenthealth/lnec.html)

University Email Policies:

Students are expected to check their official U.Va. email addresses on a frequent and consistent basis to remain informed of University communications, as certain communications may be time sensitive. Students who fail to check their email on a regular basis are responsible for any resulting consequences.

**Communication** is essential. Life happens, but these days we can be in touch, if not immediately, very soon. You are responsible for contacting me if you must miss class or if you don’t turn in work on time, and for being fully aware of due dates. I am here to work with you. Please let me know if I can be of help.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS

\*Minor Adjustments will be made as needed

August 28 Introduction, Before the War- The World in 1914

September 4: Causes and Outbreak

Strachan, Introduction, ch. 1; Lewis, p. 9-40

September 11: Western and Eastern Fronts

Strachan, ch.2, 3 ; Lewis, 40-78

September 18: Civilian Experiences, Home and War Fronts

Strachan, 10 and 16; Lewis, pp. 104-106, 129-130

**\*First Essay Due**

September 25: Women and the War

Strachan, ch. 11 ; Lewis, p. 89 , 131-132, 155-159, 220-221

October 2: Writers and Artists and the War

Lewis, pp. 69-71; 236-238 ; Handouts

October 9: Turkey’s War

Strachan, ch. 6; Articles TBA

October 16 Deadlock and Attrition on the Western Front

Strachan, ch.4; 13, Lewis, TBA

**\*Second Essay Due**

October 23 War Wounds

Articles on Collab TBA

October 30 The Entry of the United States

Strachan, ch. 18; Lewis TBA

November 6: Towards Victory and Defeat

Strachan, ch. 9, 19, 21; Lewis TBA

November 13: War’s End: Aftermath of War, Making Peace

Strachan, ch.22; Lewis, 451-458, 460-497

November 20: Aftermath of War -War without End?

**Longer Essay due**

December 4: Conclusions, The War Remembered, 100 Years On

Strachan, ch. 23

December 9: Fina**l Essays Due**