

HIST 5340 Readings in European History The Great War

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Office Hours by Appointment

Course Description

This course examines the outbreak of the Great War, the prosecution of the war, and the immediate aftermath. We will discuss topics such as war plans, and the relationships the political leadership had with their military staffs. We will study the revolutionary nature of the war itself, and the war aims of the principal powers as expressed in their wartime diplomacy. We will examine the controversial issues that still occupy historians: Why the failure to achieve a negotiated peace earlier in the war given the relative stalemate on the Western Front, and why did Germany lose in the last year of the war after waging the war so successfully since 1914?

Course Objectives

1. Identify and Become familiar with the major events, personalities, and political forces of the Great War.
2. Examine the historiography of the Great War.
3. Investigate the Great War as first modern, industrial war
4. Explain the reasons for repeated stalemate on several fronts and the role that technology played in shaping the course of the war.
5. Analyze the many controversial topics and questions of debate that surround the First World War.
6. Explain how World War I was a watershed in modern history, and that its legacy endures.
7. Develop academic writing skills

Recommended Text

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. *The elements of style* (any ed.). New York: McMillan, 1959.

—A student of this institution is not under any obligation to purchase a textbook from a university-affiliated bookstore

Course Requirements

Through class participation and written exams students should exhibit mastery of the texts. During class discussions I will ask members of the class questions about the major events, forces, influences and personalities involved in the reading for that segment of the course. Your participation grade is based upon the quality of your responses. There will be a midterm and a final exam. The final is not comprehensive. Both exams will be essay exams. Students should demonstrate familiarity with both the readings covered for that exam (see course schedule) and lectures/discussion to that point. The written assignment is a 20+ page academic review of the readings.

Literature Review Guidelines

Reviews should be 20 or more pages and conform to the style of academic reviews. Your review will cover the three required books and six elective books from the approved list (below). You should not only analyze the books individually but compare them in the context of the literature.

There is no cover page. Heading is the bibliographical information of the book. Text is double-spaced with **one-inch margins and 12-point type**, usually the default on your word processor. There should be no sub-headings. Your name and “Texas A&M University - Central Texas” should be at the end of your review. **I cannot accept papers in formats other than Microsoft Word.**

Papers must be submitted in Blackboard as a turnitin assignment.

Good style and grammar are expected. Papers should follow the standards in Strunk and White *Elements of Style*..

The objective of the review is critical analysis of the merits of the books. You must address the basic questions of author’s thesis, purpose, and objectivity. Further, you should compare and contrast how the books treat the subject, or how they complement one another.

Be specific and support your conclusions. Appraise the author’s style and extent of research, including an evaluation of sources. As a rule avoid quotes, especially lengthy ones. Further guidance for writing reviews is linked from our department webpage by permission from:

<http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/>

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all classes and are fully responsible for their attendance. Make-up work may only be done for valid and verifiable reasons such as illness, death in the immediate family, legal proceedings, participation in University-sponsored activities, and military deployment. If possible, notification should be in advance.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES, PROCEDURES, AND GUIDELINES

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student's academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, working with others in an unauthorized manner, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student's work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be referred to the university's Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university's standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html), [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0), [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university's programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and

Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](#) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs' Office can assist students who are pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html>]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines](#) online, please visit the website [<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf>].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance, Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not offer writing support** beginning August 1, 2019, but will continue to offer other tutoring support.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 501-5836, visit the Office of Student Success at 212F Warrior Hall, or by emailing studentsuccess@tamuct.edu .

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University–Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](#)

[<http://tamuct.libguides.com/index>].

OPTIONAL POLICY STATEMENTS

A Note about Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the [Title IX webpage](https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php) [<https://www.tamuct.edu/departments/compliance/titleix.php>].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, who are exhibiting concerning behaviors, or individuals causing a significant disruption to our community, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the [referral](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2) online [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2].

Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the [Behavioral Intervention Team](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html) website for more information [<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/bat.html>]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5800.

Grading Criteria Rubric and Conversion:

Literature Review:	200 points	40%
Midterm:	100 points	20%
Final Exam	100 Points	20 %
Participation	100 points	20%
Total:	500 points	100%

Final grades will be computed according to the following scale:

A = 90-100%
B = 80-89%
C = 70-79%
D = 60-69%
F = 59-0%

Class Schedule

Jan 14	Introduction,
Jan 21	Lecture: Coming of the War,
Jan 28	1914 – Lecture: The Marne, Frontiers, Tannenberg
Feb 4	1915 – Lecture: Gas, Gallipoli
Feb 11	1916 – Lecture: Verdun, Marne, Jutland
Feb 18	1917 – Lecture: Wilson, Lenin, and ideological war
Feb 25	1918 - Lecture: <i>Kaisershclacht and defeat</i>
Mar 3	Midterm
Mar 10	Spring Break
Mar 17	Discuss Strachen
Mar 24	Discuss Fergusson
Mar 31	Discuss Horne
April 7	Discuss Elective Book 1
April 14	Discuss Elective book 2
April 21	Discuss Elective Books 3-4
April 28	Discuss Elective Books 5-6
May 5	Final Exam - Literature Review Due

**World War I
Reading List**

Must Read:

Hew Strachan *First World War*
Ferguson *Pity of War*
Horne *The Price of Glory: Verdun 1916*

New and Notable:

Peter Hart *The Great War, The Somme, Gallipoli*
Alexander Watson *Ring of Steel: Germany and Austria in World War I*
Eugene Rogan *The Fall of the Ottoman Empire*
Lawrence Sondhaus *The Great War at Sea*
Jonathan Boff *Haig's Enemy*
Jorn Leonhard *Pandora's Box*

Stood the Test of Time:

Gilbert *The First World War*
Tuchman *Guns of August, Zimmerman Telegram*
Kennet *The First Air War*
Massie *Castles of Steel*
Johnson *1918: The Unexpected Victory, White Heat*
John Terraine *To Win a War: 1918 the Year of Victory,*
Barnett *The Swordbearers: Supreme Command in the First World War*
JFC Fuller *The First World War*
Keegan *The First World War*
Beckett *The Great War*
Grotelueschen *The AEF Way of War*
Halpern *A Naval History of World War I*
Yokelson *Borrowed Soldiers*
Trask *The AEF, The Supreme War Council*
Ferrel *Woodrow Wilson and World War I*
Paschall *The Defeat of Imperial Germany*
Asprey *The German High Command*
Yates *Flawed Victory: Jutland 1916*
Coffman *War to End All Wars*
Norman Stone *The Eastern Front*
Neiberg *Fighting the Great War*
Herwig *The Marne*
Prete *Strategy and Command*
Philpott *Three Armies on the Marne*
Schindler *Isonzo*
Slotkin *Lost Battles*
Osborn *Britain's Economic Blockade of Germany*
Miller, Lynn-Jones, Van Evera
Military Strategy and the Origins of the Great War

Showalter *Tannenberg, Instrument of War*
Moorehead *Gallipoli*
Ernst Junger *Storm of Steel*
Hochschild *To End All Wars*

Note: Although it is unlikely, the instructor may make modifications to this syllabus at any time.