



Boston University International Programs
London

Boston University British Programmes
London at War: From the Home Front to the Frontline
CAS IP 409 (*Elective A*)
Spring 2011

Instructor Information

A. Name	Julian Putkowski
B. Day and Time	Mondays and Tuesdays (plus Friday 11 February), 9am-1pm
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Course Objectives

Students will:

- Become familiar with written and recorded material about British society and culture during the two world wars via a programme of individual study, lectures, field study visits and discussion.
- Develop critical awareness via research, interpretation and analysis of a range of historical data.
- Enhance their communication skills via written assignments and scholarly discussion.

Course Overview

This course aims to acquaint students with ways in which the two world wars influenced British society and changed social identities. It engages with dimensions of gender, race/ethnicity and class, and seeks to enhance understanding of historical specificity via exploration and evaluation of English (mostly urban) war experiences.

No prior specialist knowledge of military history, war technology or international relations is necessary and all course material should be readily comprehended by liberal arts students. Students will be expected to read beyond the required minimum in order to advance well-informed and independent arguments in their work. They will be required to locate and analyse secondary and some primary material, demonstrating comprehension and understanding via coherent, intelligent engagement in class discussion, seminar presentations, a quiz and a written exam. Students will also be required to summarise their research findings in the form of a scholarly essay.

Course Methodology

This course will be taught over nine four-hour sessions. Teaching methodology will vary but discussion in class will typically refer to the required reading/viewing, as well as perspectives and propositions advanced during the lecture. For example, the first lecture will summarise key elements that contributed to Britain's involvement in the First World War and introduce students to critical appreciation of national identity as an aspect of an "imagined community." Class discussion will test and encourage development of student awareness of contemporary influences contributing to "war enthusiasm", including ideology, power and divisions of class, gender, and race/ethnicity. Field study visits, directed exploration, seminar work will entail brief presentations by individual students.

Assessment

Class participation/Seminar presentation: 15%

Research Paper [2000 words]: 40%

End of course written exam: 35%

Quiz: [14 September] 10%

Grading

Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria, attendance requirements and policies on plagiarism:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/files/images/ACADEMICHANDBOOKSP11.pdf>

Course Chronology

Monday 17 January

Session 1: Introduction:

Britain and Europe on the eve of the First World War – Politics and Society.

Context: the outbreak of war in Europe: long term causes and the outbreak of hostilities. Pre-war British society and politics; patriotic enthusiasm and the "Nation at Arms".

Required Reading:

Robb, pp. 1-31

Van Emden & Humphries, pp. 1-32

Recommended Reading:

Banks, A., *Military Atlas of the First World War*,

Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2002.1-26;

Fergusson, N., *The Pity of War - Explaining World War I*, London: Penguin, 1999, pp. 14-212;

Gregory, A., "British 'War Enthusiasm in 1914.'" *Evidence, History and the Great War - Historians and the impact of 1914 – 1918*. Ed. Braybon, G., Oxford, Berghahn Books: 2003. 67-85.

Browse: Winter, J., & Robert, J-L., *Capital Cities at War – Paris, London, Berlin 1914 -1919*, Cambridge: CUP, 1997.

Tuesday 18 January

Session 2: War propaganda - "Them and Us".

State definition and promotion of "Britishness" became all-important; some minority ethnic communities and anti-war groups were censured.

Required Reading:

Robb, pp. 96-128

Van Emden & Humphries, pp. 53-80

Recommended Reading:

Bibbings, L., *Telling tales about men – Conceptions about conscientious objectors to military service during the First World War*, Manchester: MUP, 2009. pp 27-47,195-229

Bush, J., “East London Jews and the First World War.” *London Journal*, (6) 1980: 47-161; De Groot, G., *British Society in the Era of the Great War*, London: Longman, London, 1996. pp 174-195

Gregory, A., *The Last Great War – British Society and the First World War*, Cambridge: CUP, 2008. pp. 70-73, 101-108;

Panayi, P., “Anti-German riots in Britain during the First World War.” *Racial violence in Britain in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.*” Ed. Panayi, P., Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1993. 65-91.

Browse: Sanders M., and Taylor P., *British Propaganda during the First World War 1914-1918*, London: MacMillan, 1982.

Monday 24 January

Session 3: Guest Speaker: Dr. Diane Atkinson

The Home Front.

The war was not “over by Christmas” 1914, and industrial mobilisation challenged established gender roles.

Required viewing:

War Women of Britain – Women at War, Video. Imperial War Museum,1991

Required Reading:

Robb, pp. 32-66

Van Emden & Humphries, pp. 1-32

Recommended Reading:

Braybon, G., and Summerfield, P., *Out of the Cage – Women’s Experiences in Two World Wars*, London: Pandora, 1987.11 – 78;

Pankhurst, E.S., *The Home Front*, London: Cresset Press, 1987. 77-84, 96-101, 308-327; Summers, A., *Angels and Citizens – British Women as military nurses 1854-1914*. London: RKP, 1988. 271-294;

Thom, D., *Nice Girls and Rude Girls*. London: I.B. Tauris, 1998. 24-90;

Wollacott, A., *On her their lives depend*, University of California Press, 1994.188-216.

Browse: MacDonald, L., *The Roses of No-Man’s land*, London: Penguin, 1993.

Tuesday 25 January

Session 4: QUIZ

“Gott Strafe England!”

Enemy attacks on Britain affected the population directly and indirectly: the “First Blitz” (aerial bombing) and bombardment by sea terrified people; submarine warfare and the sinking of merchant ships (incl. “Lusitania”) generated food shortages.

Required Reading:

Banks, pp. 281-296

Robb, pp. 186-207

Van Emden & Humphries, pp. 149-188.

Recommended Reading:

Van Emden, R., and Humphries, S., *All Quiet on the Home Front*, London: Headline, 2003.189- 219;
Bombers, Zeppelins etc.: http://www.firstworldwar.com/airwar/bombers_zeppelins.htm

Browse:

Hyde, A., *The First Blitz*, Barnsley: Leo Cooper, 2002;
Morris, J., *The German Air Raids on Great Britain 1914-1918*. London: Marston & Co., 1925;
reprinted, Dallington: Naval and Military Press, 1993.

Monday 31 January**Session 5: SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS****Preparing for World War 2**

Appeasement, the Phoney War, Blitzkrieg, Air Raid Precautions, Conscription,
Internment, Rationing and Evacuees.

Required Reading:

Calder, pp. 23-88;
Ziegler, pp. 40-63.

Recommended Reading:

Brown, M., *Evacuees: Evacuation in Wartime Britain*, Stroud: Sutton, 2000. 5-35; 44-79; Braybon
G., and Summerfield, P., *Out of the Cage – Women's experiences in Two World Wars*, London:
Pandora, 1987.155-204;
Sponza, L., "Anti-Italian Riots, 1940 Racial violence in Britain in the nineteenth and twentieth
centuries." Ed. Panayi, P., Leicester: Leicester University Press, 1993. 131-149.

Browse:

Harrison, T., *Living through the Blitz*, London: Penguin Books, 1978.

Tuesday 1 February**Session 6: SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS****Total War**

Field Study Visit to the Imperial War Museum.

Directed exploration

Required Reading:

Harrison, pp. 61-131

Required viewing:

London can take it! (1940); *Ordinary People* (1942). DVD. Imperial War Museum compilation,
"London can take it!", DVD (2006)

Recommended viewing:

Frank Capra (dir.), *Why We Fight*, <http://www.archive.org/details/BattleOfBritain>; *London 1942*,
"Impressions of London", DVD. Nostalgia, 2003.

Recommended reading:

Cull, N.J., *Selling War: The British Propaganda Campaign against American 'Neutrality' in World
War II*, Oxford, OUP, 1995. 97-115, 190-198;
Mack, J., and Humphries, S., *London at War*, London: Guild Publishing/LWT, 1985.128-153;
Waller, M., *London 1945*, London, John Murray, 2004.118-154.

Sunday 6 February, Monday 7 February and Tuesday 8 February

Sessions 7 & 8: SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

The War to end All Wars: *Field Study Visit* to Belgium, the Western Front, Ieper/Ypres Salient and the Flanders battlefields.

Required Reading:

De Groot, pp. 226- 265

Robb, pp. 208-225

R. Chickering, "World War 1 and Total War." pp. 35-46.

Recommended Reading:

Winter, J., *The Great War and the British people*, London: Macmillan, 2003. 66-92.

Recommended Viewing:

Slaughter in the Trenches, World War 1 in Colour, Episode 2, DVD. Sony Pictures, 2003

The Battle of the Somme, DVD, Imperial War Museum, 2006.

Field Trip to Ieper

Full details of the field trip will be confirmed at the beginning of the course with an itinerary given to students. Generally it will include travel from London to Ieper (return) by Ferry and coach, visits to the battlefields of the First World War (including war cemeteries), guest lectures and a visit to the "In Flanders Fields" Museum, as well as some free time to explore the town. Depart Sunday mid afternoon 6th February; return evening of Tuesday 8th February.

Friday 11 February

Session 9: Outcomes & Legacies.

Identification, understanding and analysis of key social, cultural and political outcomes of the two world wars. Memory, commemoration and commodification.

Field Study Visit to war memorials: Whitehall / Hyde Park Corner

Required Reading:

Rose, pp. 1-29; 71-107; 285-294.

Recommended Reading:

Bushaway, B., "Name Upon Name: the Great War and Remembrance." *Myths of the English*. Ed. Porter, R., London: Polity Press, 1992. 136-167;

Sheridan, D., *Wartime Women – A Mass-Observation anthology*, London: Heinemann, 1990. 195-248;

Ellis, J., *The sharp end of war*, London: Corgi, 1980. 314-357;

Summerfield, P., "The 'Levelling of Class,'" *War, Peace and Social Change in the Twentieth Century*. Ed. Emsley, C., et al, Open University, Buckingham, 1989), pp. 255-280;

Winter, J., *Sites of memory, sites of mourning – The Great War in European cultural history*, Cambridge: CUP, 1998

Browse:

BBC WW2 People's War: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/>; <http://war-women.co.uk/>

Tuesday 15 February

FINAL EXAM Exam times and locations will be posted on the BU London website and in the Student Newsletter two weeks before exam dates.

Readings

The selection of literature and non-textual study material is divided into: **Required reading/viewing:** to be undertaken before attending class. **Recommended reading/viewing:** useful for enhanced understanding of issues and perspectives; appropriate for referencing in seminar discussion and essays. All texts will be available through the BU British Programmes Library.

Students will have access to the appropriate chapter of the following books through the course webpage:

Banks, A., *Military Atlas of the First World War*, Barnsley: Pen & Sword Books, 2002.

De Groot, G., *British Society in the Era of the Great War*. London: Longman, 1996.

Calder, A., *The People's War*, London: Pimlico, 1992.

Chickering, R. "World War 1 and Total War." *Total War – Combat and mobilization on the Western Front 1914-1918*. Eds. Chickering, R., and Forster S., Cambridge: CUP, 2000.

Ziegler, P., *London at War 1939-1945*, London: Pimlico, 2002.

Harrison, T., *Living through the Blitz*, London: Penguin, 1976.

Students will need to purchase:

Robb, G., *British Culture and the First World War*, London: Palgrave, 2002.

Rose, S.O., *Which People's War?: National Identity and Citizenship in Wartime Britain 1939-1945*, Oxford, OUP, 2003.

Van Emden, R., and Humphries, S., *All Quiet on the Home Front – An oral history of life in Britain during the First World War*, London, Headline, 2003.

See **Browse** (above): Works that contain a number of passages, notes or a useful bibliography on a particular subject or development. Attention will also be drawn to the libraries and archives of the Imperial War Museum, London Metropolitan Archives and the City's Guildhall library, all of which contain an abundance of useful material. Students will also have their attention drawn to useful websites, including: The Centre for Metropolitan History / RHS online bibliography:

<http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/lpol/>

Further references and additional readings will be posted on the course webpage:

<http://www.bu-london.co.uk/academic/ip409> (you must be logged in to view materials).

Terms & Conditions

Expectation from students, including terms of attendance, meeting deadlines, class participation, being on time, etc. conform with BU London Centre policies, (i.e. written medical certificate only) and established penalties for unexcused absences, late submission of work, etc.