Boston University Study Abroad
London

London at War: From the Home Front to the Frontline
CAS HI 253 (Elective B)
Spring 2016

Instructor Information

A. Name Julian Putkowski
B. Day and Time Fridays, 9am - 1pm & Thursday 14th April
C. Location Harrington Room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
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F. Office hours By appointment

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: [27 March] 10%
Final paper to be handed in at the Exam (Thursday 21th April)

Grading
Please refer to the Academic Handbook for detailed grading criteria and policies on plagiarism: http://www.bu.edu/london/current-semester
* Final Grades are subject to deductions by the Academic Affairs Office due to unauthorised absences.

Attendance Policy
Classes
All Boston University Study Abroad London Programme students are expected to attend each and every class session, tutorial, and field trip in order to fulfill the required course contact hours and receive course credit. Any student that has been absent from two class sessions (whether authorised or unauthorised) will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their continued participation on the programme.

Authorised Absence:
Students who expect to be absent from any class should notify a member of Academic Affairs and complete an Authorized Absence Approval Form 10 working days in advance of the class date (except in the case of absence due to illness, for which students should submit the Authorised Absence Approval Form with the required doctor’s note as soon as possible). Please note: Submitting an Authorised Absence Approval Form does not guarantee an authorised absence

Students may apply for an authorised absence only under the following circumstances:
• Illness, supported by a local London doctor’s note (submitted with Authorised Absence Approval Form).
• Important placement event that clashes with a class (verified by internship supervisor)
• Special circumstances which have been approved by the Directors (see note below).

The Directors will only in the most extreme cases allow students to leave the programme early or for a significant break.
Unauthorised Absence:
Any student to miss a class due to an unauthorised absence will receive a **4% grade penalty** to their final grade for the course whose class was missed. This grade penalty will be applied by the Academic Affairs office to the final grade at the end of the course. As stated above, any student that has missed two classes will need to meet with the Directors to discuss their participation on the programme as excessive absences may result in a ‘Fail’ in the class and therefore expulsion from the programme.

Lateness
Students arriving more than 15 minutes after the posted class start time will be marked as late. Any student with irregular class attendance (more than two late arrivals to class) will be required to meet with the Assistant Director of Academic Affairs and if the lateness continues, may have his/her final grade penalised.

Course Chronology

Friday 26 February
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; Beckett (2007 edn.), pp. 1-54

**Recommended Reading:**


Friday 4 March
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; Millman, pp. 413-40

**Recommended Reading:**

Friday 11 March and Saturday 12 March  
 Sessions 3 & 4: 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.


Friday 18 March  
 Session 5: 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; Braybon , pp. 44-95; Gullace, pp. 73-117

**Recommended Reading:**  


Friday 1 April  
 Session 6: 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:**  

**Browse:** Hyde, A., *The First Blitz*, Barnsley: Leo Cooper, 2002;  

Friday 8 April  
 Session 7: Field Study Visit to the Cabinet War Rooms, Whitehall  
Directed exploration  
Prepared for World War 2  
Appeasement, the Phoney War, Blitzkrieg, Air Raid Precautions, Conscription, Internment, Rationing and Evacuees.

**Required Reading:** Calder, pp. 23-88; Grazyzel, pp. 121-148; Ziegler, pp. 40-63
**Recommended Reading:**

**Browse:**

**Friday 15 April**

**Session 8: Total War**

**Required Reading:** Harrison, pp. 61-131; Jones, pp. 4-8; 58-70; 76-82; Edgerton, pp

**Required viewing:** London can take it! (1940); Ordinary People (1942). DVD. Imperial War Museum compilation, “London can take it!” DVD (2006)

**Recommended viewing:**

**Recommended reading:**

**Tuesday 19 April**

**Session 9: Outcomes & Legacies**

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

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


**Browse:**
BBC WW2 People’s War: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/ww2peopleswar/); [http://war-women.co.uk/](http://war-women.co.uk/)

**Contingency Class Date:** Students are required to keep Wed 20 April free to attend a make-up class should any class need to be rescheduled.

**Tuesday 21 April**
**FINAL EXAM**

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

*Final paper to be handed in.*

**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:


Mackay, R., *Half the Battle – civilian morale in Britain during the Second World War*, MUP, Manchester, 2007


Students will need to collect from the Library:


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/](http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/lpol/)

Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: [https://lms.bu.edu](https://lms.bu.edu)