

HI/IR 436: THE GREAT WAR AND THE FRAGILE PEACE

Semester I, 2004-2005

Instructor: Professor William R. Keylor

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.;

Thursdays, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; and by appointment

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INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

This course is a research colloquium in which students will be introduced to the military, political, social, economic, colonial, and cultural context and consequences of the First World War (1914-1918) and what is usually referred to as the Versailles peace settlement (1919-1920). The course will include some "drum and trumpet" military history (the intricate technical details of military operations) and conventional "diplomatic" history (the high level machinations of statespersons). But it will also address the broader significance of the war and the peace settlement for the societies that were profoundly affected by the events on the battlefield and in decisions made in the government offices and conference rooms. Some of the themes that we will explore include the following: The increasing importance and future significance of technological innovations in warfare (the automobile, the tank, the submarine, the airplane, chemical weapons, etc.); the expanding role of the state in the mobilization of manpower and economic resources; the social consequences of total war (for labor-management relations, gender relations, relations between ethnic majorities and minorities, etc.); the economic (agricultural, industrial, financial, and commercial) effects of naval blockades, unrestricted submarine warfare, wartime indebtedness, and the reparation provisions of the peace treaty; the impact of the war and the peace settlement on the relations between the European colonial powers and their subject populations in Africa, Asia, and (after the war) the Middle East; and the consequences of the war and the peace settlement for Western culture as revealed in literary, artistic, and cinematic works. In this class we will do everything we can to grasp the many ways in which this war and this peace settlement changed the lives of people throughout the world for the rest of the twentieth century and even into our own time.

ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE

The course will meet for three hours each week on Wednesday from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room COM 111. During the first half of each weekly session, the professor will present a brief overview of the material to be covered and employ audio-visual materials to illustrate important themes related to the course. After a brief break, the second half of the class will be devoted to a wide-ranging discussion of the topics addressed in the assigned readings and visual presentations.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSE

Students will be expected to complete the assigned readings (see below) in advance of the weekly meeting, to participate actively in class discussions of the reading material, to choose (in consultation with the professor) a book relating to some aspect of the course and write a 2-3 page book review, and to research and write a major paper on a theme related to the subject matter of the course. The student must select a topic for the research paper in consultation with the professor and must submit a one-page summary of the topic together with a tentative bibliography (list of primary and secondary sources to be consulted) on the fifth class meeting (October 6). On the same day (October 6) the student will submit in writing the title of the book he or she has chosen to review. The book review (about 3 pages) will be due at the beginning of class on November 5. During the class meetings on November 3, November 10, and November 17 students will give a 10-minute oral presentation summarizing the results of their research and will respond to questions about the topic from the professor and other members of the class. The research paper (15-20 pages) will be due at the beginning of the last class on December 7. Extensions of time for the submission of the paper or the book review will be granted only in case of serious illness documented with a physician's note, in which case an extended deadline for submission will be granted. Unexcused late submissions will be penalized 5 points (on a 100-point scale) for every late day or fraction thereof. Please note: The last day you can drop this course without receiving a grade of W is Tuesday, October 12. The last day you can drop this course with a grade of W is Friday, October 29.

GRADING CRITERIA

The grade for the course will be calculated on the basis of the research paper (50%), the book review (25%), and attendance, class participation, and presentation (25%).

AVAILABILITY OF THE PROFESSOR FOR CONSULTATION

Professor Keylor strongly encourages students to discuss with him their book review and research paper topics in his office at the Department of International Relations, 154 Bay State Road, Room 301. During Semester I of the 2004-2005 academic year he will hold office hours on Tuesdays 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m., and Thursdays 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.. If the student's schedule conflicts with those hours, he or she should speak with the professor before or after class to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet. Students should also feel free to telephone him at 617-358-0197 or email him at wrkeylor@bu.edu.

PLAGIARISM: WHAT IT IS AND HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND AVOID IT

“What is Plagiarism and Why is it Important?”

In college courses, we are continually engaged with other people’s ideas: we read them in texts, hear them in lecture, discuss them in class, and incorporate them into our own writing. As a result, it is very important that we give credit where it is due. Plagiarism is using others’ ideas and words without clearly acknowledging the source of that information.

How Can Students Avoid Plagiarism?

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use:

- another person’s idea, opinion, or theory;
- any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings—any pieces of information—that are not common knowledge;
- quotations of another person’s actual spoken or written words; or
- paraphrase of another person’s written or spoken words.”

The above quotation is taken from a website of the Writing Tutorial Services of Indiana University. For information about how to recognize unacceptable and acceptable paraphrases, strategies for avoiding plagiarism, and a discussion of what common knowledge consists of, please see www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html

Plagiarism Will Not Be Tolerated at Boston University

Since plagiarism is a form of theft (in this case, theft of ideas or words), it is not tolerated in this university and is punished very severely by the Dean’s Office of the College of Arts and Sciences.

LIST OF READINGS

The following books that will be used in the course are available at the Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Boston University:

- Susan R. Grayzel, Women and the First World War (London, Pearson, 2002)
 Jennifer D. Keene, The United States and the First World War (London, Pearson, 2000)
 William R. Keylor, ed., The Legacy of The Great War: Peacemaking, 1919
 (Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1998)
 Stuart Robson, The First World War (New York: Longman, 1999)
 David Stevenson, The First World War and International Politics (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991)
 Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee and Frans Coetzee, World War I and European Society (Lexington: D.C. Heath and Company, 1995)

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Sept. 8: Introduction and Overview
- Sept. 15: Causes of the War and Aims of the Belligerents
 Robson, pp. 1-21, Document 1.
 Stevenson, Chap. 1, pp. 1-41
 Coetzee and Coetzee, Part I, Sections A and B
- Sept. 22: Stalemate and Slaughter on the Battle Front, 1914-1917
 Robson, pp. 22-32, 61-66, Documents 2, 6, 7, and 16
 Stevenson, Chaps. 2 and 3, pp. 41-138
 Coetzee and Coetzee, Part I, Sections C and D
- Sept. 29: The Home Front: Staying the Course Amid Death and Destruction
 Robson, pp. 33-39, Document 8.
 Coetzee and Coetzee, Part II, Part III, Sections A and B
- Oct. 6: Discontent, Mutiny, and Revolution, 1917-1918
 Robson, pp. 40-54, 67-75, Documents 3, 4, 6, and 7
 Stevenson, Chaps 4, 5, and 6, pp. 139-244
 Coetzee and Coetzee, Part III, Section C
**WRITTEN SUMMARY OF RESEARCH TOPIC DUE IN CLASS.
 WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF BOOK TO BE REVIEWED DUE
 IN CLASS.**
- Oct. 13: Wilson's War to End War: Politics, Economy, and Society
 in the United States
 Keene, Introduction, Chaps. 1, 2, and 3
- Oct. 20: "Lafayette, We are Here!": The Experience of the American
 Expeditionary Force in France
 Keene, Chap. 4
- Oct. 27: The Political and Cultural Consequences of the War
 Robson, pp. 76-86, Documents 10, 11, 12, and 13.
 Coetzee and Coetzee, Part IV, pp. 299-352
 Grayzel, Introduction, Chaps. 2-6
- Nov. 3: Presentations and Discussions of Research Projects

- Nov. 10: Presentations and Discussions of Research Projects
BOOK REVIEW DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS.
- Nov. 17: Presentations and Discussions of Research Projects
- Nov. 24: No class. Fall recess begins.
- Dec. 1: The Peace Settlement: Collective Security and Economic Reconstruction
Stevenson, Chap. 6, pp. 244-254
Keylor, Introduction, pp. 63-117, 118-167
Keene, Chap. 5, pp. 69-77
- Dec. 8: The Peace Settlement: Redrawing the Map of the World
Stevenson, Chap. 6, pp. 254-324
Keylor, pp. 17-61, pp. 187-196, 223-254
RESEARCH PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS