

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

Fall Semester 2014

Instructor: Professor William R. Keylor

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00-12:00 noon; Wednesdays, 11:00-12:00 noon;

Thursdays, 11:00.-12:00 noon; and by appointment

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Classroom: Room IRB 102, 154 Bay State Road

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

This course is designed to introduce students to the military, political, social, economic, colonial, and cultural context and consequences of the First World War that began a hundred years ago this fall and lasted for more than four years (1914-1918). We will also study the peace settlement after the war, which was supposed to create a stable international order of peace and security but collapsed within two decades. The course will include some "drum and trumpet" military history (the 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 the 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, long-range artillery, 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 and religious 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 the peace settlement that followed it 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 Wednesdays from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Room IRB 102, 154 Bay State Road. 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 topics for the week. 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, 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 class meeting on **October 8**. **On November 12** students will take a two-hour examination that will cover the material dealt with in the assigned readings, the professor's remarks introducing the weekly topics, and the audio-visual materials presented. During the class meetings on **December 3 and December 10** students will give a 20 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, 12 point font, double-spaced) will be due at the beginning of the last class on **December 10**. The student must submit the paper by email as an attachment and then as a printed copy to the professor in the last class. Extensions of time for the submission of the paper will be granted only in case of serious illness, 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.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

The grade for the course will be calculated on the basis of the research paper (50%), the examination (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. He will hold office hours on Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 noon, Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00 noon.. If the student's schedule conflicts with those hours, he or she should speak with the professor before or after class or communicate by email to arrange a mutually convenient

time to meet. Students should always 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 was taken from the website of the Writing Tutorial Services of Indiana (<http://www.indiana.edu/-wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>).

### **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. Please review the Boston University Academic Conduct Code at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/>, and approach the professor with any questions.

## **LIST OF READINGS**

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

Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee and Frans Coetzee, Empires, Soldiers, and Citizens; A World War One Sourcebook (2nd edition, New York: Wiley, 2012)

Susan R. Grayzel, Women and the First World War (London: Pearson, 2002)

David Kennedy, Over Here (4<sup>th</sup> edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2004)

William R. Keylor, ed., The Legacy of The Great War: Peacemaking, 1919  
(New York: Cengage, 1998)

Stuart Robson, The First World War (2nd edition, New York: Longman, 2007)

## READING ASSIGNMENTS AND DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Sept. 3: Introduction and Overview of the Course
- Sept. 10: Causes of the War and Aims of the Belligerents  
 Robson, pp. 3-22, Document 1.  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, pp. 1-35
- Sept. 17 Stalemate and Slaughter on the Battle Front, 1914-1917  
 Robson, pp.23-39, 51-67, 73-78, Documents 1, 7, 8, 15, and 17  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, pp. 37-86, 97-115, 125-137
- Sept. 24: The Home Front: Staying the Course Amid Death and Destruction  
 Robson, pp. 40-48, Document 9.  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, pp. 159-194
- Oct. 1: Discontent, Mutiny, and Revolution, 1917- 1918  
 Robson, pp. 79-87, 91-99, Documents 3-5, 12-14  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, pp. 277-325
- Oct. 8: Wilson's War to End War: The Home Front and the Battlefield for the United States  
 Kennedy (all)  
**WRITTEN SUMMARY OF RESEARCH TOPIC AND TENTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE IN CLASS.**
- Oct. 15: The Women's War  
 Grayzel, Introduction, Chaps. 2-6  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, pp. 194-216
- Oct. 22: The War of Ideas: Religion, Race, Ethnicity, Ideology  
 Shevin-Coetzee and Coetzee, 230-325
- Oct. 29: The Peace Settlement: Collective Security & Economic Reconstruction  
 Keylor, pp. 1-14, pp. 63-117, 118-167
- Nov. 5: The Peace Settlement: The Future of European Security  
 Keylor, pp. 17-61
- Nov. 12: The Peace Settlement: Redrawing the Map of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East  
 Keylor, pp. 169-221, 223-227, 238-254
- Nov. 19: **TWO HOUR EXAMINATION (IN CLASS)**

Thanksgiving recess, Nov. 26-Dec. 1

Dec. 3: Presentation of Research Projects

Dec. 10: Presentation of Research Projects

**RESEARCH PAPERS DUE AT BEGINNING OF CLASS**

Dec. 11, 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.: Symposium on the Great War at the Castle (corner of Bay State Road and Granby Street (details later).