



Boston University Study Abroad
London

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 14 th April
C. Location	Harrington Room, 43 Harrington Gardens, SW7 4JU
D. BU Telephone	020 7244 6255
E. Email	jjputkowski@msn.com
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:

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.

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:

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; Caeserani, D., "An embattled minority: the Jews in Britain during the First World War", in Kushner, T. & Lunn (eds.), *Marginality: Race, the Radical Right and minorities in Twentieth Century Britain*, London, 1990; De Groot, G., *British Society in the Era of the Great War*, London: Longman, London, 1996. P p. 174-195; Gregory, A., *The Last Great War – British Society and the First World War*, Cambridge: CUP, 2008. pp. 70-73, 101-108; Haste, C., *Keep the Home Fires Burning: Propaganda in the First World War*. London: Allen Lane, 1978. 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.

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.

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.

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:

Braybon, G., and Summerfield, P., *Out of the Cage – Women’s Experiences in Two World Wars*, London: Pandora, 1987.11 – 78; Noakes, L., *Women in the British Army*, London, Routledge, pp. 39-81; 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.

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:

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.

Friday 8 April

Session 7: *Field Study Visit to the Cabinet War Rooms, Whitehall*

Directed exploration

Preparing 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:

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; Grayzel, S., *At Home and under fire; air raids and culture in Britain from the Great War to the Blitz* CUP, Cambridge, 2012, pp. 141-294; 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; Pugh, M., *'We Danced All Night': A Social History of Britain Between the Wars*, London, Bodley Head, pp. 57-101; 171-192; 364-390;

Browse:

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

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:

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; Gardiner, J. *Wartime Britain 1939-1945* London, Headline, 2004, 331-408; 496-609; Jones, H., *British civilians in the front line: Air raids, productivity and wartime culture, 1939-1945*, Manchester: MUP, 2006; Mack, J., and Humphries, S., *London at War*, London: Guild Publishing/LWT, 1985.128-153; Mackay, R., *Half the Battle – civilian morale in Britain during the Second World War*, MUP, Manchester, 2007, pp. 45 – 87; Waller, M., *London 1945*, London: John Murray, 2004.118-154.

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;

Recommended Reading: Bushaway, B., “Name Upon Name: the Great War and Remembrance” in *Myths of the English*. ed. Porter, R., London: Polity Press, 1992. 136-167; Rose, 1-28.

Recommended reading: 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; Summerfield, P., “*It did me good in lots of ways*, British women in transition from war to peace” in Duchén & Banhauer-Schoffmann (eds.), *When the War was over*, Leicester University Press, London, 2000, pp. 13 – 28; 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/>

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:

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

Beckett, I.F.W., *The Great War*, Harlow, Pearson Educational, 2007 edn.

Braybon, G., *Women Workers in the First World War* (London, Croom Helm), 1981

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.

Edgerton, D., *Britain's War Machine*, London, Penguin, 2011.

Gardiner, J. *Wartime Britain 1939-1945* London, Headline, 2004.

Gullace, N., *The Blood of Our Sons: Men, Women, and the Renegotiation of British Citizenship During the Great War*, London, Palgrave, 2003.

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

Jones, H., *British civilians in the front line: Air raids, productivity and wartime culture, 1939-1945*, MUP, Manchester, 2006

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

Millman, B., 'HMG and the War against Dissent 1914-18, *Journal of Contemporary History* 40 (2005), pp. 413-40.

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

White, J. *Zeppelin Nights: London in the First World War*, London, Bodley Head, 2014

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

Students will need to collect from the Library:

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.

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/>

Additional reading may be found on Blackboard: <https://lms.bu.edu>