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SOS 280
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HISTORY 425: THE ERA OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR SPRING 2016

Thursday, 2:00-4:50 p.m.
THH 107



No single event shaped the twentieth century more than The Great War of 1914-1918. During its course, and in its wake, traditional empires and monarchies crumbled, the first communist state was born, and the seeds were sown for the rise of fascism, Nazism, the outbreak of the Second World War, and the Holocaust. In the midst of the one-hundredth anniversary of World War One, historians continue to grapple with its multiple dimensions and significance. This seminar will begin with a broad overview of the War, and then closely examine its causes, course, and impacts through multi-media primary and secondary sources, including art, poetry, film, fiction, memoirs, and war front correspondence. Weekly discussions will focus on interpretations of the war through these various media. Students will submit brief response papers each week. The first half of the course will focus on common readings. Some common readings will continue, but the second half of the course will focus more on individual research projects that will become the basis of a 12-15 page paper.

Please note: this course will provide you with the opportunity to begin to develop a research topic for an honors thesis, if you are interested in applying for the History Department honors program. If so, you will have the opportunity to develop the research in this course further over the summer (*very possibly with funding from resources such as SOAR, SURF or Foulke*), and then write your thesis in HIST 492 in the fall.

Learning Objectives

- Fundamental understanding of the causes, course, outcome, lived experience and impacts of the First World War
- Skill at reading and analyzing primary and secondary sources
- Skill in researching primary sources and writing research paper
- Skill in oral presentation

Readings may include, among others, the following:

Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*

Susan Grayzel, *The First World War: A brief History with Documents*

Adam Hochschild, *To End all Wars*

Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Pat Barker, *Regeneration*

Films will be chosen from the following:

Abel Gantz, *J'accuse*, 1919

Jean Renoir, *Grand Illusion*, 1937

Stanley Kubrick, *Paths of Glory* 1958

Peter Weir, *Gallipoli* 1981

Bertrand Tavernier, *Life and Nothing But* 1989