



## Syllabus

### HIS 261 War and Society in the Age of Total War: World Wars I and II

#### General Information

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**Date** March 8th, 2024

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**Department** Social Science

**Course Prefix** HIS

**Course Number** 261

**Course Title** War and Society in the Age of Total War: World Wars I and II

#### Course Information

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**Catalog Description** This course focuses on the era of global conflict between 1870 and 1945, from the Franco-Prussian War, the trenches of the 1914-18 Western Front and the beaches of WWII Normandy and Iwo Jima, to the Holocaust, the birth of the atomic age and the dawn of the Cold War. The First and Second World Wars were history's first modern, industrial, technological, multidimensional, total and global conflicts, whose legacy continues to shape the world today. Of particular interest will be the crucial interaction between war and society: how societies give form and substance to modern conflict and how wars, in turn, spark dramatic social, political and economic change. This course carries SUNY General Education credit in World History and Global Awareness.

**Credit Hours** 3

**Lecture Contact Hours** 3

**Lab Contact Hours** 0

**Other Contact Hours** 0

**Grading Scheme** Letter

#### Prerequisites

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ENG 101 or Permission of Instructor

#### Co-requisites

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None

## First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

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**This course is designated as satisfying the outcomes applicable for status as a Capstone Course**

## SUNY General Education

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**This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed category**

World History and Global Awareness

## FLCC Values

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### **Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course**

Inquiry and Interconnectedness

## Course Learning Outcomes

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### **Course Learning Outcomes**

1. Identify some of the major developments, events and themes of the 1870-1945 era in international relations and global conflict.
2. Describe the values, structures, systems and interrelationships of the various belligerent powers during the era of total war, and their impact on well-being and sustainability during the 1870-1945 period.
3. Describe the relevance of the 1870-1945 Age of Total War to the educational path they are following, and the impact of WWI, WWII, the Holocaust and/or the atomic age on themselves, their peers, the institution and/or the community.

## Outline of Topics Covered

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### **Conflict in the Twentieth Century: Themes**

#### **Origins of the First World War**

- The First World War in Context
- Napoleonic Roots: Mobility, Elan and the Offensive Spirit
- Total War and the Birth of German Nationalism
- Clausewitz and 19<sup>th</sup> century Military Doctrine
- Industrial Revolution in Warfare
- From Musket to Machine Gun

- Transport and Communications Revolution
- Naval Developments: Ship of the Line to Dreadnought
- Wars of Italian and German Unification
- Imperialism and Great Power Tension
- Social Darwinism, Lebensraum and Modernism

### **Short-Term of the First World War**

- Formation of the Alliance System
- Pan-Slavism and the Austro-Hungarian Dilemma
- Bismarck, German Unification and the *Dreikaiserbund*
- Wilhelm II, Weltpolitik and the Triple Alliance
- Imperial German Ambitions in the Middle East
- Franco-Prussian War, 1870-1 and its Legacy
- Imperial Russia, the Russo-Japanese War of 1905 and the Rise of Modern Japan
- British Empire in Crisis: South African War of 1898-1902, the Anglo-German Naval Race and the End of "Splendid Isolation"
- The Fashoda Crisis of 1898 and the Formation of the *Entente Cordiale*
- Anglo-Russian Alliance and the Triple Entente
- First Moroccan Crisis (1905) and the Agadir Crisis (1911)
- Disintegration of the Ottoman Empire
- Bosnian Annexation Crisis of 1908
- Balkan Crisis of 1911-12
- The July Crisis, 1914 and the Outbreak of WWI
- Apportioning Blame

### **WWI Begins: Opening Moves**

#### **The First World War**

- Schlieffen Plan & Opening Moves, 1914
- Trench Warfare and the Western Front

- Verdun, the Somme and the Inferno of 1916
- The Eastern (Russian) Front, 1914-17
- Peripheral Campaigns: Dardanelles, Italy, Macedonia, Africa and the Middle East
- The Air War, 1914-18
- Mobilizing Science and Technology: Tanks, Subs & Chemical Warfare
- Total War on the Home Front
- Rise of the Modern Interventionist State

### **Making Peace and Creating a New International Order: The Paris Peace Treaties of 1919**

- Germany and the Treaty of Versailles
- The Habsburg Empire and the Treaties of St. Trianon and St. Germain
- Remaking the Middle East: The Treaty of Sevres
  - Arab Nationalism, the Disintegration of the Ottoman Empire and the Rise of Modern Turkey
  - Sykes-Picot: Franco-British Mandates in Syria, Iraq and Palestine
  - Zionism, the Balfour Declaration and a Jewish State
  - Arab Nationalism and the Question of Palestine
- Anticolonialism and Self-Determination in the Far East
  - China and the Rise of Imperial Japan
  - Ho Chi Minh and Indochina
- League of Nations

### **Russian Revolution, 1917-21**

- Marxism and the Revolution of 1905
- Lenin and the Bolshevik Revolution
- Treaty of Brest-Litovsk, 1918
- Russian Civil War
- Emergence of the U.S.S.R.

- Lenin's "Revolution from Above": One-Party State, the Comintern, Red Army and the Cheka
- The Soviet Union and the World: Containment and the "First Cold War"

## **The 1920s Age of Illusion**

- International Instability and Uncertainty, 1919-24
  - The "Lost Generation" and the Trauma of the Great War
  - German Resistance to the Versailles Diktat: Scapa Flow, the Ruhr, Hyperinflation and the Communist Threat
- Stabilization and Cooperation, 1925-9
  - The Roaring Twenties, Mass Consumerism/Culture, and Progressivism
  - Rehabilitation of Germany: Weimar Republic, Dawes Plan and the Stresemann Era
  - International Harmony and Disarmament
    - Washington Naval Conference, 1921
    - Locarno Agreements, 1925
    - Kellogg-Briand Pact, 1928
    - Geneva Convention, 1929

## **Revisionism and the Road to WW2**

- Stock Market Crash of 1929 and the Global Financial Crisis
- The Great Depression, 1929-39: Economic, Psychological and Political Effects
- Stalinist Russia
  - Modernization: "Socialism in One Country," the Collectivization of Agriculture and Forced Industrialization
  - Repression: The NKVD, the "Great Terror," the Great Purges, Ethnic Cleansing and the War on Religion

- Mussolini's Italy
  - Italian Fascism
  - *Italia Irredenta*, Italian Revisionism and the "Second Roman Empire"
  - Italo-Ethiopian War, 1935
  - The Axis Forms, 1936
  - Invasion of Albania, 1939
  - Invasion of Greece, 1940
  
- Spanish Civil War, 1936-39
  
- Rise of Nazi Germany, 1932-9
  - Hitler in WWI
  - The Beer Hall Putsch, Landsberg and *Mein Kampf*
  - The Great Depression in Germany and the Collapse of Weimar Republic
  - *Gleichschaltung*: The National Socialist German Worker Party (NSDAP) in Power
  
- Hitler and the Road to WWII
  - Dismantling the Versailles Treaty:
    - Rearmament
    - The Saar, 1935
    - Remilitarization of the Rhineland, 1936
  - Ideological, Political, Economic and Racial Goals
  - Moving Beyond Versailles, 1938-9
    - Anschluss, March 1938
    - Czech Crisis, Munich Agreement and Appeasement Controversy, Oct. 1938
    - The Polish Crisis, August-Sept, 1939

## **Second World War in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, 1939-45**

- The Second World War: Its Place in History
- The Polish Campaign, 1939

- Soviet Revisionism in Eastern Europe and the Baltic
- Blitzkrieg in the West: Scandinavia, Low Countries and France 1940
- Operation Sea Lion, the Battle of Britain and the Blitz, 1940
- Barbarossa: The Eastern Front, 1941-44: Moscow, Leningrad, Stalingrad, Kursk and *Bagratiön*
- Stalin and the Soviet War Effort
- North Africa, the Balkans and the Mediterranean, 1940-42
- Italian Campaign, 1943-45
- Allied Diplomacy: Casablanca, Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam
- The Air War, 1942-45
- War at Sea, 1939-45
- Total War on the Home Front
- Inside Occupied Europe: Hitler's 'New Order', Collaboration and Resistance
- Technology and Intelligence
- Overlord and the Liberation of France, 1944
- Long Road into Germany: Arnhem and the Ardennes
- Unconditional Surrender: Collapse of the Reich, 1945
- Legacy of WWII: Bipolarity, Cold War, Decolonization, United Nations

## **The Holocaust**

- The Holocaust in History
- *Gulat* and Diaspora: Masada to the Middle Ages
- European Antisemitism in the Age of Reformation, Enlightenment and Nationalism
- Zionism, the Russian Revolution and the post-WWI Jewish-Palestinian Conflict
- Germany's Scapegoat: The "November Criminals" and the Dolchstoß Myth
- Nazi Antisemitism and the "Jewish Question"
- Hitler's Campaign Against the Jews
  - Phase One: Harassment, 1932-5

- Phase Two: Legal Discrimination, Isolation and the Nuremberg Laws, 1935-8
- Phase Three: Violence: *Kristallnacht*, Expulsion, Resettlement and Ghettoization, 1938-41
- Barbarossa, the *Einsatzgruppen* and "Ordinary Men" in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, 1941
- The Wannsee Conference and the Final Solution, 1942
- Apparatus of Genocide: Concentration and Extermination Camp System
- German Collaborators/Allies and the Holocaust
- Resistance and Non-Resistance to the Holocaust
- Allied Policy and the Holocaust
- The Other/Forgotten Holocaust
- Reckoning: The Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal, 1945-6
- Legacy: Israel, Reparations, the United Nations and Ethnic Cleansing in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### **War in the Pacific, 1941-45**

- Imperial Japan: From the Meiji Restoration to the Russo-Japanese War, 1905
- WWI in the Pacific
- Interwar Japan: the 'Twenty-One Demands' and the Naval Treaty of 1921
- Depression-era Japan and the Invasion of Manchuria
- Sino-Japanese War and Indochina, 1937-45
- The Rape of Nanking and the "Asian Holocaust"
- U.S. – Japanese Relations, 1937-41
- "Days of Infamy:" Pearl Harbor, Singapore and the Philippines
- Turning the Tide in the Pacific: Coral Sea, Midway and Guadalcanal
- The China-Burma-India Theater
- Island-Hopping: New Guinea, The Gilberts, Carolines, Marshalls and Marianas Campaigns
- Closing In: Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Return to the Philippines



- Bushido and Kamikaze: Japan and Total War
- Air War in the Pacific

### **Hiroshima and the Birth of the Atomic Age**

- The Manhattan Project
- The Total War and "Unconditional Surrender" Dynamic
- Roosevelt, Truman and the Decision to use the A-Bomb
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945
- Postwar Japan: Surrender, Occupation and Nation-Building
- The Atomic Age Begins
- The A-Bomb Controversy and the Legacy of Hiroshima