

**HIST 6686 Topics in European History**  
**Modern European Military History**  
**Thurs. 5:30 – 8:00 pm**  
**CRN 80347**  
**Fall 2011**  
**Pafford 208**

Professor: Dr. Tim Schroer  
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Office hours: Tues. 10:00 to noon, Thurs. 2:00 to 5:00, or by appointment

**Course Description**

In this course we will examine readings in military history. We will consider a variety of questions. What are the recent trends in modern European military historiography? What are the important questions addressed in military history? What methods of studying military history appear most promising? What are the bounds of military history; for example, where does military history end and cultural history begin? Why study military history?

**Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete the course will be able to demonstrate:

- An understanding of important historiographical questions in the field;
- An understanding of trends in the study of modern European military history; and
- The ability to critically review historical scholarship both orally and in writing.

**Required Materials:**

John Keegan, *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme* (New York: Penguin, 1983) ISBN 9780140048971.  
Robert Citino, *The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years' War to the Third Reich* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2005) ISBN 978-0-7006-1624-4.  
Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0-8014-7293-0.  
Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000) ISBN 0395937582.  
Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1975) ISBN 9780195133325.  
Gary Sheffield, *Forgotten Victory: The First World War, Myths and Realities* (London: Headline Review, 2001) ISBN 978-0747264606. This work is not available from the bookstore; it must be ordered online.  
Mark Thompson, *The White War: Life and Death on the Italian Front 1915-1919* (Basic Books: 2010) 978-0465020379.  
Alexander Rossino, *Hitler Strikes Poland: Blitzkrieg, Ideology, and Atrocity* (University Press of Kansas, 2005) ISBN 978-0-7006-1392-2.  
Antony Beevor, *The Fall of Berlin, 1945* (New York: Viking, 2002) ISBN 9780142002803.

There will also be several reserve readings.

**Grading**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Participation     | 50 percent |
| Five book reviews | 50 percent |

Each student will write reviews of five of the monographs, including the books by Citino and Hull. Each review should be at least three pages and no more than four pages, typed, double-spaced. Thoughtful contributions made in class discussions will be credited in the class participation grade. Behavior (such as tardiness) that impedes other students' learning will be penalized. No extra credit will be offered.

**Policies**

I expect each student to understand and to comply with the University of West Georgia's policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty. They may be found in the Student Handbook, on the web at <http://www.westga.edu/documents/catalogs.php>. Academic honesty prohibits taking credit for someone else's work. Academic dishonesty will result in failing the course and may also bring additional penalties imposed by the university.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and university policy, I will make reasonable accommodation for any recognized disability. Students should contact me during the first three weeks of the course and present documentation from the University's Student Development Center.

Students are expected to attend every class meeting. All submitted written work must be unique to this course and original. Late papers will be penalized by deducting one letter grade for each day the assignment is late.

**Course Schedule**

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| Aug. 25 | Introduction   |
| Sep. 1  | John Keegan, <i>The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo, and the Somme</i> (New York: Penguin, 1983). |

- Excerpt from Joanna Bourke, *An Intimate History of Killing* (electronic reserve).
- Sep. 8 Robert Citino, *The German Way of War: From the Thirty Years' War to the Third Reich* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2005).
- Sep. 15 Isabel Hull, *Absolute Destruction: Military Culture and the Practices of War in Imperial Germany* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005).
- Sep. 22 Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1975).  
Robin Prior and Trevor Wilson, "Paul Fussell at War," *War in History* 1 (1994): 63-80.
- Sep. 29 Tim Cook, "The Politics of Surrender: Canadian Soldiers and the Killing of Prisoners in the Great War," *The Journal of Military History* 70 (2006): 637-66.  
Heather Jones, "The Final Logic of Sacrifice? Violence in German Prisoner of War Labor Companies in 1918," *The Historian* 68 (2006): 747-69 (electronic reserve).  
Timothy Schroer, "Racial Mixing of Prisoners of War during the First World War," in *Other Combatants, Other Fronts: Competing Histories of the First World War*, ed. Alisa Miller, Laura Rowe, and James Kitchen (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, forthcoming) (electronic reserve).
- Oct. 6 Mark Thompson, *The White War: Life and Death on the Italian Front 1915-1919* (New York: Basic Books: 2010).
- Oct. 13 Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring: The Great War and the Birth of the Modern Age* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2000).
- Oct. 20 Gary Sheffield, *Forgotten Victory: The First World War, Myths and Realities* (London: Headline Review, 2001).
- Oct. 27 Stephen Heathorn, "The Mnemonic Turn in the Cultural Historiography of Britain's Great War," *The Historical Journal* 48 (2005): 1103-24.  
Niall Ferguson, "How (Not) to Pay for the War: Traditional Finance and 'Total' War," in *Great War, Total War: Combat and Mobilization on the Western Front, 1914-1918*, ed. Roger Chickering and Stig Förster (Cambridge: German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. and Cambridge University Press, 2000), 409-34 (electronic reserve).  
Susan Grayzel, "Liberating Women? Examining Gender, Morality and Sexuality in First World War Britain and France," in *Evidence, History and the Great War*, ed. Gail Braybon (New York: Berghahn, 2003), 113-34 (electronic reserve).
- Nov. 3 Alexander Rossino, *Hitler Strikes Poland: Blitzkrieg, Ideology, and Atrocity* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2005).
- Nov. 10 Waitman Beorn, "Negotiating Murder: A Panzer Signal Company and the Destruction of the Jews of Peregruznoe, 1942," *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 23, no. 2 (2009): 185-213.  
Thomas Kühne, *Genocide and Belonging* excerpt (electronic reserve).  
Chapter on the Crimes of the Wehrmacht in *Facing the Nazi Past: United Germany and the Legacy of the Third Reich*, Bill Niven (London and New York: Routledge, 2002) (electronic reserve).
- Nov. 17 Antony Beevor, *The Fall of Berlin, 1945* (New York: Viking, 2002).
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving
- Dec. 1 Robert M. Citino, "Military Histories Old and New: A Reintroduction," *The American Historical Review* 112 (2007): 1070-90.  
Joe Perry, Wartime Christmas (electronic reserve).
- Dec. 8 Conclusion