

Syllabus

Hist 635-B04: War and Society in Modern Europe

Summer 2011, B Session, George Mason University

Instructor: Mark R. Stoneman, Ph.D.

Classes: Tues. and Thurs., 7:20–10:00 p.m., Art and Design Building L008

Office Hours: Tues., 6:00–7:00 p.m., Robinson B 373C

Email: mstonema@gmu.edu

Blackboard: <http://mymason.gmu.edu>

Description

Modern European history cannot be understood without also studying the history of war. Likewise, the history of war in modern Europe cannot be understood independently of the broader social, political, cultural, economic, and technological context within which Europeans fought their wars. Ironically, however, military developments do not receive adequate attention in general European history, and broad developments in European society tend to be overlooked in histories of warfare—or so it often seems. In fact, there are general historians, albeit too few, who incorporate military history into their research and teaching, and there are military historians who carefully contextualize their work. If military history is sometimes looked down upon in the academy, its practitioners and those who refuse to accept the label of “military historian” have nonetheless produced an impressive body of work. In a field described with labels such as “war and society” and “new military history,” it has become possible to link military history, social history, cultural history, gender history, political history, and economic history to understand the all-encompassing activity that war became in the first half of the twentieth century. In this course, we will sample some of this literature as well as a limited number of primary sources, whereby the emphasis will be on the historiography. We will discuss books in common, and each student will also present and write a review of a specialized monograph. The larger project for the term will be a historiographical essay that reviews the relevant literature on a specific topic, either covering an aspect of war and its societal context or examining a seemingly nonmilitary development and its actual relationship to war.

Requirements

Attendance is mandatory. As for the rest, your grade will be determined by the following components according to the percentages that follow them:

- Informed Class Participation 25%
- Book Presentation (10–15 min.) 10%
- Book Review (5 pages) 15%
- Historiographical Essay (15–20 pages plus bibliography) 50%

Directions for the book presentation, book review, and historiographical essay will be posted on Blackboard. We will work out the schedule for book presentations and book reviews in the first two days of class. The historiographical essay will have three deadlines: one for topic choice, one for a progress report, and one for the essay itself. You must meet all of these deadlines to receive credit for the project. Furthermore, all deadlines for all assignments are non-negotiable. The compressed nature of the summer term leaves no wiggle room, so late submissions will not be accepted. Please plan accordingly. (Only exception: significant illness or injury for which you can supply acceptable attestation, in which case timely communication will also be essential.)

Grading System

I determine all grades for the above components as letter grades, but then I convert them to numbers based on a 100-point scale, in order to determine your course average. The equivalents I use are as

follows: A = 95 (occasionally higher for particularly excellent work), A- = 92.5, A-/B+ = 90, B+ = 87.5, B = 85, B- = 82.5, B-/C+ = 80, C+ = 77.5, C = 75, C- = 72.5, C-/D+ = 70, D = 65, F = 55, and not submitting an assignment = 0.

I calculate course grades according to the weighting in the requirements section above. The cutoff for an A in the course is a 93 average, for an A- a 90 average, for a B+ an 87.5 average, for a B an 83, for a B- an 80, for a C+ a 77.5, for a C a 73, for a C- a 70, and for a D a 60.

Communication

The best way to reach me outside of class and office hours is via email to mstonema@gmu.edu. Also, you should contact me from your own Mason address to ensure that I get your message. Please do not try to call me, as I have no campus phone.

Please check your own email daily, because this is how I will communicate with students outside of class.

We will also be using Blackboard 9, which is available via <http://mymason.gmu.edu>. Here is where I will post announcements, directions for the assignments, etc. This is also where you will find the required online readings in the schedule below.

Honor System

Academic honesty is essential not only to the success of the course, but also to your academic and professional careers. Hence, you are expected to know what plagiarism is and abide by the GMU Honor System and Code at <http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/9798/honorcod.html>. If you are at all unclear about what plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty are, please talk to me.

Special Accommodations

Students requiring an academic accommodation should see me immediately and also contact the Office of Disability Services at <http://ods.gmu.edu> or (703) 993-2474.

Readings

There are seven required books (and two recommended books) that you are expected to obtain from the bookstore or another source in a timely fashion.

REQUIRED BOOKS (roughly in chronological order)

Connelly, Owen. *The Wars of the French Revolution and Napoleon, 1792–1815*. London and New York: Routledge, 2006.

Showalter, Dennis. *The Wars of German Unification*. London: Hodder Education, 2004.

Gregory, Adrian. *The Last Great War: British Society and the First World War*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Davis, Belinda J., *Food, Politics, and Everyday Life in World War I Berlin*. Chapel Hill and London: The University of North Carolina Press, 2000.

Mosse, George L. *Fallen Soldiers: Reshaping the Memory of the World Wars*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Stites, Richard, ed., *Culture and Entertainment in Wartime Russia*. Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1995.

Höhn, Maria and Martin Klimke, *A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Morillo, Stephen with Michael F. Pavkovic. *What is Military History?* Cambridge, UK and Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2006.

Use this book to become more comfortable with the basic assumptions, problems, and language of military history, including who does it and why as well as its broader epistemological issues. This book can also serve as a useful stepping stone for research into a variety of subjects. I recommend it highly, even for a course that is self-consciously entitled "War and Society." (You can even learn about the origins of this label and "New Military History" in this book.)

Townshend, Charles, ed. *The Oxford History of Modern War*. New ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Use this book as a basic reference and textbook when you need fast information or context. Its many chapters offer compact overviews of a variety of topics, including politics, technology, and gender, among many other things. This book also makes a useful bibliographical resource for beginning research on various topics.

REQUIRED ONLINE READINGS

There are also many journal articles and book chapters as well as a few primary sources; all of these readings are listed in the course schedule below and are available via Blackboard. Please keep in mind that most of these works are copyright-protected and may not be circulated freely on the internet. I am making them available for the purposes of this class only under fair use doctrine.

Schedule

All readings listed in this schedule are required. Come to the class under which they are listed having already read them and having prepared some questions that might be useful for our class discussion.

Most of the readings should be accessible to general, albeit educated readers. If you do not understand the historical context of a given reading, please take steps to do whatever outside reading is necessary to fill that gap. If you do not know where to start, please ask.

JUNE 7 TUES THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY AND NAPOLEONIC WARS (1)

- Book Discussion: Connelly, *Wars of the French Revolution and Napoleon*.
- Begin dividing up book presentations.

JUNE 9 THURS THE FRENCH REVOLUTIONARY AND NAPOLEONIC WARS (2)

- Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - "The Levée en Masse," August 23, 1793, Internet Modern History Sourcebook, ed. Paul Halsall, May 1998, <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1793levee.html>.
 - Roger Chickering, "A Tale of Two Tales: Grand Narratives of War in the Age of Revolution," in *War in an Age of Revolution, 1775–1815*, ed. Roger Chickering and Stig Förster (Washington, DC: German Historical Institute and Cambridge University Press, 2010), 1–17.
 - Ute Planert, "Innovation or Evolution? The French Wars in Military History," in *War in the Age of Revolution*, ed. Chickering and Förster, 69–84.
 - Dierk Walter, "Reluctant Reformers, Observant Disciples: The Prussian Military Reforms, 1807–1814," in *War in the Age of Revolution*, ed. Chickering and Förster, 85–99.
 - John Lawrence Tone, "Partisan Warfare in Spain and Total War," in *War in the Age of Revolution*, ed. Chickering and Förster, 243–59.

- Karen Hagemann, "The Military and Masculinity: Gendering the History of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, 1792–1815," in *War in the Age of Revolution*, ed. Chickering and Förster, 331–52.
 - Finish dividing up book presentations.
- JUNE 14 TUES THE WARS OF GERMAN UNIFICATION
- Book Discussion: Showalter, *Wars of German Unification*.
- JUNE 16 THURS VARIOUS THEMES, LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES
- * Book presentations according to schedule worked out in first two classes.
 - Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Mark R. Stoneman, "The Bavarian Army and French Civilians in the War of 1870–1871: A Cultural Interpretation," *War in History* 8, no. 3 (2001): 271–93.
 - Paula Krebs, "'The Last of the Gentlemen's Wars': Women in the Boer War Concentration Camp Controversy," *History Workshop*, no. 33 (1992): 38–56.
 - Patrick A. Dunae, "Boys' Literature and the Idea of Empire, 1870–1914," *Victorian Studies* 24, no. 1 (1980): 105–21.
- JUNE 18 SAT *BOOK REVIEWS DUE (selected students)*
- * If you gave a book presentation on Thursday, your book review is due by 5:00 p.m. today. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)
- JUNE 21 TUES WORLD WAR ONE
- * Historiography topic due via email by 8:30 a.m., though it would be better to work this out earlier. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)
 - Book Discussion: Gregory, *Last Great War*.
- JUNE 23 THURS WORLD WAR ONE
- * Book presentations according to schedule worked out in first two classes.
 - Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Stig Förster, "Dreams and Nightmares: German Military Leadership and the Images of Future Warfare, 1871–1914," in *Anticipating Total War: The German and American Experiences, 1871–1914*, ed. Manfred F. Boemeke, Roger Chickering, and Stig Förster (Washington, DC: German Historical Institute and Cambridge University Press, 1999), 343–76.
 - Mark R. Stoneman, "Mastering the Future," ch. 3 of "Wilhelm Groener, Officering, and the Schlieffen Plan" (PhD diss., Georgetown University, 2006), 106–80.
 - Alfred von Schlieffen, "War Today, 1909," in *Alfred von Schlieffen's Military Writings*, ed. and trans. Robert T. Foley (London and Portland, OR: Frank Cass, 2003), 194–205.
- JUNE 25 SAT *BOOK REVIEWS DUE (selected students)*
- * If you gave a book presentation on Thursday, your book review is due by 5:00 p.m. today. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)

- JUNE 28 TUES WORLD WAR ONE
- Book Discussion: Davis, *Food, Politics, and Everyday Life*.
- JUNE 30 THURS WORLD WAR ONE
- * Book presentations according to schedule worked out in first two classes.
 - Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Robert L. Nelson, "Soldier Newspapers: A Useful Source in the Social and Cultural History of the First World War and Beyond," *War in History* 17, no. 2 (2010): 167–91.
 - Joe Lunn, "Male Identity and Martial Codes of Honor: A Comparison of the War Memoirs of Robert Graves, Ernst Jünger, and Kande Kamara," *The Journal of Military History* 69, no. 3 (2005): 713–35.
 - Brian K. Feltman, "Tolerance As a Crime? The British Treatment of German Prisoners of War on the Western Front, 1914–1918," *War in History* 17, no. 4 (2010): 435–58.
- JULY 2 SAT BOOK REVIEWS DUE (selected students)
- * If you gave a book presentation on Thursday, your book review is due by 5:00 p.m. today. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)
- JULY 5 TUES MEMORIALIZING THE FALLEN
- Book Discussion: Mosse, *Fallen Soldiers*.
- JULY 7 THURS INTERWAR PERIOD AND WORLD WAR TWO
- * Book presentations according to schedule worked out in first two classes.
 - Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Roger Chickering and Stig Förster, "Introduction," in *The Shadows of Total War: Europe, East Asia, and the United States, 1919–1939*, ed. Stig Förster and Roger Chickering (Washington, DC: German Historical Institute and Cambridge University Press, 2003), 1–19.
 - Markus Pöhlmann, "Yesterday's Battles and Future War: The German Official Military History, 1918–1939," in *Shadows of Total War*, ed. Förster and Chickering, 223–38.
 - Brett Holman, "The Air Panic of 1935: British Press Opinion between Disarmament and Rearmament," *Journal of Contemporary History* 46, no. 2 (2011): 288–307).
- JULY 9 SAT BOOK REVIEWS DUE (selected students)
- * If you gave a book presentation on Thursday, your book review is due by 5:00 p.m. today. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)
- JULY 10 SUN PROGRESS REPORTS DUE
- * Progress reports on historiography projects due via email by 5:00 p.m. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)
- JULY 12 TUES WORLD WAR TWO
- Book Discussion: Stites, ed., *Culture and Entertainment*.

- JULY 14 THURS WORLD WAR TWO
- Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Wilhelm Deist, “‘Blitzkrieg’ or Total War? War Preparations in Nazi Germany,” in *Shadows of Total War*, ed. Förster and Chickering, 271–83.
 - Jennifer L. Foray, “The ‘Clean Wehrmacht’ in the German-occupied Netherlands, 1940–5,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 45, no. 4 (2010): 768–87.
 - Peter Fritzsche, “The Holocaust and the Knowledge of Murder,” review article, *The Journal of Modern History* 80, no. 3 (2008): 594–613.
 - * Project updates: Be prepared to talk about the current status of your project—and to offer questions and advice to your classmates.
- JULY 19 TUES TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY: A GERMAN-AMERICAN EXAMPLE
- Book Discussion: Höhn and Klimke, *Breath of Freedom*.
 - * Project updates: Be prepared to talk about the current status of your project—and to offer questions and advice to your classmates.
- JULY 21 THURS SELECTED POSTWAR TOPICS
- Discussion of Online Readings (available via Blackboard):
 - Greg Castillo, “Domesticating the Cold War: Household Consumption as Propaganda in Marshall Plan Germany,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 40, no. 2 (2005): 261–88.
 - Moshik Temkin, “‘Avec un certain malaise’: The Paxtonian Trauma in France, 1973–74,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 38, no. 2 (2003), 291–306.
 - Devin O. Pendas, “Seeking Justice, Finding Law: Nazi Trials in Postwar Europe,” review article, *The Journal of Modern History* 81, no. 2 (2009): 347–68.
 - * Project updates: Be prepared to talk about the current status of your project—and to offer questions and advice to your classmates.
- JULY 26 TUES LAST CLASS: STOCKTAKING
- JULY 26 THURS HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAYS DUE
- * Historiography essays due via email by 10:30 p.m. (See directions under assignments menu on Blackboard.)