

## **HIS 119: World War I**

Fall 2024

MWF 1:10 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Cruess 1002

Ian Campbell

Eric Rauchway

*Last modified September 4, 2024*

### **Course summary**

World War I and the ensuing settlement, 1914–1919. Causes, conduct, and consequences of the war including military, political, economic, social, and cultural factors, with special emphasis on connections between the home front and the battlefield.

The comprehensive description above notwithstanding, this course covers a complicated history in only ten weeks. Inevitably, some events, viewpoints, and aspects of the war will get short shrift or no time at all.

Because this course covers the First World War, it includes discussion, in both lecture and texts, of violence, atrocities, and forms of discrimination both casual and systemic. It is impossible to give a responsible account of the war or to analyze its impact without discussing such matters.

This course fulfills a World History requirement for the History major and a Peace and Security requirement for the International Relations major. It also fulfills GE credits in Social Sciences, World Cultures, and Writing Experience.

### **How to take this course**

You must attend sessions of the class as scheduled in the calendar below. You must also be prepared to use the computer you own that meets [UC Davis minimum requirements](#).

You must also download the [iClicker app for students](#) (you will not need to pay for it; UC Davis has a site license) and should do so before attending class for the first time.

You will need to turn in your final paper in .docx format—that is, the native format of Microsoft Word. You may use whatever writing program you wish, as long as you can save your document in .docx format. If you wish to use Word itself you may download it and use it free of further charge; UC Davis has a site license for it.

Nearly every class will involve a lecture. You must take notes on the lecture. Note-taking is not the same as transcription—that is, you should not try to record, word-for-word, what the speaker is saying. Rather, you should discern and write down the major points the lecturer is making and the evidence used to support these points. You should write down questions you have about the material as they occur to you. You should revisit your notes after you take them, probably the evening of the same day you took them. You should take notes when reading as well.

Please watch [this video](#) demonstrating how to take notes. Please note especially that reviewing notes is as important as taking them. Learning from note-taking is an activity with at least these two steps.

The calendar in this syllabus provides you with a schedule of lectures, assignments, and required reading. You must complete the reading before the date it is listed in the calendar. All the reading is provided to you at no extra cost by Shields Library through the “Reading List” menu item on Canvas.

Unannounced quizzes or other graded assignments may occur in class.

There are no make-ups for quizzes. We will drop the lowest of your quiz grades; that is the only remedy for a missed quiz.

If you miss an in-class exam (i.e., *not* a quiz) or cannot turn in a paper on time, you must immediately after your recovery provide a note from a qualified physician explaining that a medical emergency prevented you from doing the in-class exam or turning in the paper on time. This note must not refer to your specific condition. It must attest only to your inability to attend class to complete the assignment. On receiving such a note we will arrange a make-up if possible or assign an incomplete if not.

If you require an accommodation please consult the [Student Disability Center](#) and have them tell the instructors at the start of the quarter. Only SDC can authorize accommodations.

You must abide by the [Student Academic Code of Conduct](#). To sum up the essential portion: Do not claim as yours the work of another person or any computer program, be it Grammarly or ChatGPT or any other entity, natural or artificial, that offers to do your work for you, or any website or service that does so. Do your own work yourself.

If a personal, medical, mental health, or other matter is preventing you from doing the work in this class on a chronic basis, please consult [Student Health and Counseling Services](#). If you find for any reason that you are unable to do so, an instructor will refer you to an appropriate counselor.

### **If you have questions**

Professor Campbell’s email address is [iwcampbell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:iwcampbell@ucdavis.edu), and his office is Social Sciences and Humanities Building room 4207. This quarter he will hold open consultation hours on Mondays, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Office hours are first-come, first-served.

Professor Rauchway’s email address is [earauchway@ucdavis.edu](mailto:earauchway@ucdavis.edu), his office telephone is 530 754 1646, and his office is Social Sciences and Humanities Building room 3202. This quarter he will hold open consultation hours on Wednesdays, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Office hours are first-come, first-served.

You may also come speak to an instructor at the podium either just before class begins or just after it ends. If you have a question during lecture, please feel free to raise your hand; you may find you have to wave it a bit to get the lecturer’s attention.

Generally speaking, you should ask questions about lecture during lecture, when the topic you’re curious about is under discussion. If you have a question about the structure or requirements of the course please ask at the beginning of lecture, before the substantive material begins. Email really works only for very simple questions; if you have anything of any complexity to discuss please call on the telephone or come in person to office hours or to the podium just before or after class.

If you have questions about the course policies and resources, please first consult this syllabus and documents linked within it.

If you wish to request that an instructor re-grade an exam or a paper, you may make such a request no sooner than 24 hours after receiving the grade and no later than 72 hours after receiving the grade. Assignments merit re-grading only if you identify a substantive error—that is, you were marked down for something that was, in fact, correct. Any re-grade will entail a reassessment of the entire assignment and the new grade may end up lower than the original.

## Reading

Jaroslav Hašek, *The Good Soldier Švejk and His Fortunes in the World War* (New York: Crowell, 1974).

Louis Barthas, *Poilu: The World War I Notebooks of Corporal Louis Barthas, Barrelnmaker, 1914–1918* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2014).

T.E. Lawrence, *Revolt in the Desert* (New York: George H. Doran Company, 1927).

Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth: An Autobiographical Study of the Years 1900–1925* (London: Gollancz, 1978).

## Calendar

Lecture topics are subject to change.

Date	Topic	Assignment
Sep 25	Spark	Read this syllabus; set up iClicker
Sep 27	Tinderbox	
Sep 30	Guns of August	
Oct 2	Digging in	<i>Švejk</i> , Part I
Oct 4	Hobbling the bear	
Oct 7	Horrors	
Oct 9	Neutral zones	<i>Švejk</i> , Part II, ch. 2; Part III, ch. 4
Oct 11	Gallipoli	
Oct 14	Undersea war	
Oct 16	Poison gas	<i>Poilu</i> , notebooks 1–8
Oct 18	Great Russian retreat	
Oct 21	Isonzo	
Oct 23	Verdun	<i>Poilu</i> , notebooks 9–16
Oct 25	Somme	
Oct 28	Brusilov	
Oct 30	<b>First preliminary exam</b>	

*Schedule continued on next page*

Date	Topic	Assignment
Nov 1	Arab revolt	<i>Revolt</i> , through “Akaba, Suez, Allenby”
Nov 4	Easter rising	
Nov 6	Hard winter	
Nov 8	He kept us out of war	<i>Revolt</i> , finish
Nov 11	<i>Veterans Day</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Nov 13	Bolsheviks	<i>Testament</i> , ch. 1–4
Nov 15	Air power	
Nov 18	Mutinies	<i>Testament</i> , chs. 6, 9, 10
Nov 20	Total war, limited state	
Nov 22	Ludendorff offensives	
Nov 25	<b>Second preliminary exam</b>	
Nov 27	<i>Reading day</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Nov 29	<i>Thanksgiving travel</i>	<i>class does not meet</i>
Dec 2	Separate peace	
Dec 4	Treaties	
Dec 6	Legacies	<b>Final paper due</b>
Dec 13	<b>Final exam</b>	<b>8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.</b>

### Grades and weights

If you want to know how you are doing in the course, you may calculate your final grade by allocating twenty-five percent to each of the two exams, twenty-five percent to all in-class quizzes taken together, and twenty-five percent to the combined grade you will receive for the preliminary exam and the final paper. Please do not expect Canvas to calculate this grade for you because it will not be able to do it correctly; please do the calculation using this formula.

Please note, per policy of grade disputes above, that you may request a change of grade only for substantive reasons.

Percentage range	Letter grade
93–100	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
67–69	D+
63–66	D
60–62	D-
0–59	F

If you are taking the course P/NP, you will still be assigned a letter grade for the course and the conversion to P/NP will be done by the registrar, in keeping with university procedure. All matters concerning grades are governed by [Davis Division of the Academic Senate Regulations](#).

### **A caveat**

Because six years have passed since we had a single academic year at UC Davis without some extraordinary, campus-wide disruption of classes, it seems wise to concede it has become normal for abnormal things to occur. If such a disruption should happen again, the instructors will make it a priority to let you know whether and how the syllabus will change. To make sure you have the latest information, please go to the course Canvas site to download the most recent version of this syllabus.

### **Supplementary handouts & announcements**

Closer to the due dates for exams or papers we will provide you with prompts and other information to help you prepare. Two things you might want to know now:

Your study guide for the exams will be your notes, both on lecture and books. For the last preliminary exam, you may bring your notes on the books to the exam. Please take good notes.

For the final paper, you will need to provide footnote citations in the format prescribed by the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). To access that link, you will need to be logged in to the [library VPN](#).