SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2015-2016

HI 4015: THE THIRTY YEARS WAR, 1618–1648

30 CREDITS: 12 WEEKS

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:
The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure. You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR/COURSE TEAM

Professor Robert Frost. Tel. 01224-272453; e-mail robert.frost@abdn.ac.uk

Office Hours: Thursday, 1:00–2:00 or by appointment.

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
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TIMETABLE

For time and place of classes, please see MyAberdeen.

Students can also view their university timetable at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/infohub/study/timetables-550.php
COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course considers the impact of war on state and society by examining the Thirty Years War: the most important conflict of the seventeenth-century, which involved powers from across the continent, directly or indirectly. While the course will focus principally on the Holy Roman Empire, emphasis will be placed on comparing the different responses of the many states involved in the Thirty Years War to the unprecedented challenges of large-scale warfare in the age of the Military Revolution.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Aims

The primary aims of the course are:

- to deepen understanding of an event central to early modern European history
- to enhance appreciation of the range of approaches for understanding a major military conflict
- to train students to trace the impact of local military and political events on wider patterns of society, culture and ideas
- to develop the ability to use primary sources as a basis for historical analysis
- to develop understanding of the problems inherent in the use of primary sources.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course student should be able to:

- understand the causes—short and long-term; political, religious and military; domestic and international—of the Thirty Years War
- outline the course of the conflict—including major campaigns, treaties and interventions
- outline the conduct of the war—including its effects on local economies, populations and culture
- understand the consequences of the war—political and military, domestic and international, especially with respect to wider European intellectual and cultural developments
- distil from those narratives more general analysis of the fundamental processes at work in a major conflict
- trace the impact of a major military conflict on demography, economy, society, culture and ideas
- relate primary to secondary sources, and both to diverse historiographical traditions
- relate aspects of the Thirty Years War to larger historical debates
- to sustain arguments based on evidence drawn from primary sources
LECTURE/SEMinar PROGRAMME

Week 1
Sept 14 Introduction.
Sept 17 Europe and the Thirty Years War. A struggle for hegemony?

Week 2 Origins
Sept 21 The Coming of the War
Sept 24 The Bohemian Revolt

Week 3 The 1620s
Sept 28 Habsburg Triumph
Oct 1 The failure of a coalition: anti-Habsburg forces to 1629

Week 4 The Balance Shifts
Oct 5 The Lion of the North: Swedish intervention
Oct 8 The Holy Roman Empire 1629–1635

Week 5 The Habsburgs and their enemies
Oct 12 The Habsburg Alliance
Oct 15 After the Peace of Prague, 1635–1648.

Week 6 Making Peace
Oct 19 The Negotiations
Oct 22 The Peace of Westphalia

Week 7 Military Change and the Thirty Years War
Oct 26 Strategy and Tactics
Oct 29 Organisation and Logistics

Week 8 The Power of the State: ESSAY, DEADLINE NOON, FRIDAY 6th
Nov 2 War and the State
Nov 5 Armies and Politics

Week 9 The Impact of War
Nov 9 The Economic Impact
Nov 12 War and Society

Week 10 READING WEEK: GOBBET TEST: DEADLINE NOON, FRIDAY 20th

Week 11 Culture and War
Nov 23 Religion
Nov 26 Law & Diplomacy

Week 12
Nov 30 Revision (1)
Dec 3 Revision (2)
REQUIRED & WEEKLY READING

This bibliography provides general reading about the Thirty Years War as a whole, and suggested reading for each session. All students, whether or not they are making a presentation or leading discussion must read something for each week, even if it is only the relevant passages in Wilson, Asch or Parker. It is also important that you know and can comment on some of the selected documents: each student should prepare at least one document per week, which they may be asked to present to the class. A full bibliography for this course is available on MyAberdeen.

Course Textbook

Wilson, P.H. ed. The Thirty Years War. A Sourcebook (2010). The essential collection of documents. I have ordered copies for Blackwells and strongly suggest that you purchase this book.
Helferich, Tryntje, The Thirty Years War. A Documentary History (2009)

Other collections of documents:

Benecke, G., Germany in the Thirty Years War (1978)

Required Reading

Parker, G., The Thirty Years War (2nd ed, 1997): a collaborative effort, good on Europe and the war

Also useful

Whaley, Joachim, Germany and the Holy Roman Empire vol. 1 Maximilian I to the Peace of Westphalia (2012).
The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years’ War ed. Olaf Asbach and Peter Schröder (2014). Up to date articles on many aspects of the war.
Wedgwood, C.V., The Thirty Years War (1938) A classic narrative account.
Good portraits of many of the leading actors.

Readings for individual sessions

Week 1. Introduction

Sept 14 Introduction.

Sept 17 Europe and the Thirty Years War. A struggle for hegemony?

Questions and Problems

• Was the Thirty Years War ‘a struggle for Hegemony’?
• ‘From its origins a European war’. Discuss.

**Suggested Reading**


Steinberg, S.H., The ‘Thirty Years War’ and the Conflict for European Hegemony 1600-1660 (1966)

Sutherland, N.M., ‘The origins of the Thirty Years War and the structure of European politics’ English Historical Review 107 (1992)

**Week 2 Origins**

**Questions and problems**

- Why was the Holy Roman Empire so unstable in the first two decades of the seventeenth century?
- What was the nature of the Bohemian Revolt?

**Sept 21** The Coming of the War: the politics of the Empire

**Documents**

Wilson, *Sourcebook*, nos 1–5; 9–10

Also useful:

Gardiner, S.R. (ed.), *Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War* Camden Society, First Series, vol. 90 (1865). Naunton to Carleton, XVII, pp. 32-3; Finett to Calvert, XXXIX, pp. 63-4; Wake to Naunton, LV, pp. 87-9 Letters and papers of Doncaster (nos. XL, pp. 69-74; LXIII, pp. 99-107; LXVIII, pp. 118-9; LXIX, pp. 120-1; LXXIII, pp. 129-39; LXXVIII, pp. 144-8; LXXXIII, pp. 156-65; LXXXV, p. 166; LXXXVII, pp. 174-9; XCII, pp. 188-203; XCV, pp. 205-9.

**Suggested Reading**


MacHardy, K. ‘The rise of Absolutism and noble rebellion in early modern Habsburg Austria, 1570-1620’ *Journal of Comparative History* 34 (1992)

**Sept 24** The Bohemian Revolt, Europe and the outbreak of the war

**Documents**


Helferich, The Thirty Years War, documents 1, 4.

Also useful:

Gardiner, S.R. (ed.), Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War Camden Society, First Series, 90 (1865). Instructions to Doncaster, no. XL, pp. 64-74 (translation pp. 69-74); Buckingham to Gondomar, VII, p. 13; Letters and Papers of Sir Isaac Wake and Francis Cottingham (Nos. III, pp. 4-5; V, pp. 9-12; VI, p. 12; XII-XIV, pp. 24-7; XIX, pp. 36-7, XXI, pp. 39-40; LXIV, pp. 107-11; Dutch Commissioners to the States General, XX, p. 38; XXII pp. 40-1; Letters and papers of Carleton, XXV pp. 43-4; XXVI, pp. 44-5; XXXI, p. 51; XXXIV, p. 57; XXXVII, p. 60; XLIII, pp. 75-6; L, pp. 81-2; LVIII, pp. 92-3; Papers of Sir Henry Wotton XXIX-XXX, pp. 46-51.)

Gardiner, S.R. (ed.) Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War Camden Society, First Series, vol. 98 (1868) (Elizabeth Stuart to Carleton, no. 1, p. 1; Elizabeth Stuart to Buckingham, no. II, p. 2; Carleton to Naunton, no. VI, pp. 6-8.

Suggested Reading

Brightwell, P., ‘The Spanish origins of the Thirty Years War’ European Studies Review 9 (1979) (plus other Brightwell articles in A3a on the main bibliography)
von Nimwegen, Olaf, ‘The Dutch-Spanish War in the Low Countries, 1621–1648’ in The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War, 163–76

Week 3 The 1620s

Sept 28 Habsburg Triumph

Questions and Problems

- Could the escalation of the war have been avoided?
- What explains the stunning Habsburg successes of the 1620s?

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos. 21–30; 39–40; 48 –58.
Helferich, The Thirty Years War, document 13.
Suggested Reading


Oct 1 The failure of a coalition: anti-Habsburg forces to 1629

Questions and problems

- Why were the anti-Habsburg forces so unsuccessful in the 1620s?
- Why was British intervention in the war so ineffectual?

Documents

Wilson, *Sourcebook*, nos 41–45.

Helferich, *The Thirty Years War*, documents 10–12.

Also useful:

Gardiner, S.R. (ed.) *Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War* Camden Society, First Series, vol. 98 (1868); Notes of the Declaration... by Sir Robert Naunton, no. XII pp. 13-17; De Ulloa to Philip III, no. XVI, pp. 22-3; Wake to Naunton, no. XXI, pp. 30-2; de Caron to the States General, no. XXIV, pp. 33-8; James VI & I to Doncaster, no. XXV, pp. 39-42; Balconqual to Oxenden, no. XXVII, pp. 43-4; Doncaster to Naunton, pp. XXVIII, pp. 45-52; Instructions to Doncaster, XXXII, pp. 57-8; Digby to Cottington, no. XXXIII, pp. 59-62; Carleton to Doncaster, no. XXXVIII, pp. 68-70; Herbert to Naunton, no. LXIII, pp. 104-5; Herbert to Naunton, no. LXVII, pp. 110-4; Herbert to Naunton, no. LXVIII, p. 116; Instructions for Aston, no. LXX, pp. 119-32; Lando to the Doge, no. LXXIX, pp. 146-9; de la Fuente to Philip III, no. LXXXIV, pp. 157-60; Carleton to Naunton, no. XCIII, pp. 171-4; Herbert to Naunton, no. XCIV, pp. 174-6; Herbert to Naunton, no. XCV, pp. 180-1.

Thomas Scott: ‘Certaine reasons and arguments of policie, why the king of England should enter into warre with the Spaniard. 1624’, [http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rbear/spain.html](http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~rbear/spain.html)

Suggested Reading

Bély, Lucien, ‘France and the Thirty Years’ War’ *The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War*, 87–100.


Lockhart, P.D. ‘Denmark’, Ibid. 65–76.


**Week 4 The Balance Shifts**

**Questions and Problems**

- *Why did Sweden intervene?*
- *How do you explain the German reaction to Swedish intervention?*

**Oct 5 The Lion of the North: Swedish intervention**

**Documents**

Benecke, G. *Germany in the Thirty Years War* (1978) Gustav Adolf’s Fourteen Points to the Emperor, 1630, pp. 46-7

**Suggested Reading**

Piirimäe, Pärtel, ‘Sweden’ in *The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War*, 77–86.

**Oct 8 The Holy Roman Empire 1629–1635**

**Documents**

Wilson, *Sourcebook*, nos. 59–63; 103–5. *Everybody should read the Edict of Restitution* (no. 62) and the *Peace of Prague* (no. 103).
Suggested Reading

Forster, Marc R. ‘The Edict of Restitution (1629) and the failure of Catholic Restoration’, in The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War, 205–15

Week 5 The Habsburgs and their enemies

Questions and Problems

• To what extent were the aims of the Spanish and Austrian Habsburgs compatible between 1618 and 1648?
• Why did the Franco-Swedish alliance take so long to end the Thirty Years War?
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Oct 12 The Habsburg Alliance

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos 129–30.
Helferich, The Thirty Years War, document 23.
Gardiner, S.R. (ed.) Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War Camden Society, First Series, vol 98 (1868); Philip III to the Archduke Albert, no. XLIX, pp. 86-8; Archduke Albert to Philip III, no. LIV, pp. 94-5; Cottington to Naunton, no. LXII, pp. 103-4; Philip III to the Archduke Albert, no. LXXXII, pp. 154-5; Archduke Albert to Philip III, no. LXXXIII, pp. 156-7; Archduke Albert to Philip III, no. XCII, p. 169;

Suggested Reading


Oct 16 After the Peace of Prague, 1635–1648.

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos. 106–112.
Helferich, The Thirty Years War, documents 25,
Suggested Reading

Weber, H., ‘“Une Bonne Paix”: Richelieu’s foreign policy and the peace of Christendom’ in Bergin, J. and Brockliss, L. (eds.) Richelieu and his Age (1992)

Week 6 Making Peace

Questions and Problems

• Who won the Thirty Years War?
• Why did the Holy Roman Empire survive the Thirty Years War?

Oct 19 The Negotiations

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos 157–166
Helferich, The Thirty Years War, documents 34, 36.

Suggested Reading

Part V, The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War.

Oct 22 The Peace of Westphalia

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos 167–76

Suggested Reading

Asch, R., ‘Estates and Princes after 1648: the consequences of the Thirty Years War’ German History 6 (1988)

Week 7 Military Change and the Thirty Years War

• Did the Thirty Years War really change the face of warfare?
• Compare and contrast Gustav Adolf, Tilly and Wallenstein as military leaders.

Oct 26 Strategy and Tactics.
Documents
Wilson, Sourcebook, 116–8.
Monro Robert: description of Breitenfeld (see My Aberdeen, documents or Helferich, The Thirty Years War, document 17).

Suggested Reading
Wilson, P.H. ‘Strategy and the Conduct of War’ The Ashgate Research Companion to the Thirty Years War, 269-81.

Oct 29 Organisation and Logistics

Documents

Suggested Reading
Redlich, F., De Praeda Militari: Looting and Booty, 1500-1815 (1965)
Redlich, F., ‘Contributions in the Thirty Years War’ Economic History Review 12 (1959-60)

Week 8 The State and War

Problems and Questions
• Was the Thirty Years War a ‘war of state-building’?
• Why did some states cope better than others with the demands of war?
• Did the advantages of using military entrepreneurs such as Wallenstein or Bernhard of Saxe-Weimar outweigh the disadvantages for their employers?

Nov 2 War and the State

Documents

Suggested Reading
Parrott, David, Richelieu’s Army (2001)

**Nov 5** Armies and Politics

**Documents**

Wilson, Sourcebook, 97–102.
Helfferich, The Thirty Years War, document 21.
Benecke, G. Germany in the Thirty Years War (1978) A Contemporary Account of the Murder of Wallenstein, 1634, pp. 91-2.

**Suggested Reading**

Polisensky, J.V., War and Society in Central Europe 1618-1648 (Chapter 5)
Rabb, T.K., The Thirty Years War (pp.107-128)
Redlich, F. The German Military Enterpriser and his workforce: a Study in European Economic and Social History (1964-5)
Mortimer, Geoff, Wallenstein. The Enigma of the Thirty Years War (2010)
Mann, G. Wallenstein (1976)

**Week 9 The Impact of War**

**Questions & Problems**

- What methodological considerations must historians address in considering the impact of war?
- How helpful are the sources in determining the war’s destructiveness?

**Nov 9** The Economic Impact

**Documents**

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos 79–90.
Helfferich, The Thirty Years War, document 19.

**Suggested Reading**

Ergang, R.R., The Myth of the All-Destructive Fury of the Thirty Years War (1955)

**Nov 12 War and Society**

**Documents**

Wilson, _Sourcebook_, nos 133–56.
Helferich, _The Thirty Years War_, documents 37, 38.

**Suggested Reading**

Mortimer, G., _Eyewitness Accounts of the Thirty Years War (1618-1648)_ (2002). Mortimer discusses the problems of contemporary eyewitness accounts of the war, and gives a great deal of primary material in the shape of quotes. Be careful how you cite the documents quoted.

**WEEK 10: READING WEEK. GOBBET TEST.**

**Week 11 Culture**

**Nov 23 Religion**

**Questions & Problems**

- Why, and to whom, did religion matter?
- What role did religion play in the war?

**Documents**

Wilson, _Sourcebook_, 62–4
Helferich, _The Thirty Years War_, documents 28, 29.
Gardiner, S.R. (ed.) _Letters and other Documents illustrating the Relations between England and Germany at the Commencement of the Thirty Years War_

Suggested Reading

Bireley, R.A., ‘The Thirty Years War as Germany’s religious war’ in Repgen K. (ed) Krieg und Politik 1618-1648

Nov 26 Law and Diplomacy

Questions and Problems

- **To what extent did the war change the ways in which Europeans thought about and conducted international relations?**
- **Was the treaty of Westphalia a significant landmark for the practice of diplomacy?**

Documents

Wilson, Sourcebook, nos 167, 168.

Suggested Reading


Week 12

Nov 30 & Dec 3 Revision

I will ask the class in advance to suggest topics or documents for discussion.

FURTHER READING

There is a full bibliography for the course online, with sections that match individual sessions. If you cannot access the suggested reading for an individual week, there are PLENTY of alternatives on the bibliography. I recommend that you purchase
Wilson’s *Sourcebook*, which is the central text for the course, but I have placed copies of it and of Benecke, Limm, and Macartney, the other document books used, in Heavy Demand. There are many websites dealing with the Thirty Years War. Be careful with them, as many of them are simplistic in their presentation, or concerned largely with military re-enactment. For useful links to sites in a number of languages see: [http://www.pipeline.com/~cwa/Web_Resources.htm](http://www.pipeline.com/~cwa/Web_Resources.htm)

**ASSESSMENT**

1 x 3-hour examination (100%) for all Special Subjects. **The Degree Examination** will take place in at the end of the first half session and prior to the winter break. The purposes of the examination are 1) to test your familiarity with primary materials and your ability to analyse the content and historical significance of such primary material, and 2) to examine your ability to synthesise the material, the ideas and the interpretations covered in the course and to write cogent and coherent answers to essay style questions. The general format of the examination will be discussed in advance to assist you to prepare for it.

_Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A)._
_Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B)._

**PLEASE NOTE:** In order to pass a course on the first attempt, a student must attain a Common Grading Scale (CGS) mark of at least E3 on each element of course assessment. Failure to do so will result in a grade of no greater than CGS E1 for the course as a whole.

**COURSEWORK**

1. All students will be expected to lead the discussion on the sources at one session of the course.

2. Each student will be expected to write one formative essay of 2,000-2,500 words, to be submitted by the **Friday of Week 8 (6 November) at 12 noon**. Essay questions must be agreed with the course coordinator by the end of week 4; titles may be drawn from past papers, which are available online; a schedule will be drawn up in week one. It is important to take the essay seriously: it is an early opportunity to do some concentrated reading and to prepare for the examination.

3. There will be a gobbet test in week 10, the Reading Week. It will be released on MyAberdeen on Monday 16 November. Students may take the test in the normal room at the normal time (either on the Monday or the Thursday), or they can do the test at home. If you take the test
under exam conditions for practice, you should allow no more than an hour to the exercise. Please indicate how you have undertaken the test under examination conditions. You must hand the test into the History Office by noon on Friday 20 November; wordprocessed answers should be handed in on Turnitin.

ASSESSMENT DEADLINES

Essay: Friday 6 November at 12 noon
Gobbet Test: Week 10. Deadline Friday 20 November, 12 noon.

SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The Department requires ONE official electronic copy submitted by the deadline plus ONE paper copy of all assignments with the TurnitinUK receipt, attached as follows:

Electronic Copy: One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.
Hard Copy: One hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should have your ID number CLEARLY written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but EVERYTHING ELSE filled in – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

Please note: Failure to submit both to Turnitin, and also one identical hard copy with the Turnitin receipt attached will result in a deduction of marks. Failure to submit to Turnitin will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION

The three-hour examination will contain a compulsory gobbet question (extracts from primary sources for comment) and two essay questions. Students will be expected to show a knowledge of the primary sources in the essay answers. General exam guidance is given in the Student Handbook.

Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.