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
Course coordinator: Professor Thomas Weber
Office hours: see departmental webpage
Telephone: 01224-273539
Email: t.weber@abdn.ac.uk
Lecturing staff: see the course webpage

Discipline Administration:
Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown
50-52 College Bounds
Room CBLG01
01224 272199/272454
history-ug@abdn.ac.uk

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

The First World War brought to an end the longest period of peace in Europe that the continent had hitherto witnessed. The American diplomat and academic George F. Kennan thus famously labelled the war “the seminal catastrophe” of the twentieth century. The Great War heralded the bloodiest thirty-year period, at least in absolute terms, in human history.

This course offers an opportunity to study the place of the war in the 20th century. Among the key questions that one might ask are: How did the war come about? Why did it last so long? How were the people involved in it affected by the conflict? How did so many soldiers continue fighting for such a long time? What political, social, and cultural transformations did the war bring with it? Did the war indeed give birth to the two most successful totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century? Why did the Paris settlements not bring long-term peace to the world?

Following a series of introductory lectures on various aspects of the Great War, seminar-style sessions will be held from week 5 to week 11.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

The primary aims of the course are:
* to deepen understanding of the development of modern Europe with particular reference to the First World War;
* to facilitate the development of judgment and good practice by students, who will select and pursue research themes centred on their individual interests as these emerge during the course;
* to provide a challenging environment where debate, the giving and receiving of academic criticism, the evaluation of disparate analyses and the synthesis and testing of the student’s own arguments and explanatory models combine to allow the student to develop the skills, values and attitudes of a good historian.

**Learning Outcomes:**

**Knowledge and Understanding of:**
- the key factors which explain the cause of World War I
- the key events and course of World War I
- the key factors which explain the post-war development of Europe
- the major political, social and cultural developments in Europe and the US associated with war
- specialised matters relating to World War I in one particular country
Intellectual Skills – students should be able:
- to analyse the impact of specific events on attitudes to politics, society, economy and culture in the early 20th century
- to evaluate the impact of the war and attitudes to war on the subsequent development of Europe
- to discriminate between characteristics seemingly central to the human condition and those specifically delineated by locale and time
- to collect and evaluate data, to read and think critically and to compare and evaluate disparate and conflicting data and arguments
- to develop arguments and explanatory models and test them against academic criticism
- to provide and receive academic criticism in a constructive fashion
- to be reflective during the learning process, so that when learning occurs the mechanisms of the process can be identified, understood, nurtured and repeated

Practical Skills – students should be able:
- to research, construct and present essays based on written, visual, online and electronic sources
- to note, analyse and synthesise (sometimes contradictory) information and argument from sources and seminars
- to identify, understand and interpret key historical developments
- to budget time and effort effectively
- to retain, recall and apply information

Transferable Skills – students should be able:
- to understand that some views and attitudes are specific to certain times and places
- to listen attentively and to take notes effectively
- to read and select relevant information
- to construct coherent arguments in written work and in seminars, within the constraints of deadlines and limits on word length
- to develop IT skills related to word processing, data production, presentation and analysis and the use of the internet
- to write and construct an argument to a deadline with limits on length of presentation
- to exercise teamwork skills required for effective interaction in a seminar situation
- to interpret primary source material
LECTURE/SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Weeks 1 to 4: lectures will take place twice a week, thus:

Week 1
1. Introduction (registration, assignment of seminar presentations, the assessments, research resources, election of class reps, etc), followed by Lecture on the First World War on its Centenary  
   Thomas Weber
2. The place of WWI in the 20th C. & Germany  
   Thomas Weber

Week 2
1. Origins  
   Tony Heywood
2. France in WW1  
   Elizabeth Macknight

Week 3
1. Origins  
   Tony Heywood
2. Truces and other islands of peace  
   Thomas Weber

Week 4
1. Mobilising resources I  
   Christoph Dartmann
2. Mobilising resources II  
   Christoph Dartmann

Weeks 5 to 11: seminar groups will have a 2-hour meeting once a week. (Please note that the Thursday session in Week 5 may have to rescheduled.)

READING LIST

For an extensive bibliography, please use the superb bibliography prepared by the Centre for World Studies at the University of Birmingham:
http://www.firstworldwar.bham.ac.uk/bibliography/index.htm

If you have difficulties finding relevant books in the First World War section of the library, make sure also to check the sections on the individual countries involved in the war and relevant sections of other disciplines (notably ‘Politics’).

Suggestions for further readings in preparation of the seminar sessions will be issued in due course.

ASSESSMENT

Primary source exercise, 1500 words (20%)
Annotated Bibliography, 3500 words (40%)
Essay, 3500 words (40%)
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.

ESSAYS

The word count (3,500) includes all footnotes, captions and/or appendices but excludes the bibliography.

Your essay’s bibliography (i.e., the list of only those works actually cited in the footnotes) should include at least two primary sources (unless the focus of the essay is historiographical), as well as a substantial number of secondary sources (aim for at least 15 items), including articles from journals and chapters from edited collections of essays. Present references in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

The word count (3,500) excludes the citation details. It should contain short reviews (of circa 550 words each) of five scholarly secondary sources - academic books, book chapters and/or journal articles. You must include at least two books (one of which has got to be a book about WWI as a whole) and at least two journal articles. No articles or books published prior to 1975 will be eligible for.

With the help of the articles and books that you review, you should be able to present the state of the art of research on the topic you chose to write about. In other words, reviewing five random articles, books, and book chapters on the topic of your choice is not acceptable.

Please familiarise yourself with the genre of book reviews by reading reviews published in the New York Review of Books, the Times Literary Supplement, or the London Review of Books, in quality newspapers such the weekend edition of the Financial Times or the Sunday edition of the New York Times, or in any academic journal. Focus on the argument of the book and article you are reviewing (including the evidence provided in support of the argument),
rather than on marginal aspects such as how user-friendly the book is or towards what readership the book is catered.

Present citations in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

**PRIMARY SOURCE EXERCISE**

The word count (1,500) excludes the citation details. You are required to analyse one of the documents that will be published on the course website in week 4 (open choice).

Start by providing a brief description of the item, then give your critique. Try to show and explain how the source relates to the secondary literature about the topic. Does it support any particular interpretation in the literature? Present references in accordance with the guidelines published on the course website.

**LIST OF ESSAY/EXERCISE TOPICS**

You are responsible for choosing a topic for your bibliography, for devising your own essay question, and for getting them approved by your seminar tutor.

Please NOTE:
* THE BIBLIOGRAPHY AND ESSAY MUST NOT BOTH BE ON THE SAME TOPIC
* failure to agree your bibliography topic and essay title with your tutor may cause you to attempt an inappropriate topic and/or title, which could adversely affect your mark**

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINES**

Primary Source Exercise: Week 8, Wednesday at 12 noon
Annotated Bibliography: Week 10, Wednesday at 12 noon
Essay: Week 12, Wednesday at 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 an electronic copy to TurnitinUK, and an identical paper copy, with the digital receipt attached, will result in a deduction of marks.
Failure to submit to TurnitinUK will result in a zero mark.

EXAMINATION

This course is assessed by continuous coursework assessment only.