

University of Arkansas - Fort Smith
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General Syllabus

HIST 33143 World War I

Credit Hours: 3

Lecture Hours: 3

Laboratory Hours: 0

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 10203 Composition II or ENGL 14343 Honors Composition,
and HIST 11203 Civilizations of the World since 1500
Effective Catalog: 2019-2020

I. Course Information

A. Catalog Description

A study of the causes, conduct, and impact of the First World War.

II. Student Learning Outcomes

A. Subject Matter

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Define the role of nationalism in bringing about the First World War.
2. Identify the alliances that existed in Europe prior to the outbreak of the war.
3. Evaluate the diplomatic activity of the summer of 1914 and provide explanations for why the great powers could not avoid war.
4. Evaluate the military tactics and strategies utilized during the conflict.
5. Explain the reasons for the ultimate Allied victory.
6. Illustrate the problems faced by the victors in creating the Treaty of Versailles.
7. Construct a valid historical interpretation of the importance of World War I on the course of history in the twentieth century.

B. University Learning Outcomes

This course enhances student abilities in the following areas:

Analytical Skills

Critical Thinking Skills

Students will examine both primary and secondary sources and evaluate opinions of other historians regarding the causes and conduct of the war.

Using their findings, students will develop their own explanations for the major issues of the conflict in research papers and examinations.

Communication Skills (Written and Oral)

Students will relate their findings from individual research and course readings through both written assignments and in class discussions. All written assignments will follow proper formats established by the profession.

Global and Cultural Perspectives

Students will be able to explain why World War I was a “world” war. Students will identify how the war impacted Africa, the Middle East and Asia, with special emphasis on the postwar settlement. Students will also evaluate the contribution of colonial subjects to the war effort.

III. Major Course Topics

- A. Nationalism
- B. Prewar International Relations
- C. Assassination of Franz Ferdinand
- D. Diplomacy in the Summer of 1914
- E. Schlieffen Plan and Its Execution
- F. Eastern Front, 1914
- G. Search for Allies
- H. War at Sea
- I. Trench Warfare
- J. New Military Technologies
- K. Gallipoli
- L. Crisis in the East
- M. Verdun and the Somme
- N. Brusilov Offensive
- O. Russian Revolution
- P. American Entry
- Q. Allied Victory
- R. Treaty of Versailles