



## History 311 History of World War I in Global Context

Time: TR 9:30-11:18

Instructor: Beyerchen

This course centers on one of the most significant turning points in modern world History—the First World War. Known as “The Great War” until the Second World War, the conflict that erupted during the summer of 1914 and endured for the next four gruesome years transformed the global balance of power, social practices in Europe and around the world, cultural trends and attitudes, the nature of politics, and fundamental economic policy. In fact, the final gasps of the war could be felt in the global Flu pandemic that carried off over 30 million casualties between 1918 and 1919. In the end, the pre-war optimism that prevailed in much of Europe, the U.S., and Japan gave way to general pessimism and foreboding around the world. This class will offer students an opportunity to probe this conflict through an examination of the fighting itself as well as the broader trends and changes that generated the war and were spawned by it. While the war was a fundamentally European affair, combatants from around the world participated and fighting took place in the Middle East, Africa, the Atlantic, and in Asia. Consequently, we will take a global approach to the Great War and situate it as a transformative event at many levels.

Assigned readings:

Hew Strachan, *The First World War*

Modris Eksteins, *Rites of Spring*

Arthur Link, *Woodrow Wilson: Revolution, War, and Peace*

John H. Morrow, Jr., *The Great War: An Imperial History*

Svetlana Palmer and Sarah Wallis (eds.), *Intimate Voices from the First World War*



Sikh dispatch riders on the western front