World War I

Professor Michael Neiberg

Summer 2022 Term I

Course Description
This course explores American involvement in World War I both in Europe and at home. The era of the First World War was a crucial period in the development of modern America both as a nation on the international scene and in terms of economic, social, and political institutions at home. In this course, Chair of War Studies and Professor of History in the Department of National Security and Strategy at the War College, Dr. Michael Neiberg explores the forces that brought America into the war, its involvement, and its emergence into the post-war world.

Course Readings

Course Requirements
- Contribute to five discussion boards
- Participate in at least three Q&As
- Complete one book review (1,000 words)
- Complete a 15-page research paper or project of appropriate rigor

Learning Objectives
1. Define and analyze key terms, ideas, and concepts in the history of the United States during the First World War.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the global interplay of events, ideas, and concepts in the history of the United States in the First World War.
3. Examine, appraise, and contribute to selected scholarly debates about the history of the United States in the First World War.

**Group Work**

This course requires students to work in groups assigned at the beginning of the semester. Groups will interact on discussion boards focused on final papers/projects.

**Peer Review** (discussion boards four and five)

This two-part assignment requires that you a) post an abstract and the first five pages of your final paper/project to your group discussion board and b) review and give feedback on the other members’ final papers/projects.

**Book Review**

Write a 1,000-word book review of one of the books from your final paper/project bibliography. (See assignment descriptions in Classes for an example.)

**Class Schedule**

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<th>Q&amp;A Session One: Thursday, June 2 - 8:30-9:30 p.m. ET</th>
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**Week 1: June 2–8**

The Causes of the First World War

**Readings**

- Günther Kronenbitter, "Alliance System 1914," accessed on *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. ([A link to this reading can be found in the Week One Module.](#))
- Annika Mombauer, "July Crisis 1914," accessed on *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. ([A link to this reading can be found in the Week One Module.](#))
- William Mulligan, “The Historiography of the Origins of the First World War,” accessed on *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. ([A link to this reading can be found in the Week One Module.](#))
- Matthew S. Seligmann, "Pre-War Military Planning," accessed on *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. ([A link to this reading can be found in the Week One Module.](#))

World War in Europe

**Readings**

- Jonathan Krause, "Western Front," accessed on *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*. ([A link to this reading can be found in the Week One Module.](#))
Assignments

- Discussion Board One: Introduce yourself to your group and list three potential topics for your final paper/project. Comment on one potential topic for each member of your group.
  - First post due Friday, June 3
  - Second post due Sunday, June 5
- Final paper/project research question: due June 8
  - In roughly 1–2 pages, outline the question your final paper or project will attempt to answer. This should include a description of the paper or project you are proposing, some background information and historical context on your topic, a brief description of your research plan, and a justification for why your particular paper or project is worth pursuing.

Q&A Session Two: Thursday, June 9 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 2: June 9–15

The Global War

Readings

- Michelle Moyd, “Extra-European Theatres of War,” accessed on International Encyclopedia of the First World War. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Two Module.)
- Yücel Yanıkdağ, “Ottoman Empire/Middle East,” accessed on International Encyclopedia of the First World War. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Two Module.)
- Klaus Mühlhan, “China,” accessed on International Encyclopedia of the First World War. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Two Module.)
- Alia El Bakri, “Revolutions and Rebellions: Arab Revolt,” accessed on International Encyclopedia of the First World War. (A link to this reading can be found in the Week Two Module.)

The American Path to War

Readings

- Neiberg, Chapters 1–3
Assignments

- Discussion Board Two: Post three potential sources (a mixture of primary and secondary) for your final paper or project. Suggest an additional primary or secondary source for each of the members in your group and explain why you chose that source.
  - First post due Friday, June 10
  - Second post due Sunday, June 12
- Revised question and annotated bibliography due Wednesday, June 15
  - Revise your initial proposal to incorporate your section professor’s feedback, AND
  - Create an annotated bibliography containing at least five sources. Each of these sources should be followed by a short paragraph describing the source and what it will contribute to your final paper/project.

Week 3: June 16–22

1917: Revolution and Expansion

Readings

- Neiberg, Chapters 4–6

America Decides for War

Readings

- Neiberg, Chapter 7, Conclusion

Assignments

- Discussion Board Three: Post an outline of your final paper/project.
  - Post due Sunday, June 19
- Discussion Board Four: Post a 200-word abstract for your final paper/project. Submit the first five pages of your paper (or the portion of your final project submitted to your section professor) to your group members for peer review.
  - Due Wednesday, June 22
- Paper/project preview due Wednesday, June 22
  - Paper: Turn in a rough draft of the first five pages of your final paper.
  - Project: Submissions of the project preview will differ from project to project according to type. Determine with your section professor an appropriate portion of your final project to turn in.

Week 4: June 23–29
America at War

Readings

- Coffman, Chapters 1–5, skim chapters 6 and 7

Americans on the Battlefield

Readings

- Coffman, Chapters 8–11

Assignments

- Discussion Board Five: Return peer reviews to group members as attachments on the discussion board.
  - Due Wednesday, June 29

Q&A Session Three: Thursday, June 30 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Q&A Session Four: Thursday, July 5 - 8:00-9:30 p.m. ET

Week 5: June 30–July 6

Democracy and Segregation

Readings

- Williams, Introduction and Part I

Home Fronts

Readings

- Williams, Part II and Epilogue
- Jaffe, Chapter 7

Assignments

- Book review due Wednesday, July 6
  - Write a 1,000-word review of one of the books in your final paper/project bibliography.

Week 6: July 7–13
Making Peace

Readings:

● Manela, Part I, skim Part II

Legacies

Readings

● Manela, Part III

Assignments

● Final Draft due Wednesday, July 13