The University of Oklahoma  
College of Continuing Education  
Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:  
Seminar In European History: The Origins of World War I and World War II

Course Number:  
HIST 6200-221

Course Description:  
The course will investigate the origins of the two world wars by focusing: a) on the role played by the major powers; and b) on the general factors -- political, economic, cultural, military and diplomatic -- that created an atmosphere for conflict. In addition the course will deal with a variety of theories on the origins of war.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:  
Dates: August 21-26, 2012  
Location: Classes held at Building 2784, Room 301, Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base.  
Hours: Tue-Fri 6:00-9:30 p.m.; Sat-Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: July 23, 2012

Site Director:  
Kendra Burnside. Assistant: Janee LeFrere. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807; After Hours: 0174-175-4754 or 0151-2414-2807. Fax: 06371-479839; E-mail: apramstein@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:  
Course Professor: Gordon D. Drummond, Ph. D.  
Mailing Address: 2713 Belmont Dr  
Norman, OK 73072  
Telephone Number: 405-329-8873  
Fax Number: 405-325-4503  
E-mail Address: drummondgordon@hotmail.com  
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:  
Student materials are available at the Follett/AP Bookstore located in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, 900 Asp Ave., Norman, OK. Orders can be placed online at www.oklahomaunion.bkstr.com or by telephone at 866-369-9713 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-5960 (outside the U.S.). E-mail orders may be sent to oklahomaunion@bkstr.com. Representatives are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CST Monday through Thursday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Friday. Summer hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CST. Faxed orders may be placed 24 hours a day to 866-223-5607 (toll free in the U.S.) or 405-325-7140 (outside the U.S.).


Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

**Course Objectives:**

The objective of this course is to gain a general understanding of the cause of war and develop a sound basis for explaining how the major powers have dealt with the problems of war and peace in the modern era.

**Course Outline:**

I. Tuesday August 21
   a. Topic: World War I – general causes
      i. The July Crisis
   b. Readings: Joll, Chapters 1, 2 and 9.
   c. Questions:
      i. Why did the assassination at Sarajevo develop into a full blown international crisis?
      ii. Why did the crisis escalate into war?
      iii. What was the role of each of the powers, including Serbia, in the July crisis?

II. Wednesday, August 22
    a. Topic: World War I – Alliances, Armies and Imperialism
    b. Readings: Joll, chapters 3, 4, and 7.
    c. Questions:
       i. What was the significance of the alliance system?
       ii. Did the arms race lead to war?
       iii. Was war the result of the imperialist designs of the major powers?

III. Thursday, August 23
     a. Topic: World War I -- Politics, Economics and Attitudes
     b. Readings: Joll, chapters 5, 6, and 8
     c. Questions:
        i. Did domestic politics provide the impetus to war?
        ii. Are the Marxists right when they argue that the war was the natural outgrowth of the prevailing economic system?
        iii. Why was the European public so receptive to war in August 1914?

IV. Mid-Term Examination

V. Friday, August 24
   a. Topic: The Origins of War
   b. Questions:
      i. Why do nations go to war?
      ii. What is the importance of long-term and short-term causes of war?
      iii. Where do we lay the emphasis – on the personality of military and political leaders or on circumstances? i.e. The nature of the political, military, or diplomatic system.

VI. Saturday (morning), August 25
    b. Readings: Bell, Part One and the Conclusion
    c. Questions:
       i. Did the Paris Peace Conference offer nothing more than a 20 year armistice?
       ii. What treaty represents the state of international relations in the 1920s – Rapallo or Locarno?
       iii. Was there appeasement in the twenties?
VII. Saturday (afternoon), August 25
   a. Topic: World War II -- the underlying factors
   b. Readings: Bell, Part Two
   c. Questions:
      i. What was the role of ideology?
      ii. How would you describe the impact of economic conditions and concerns on international relations?
      iii. Was it the arms race again?

VIII. Sunday (morning), August 26
   a. Topic: World War II -- the path to war
   b. Readings: Bell, Part Three
   c. Questions:
      i. How should the European powers respond to the policies of the new German Government, 1933-1935?
      ii. Was appeasement, 1936-1939, a wise or necessary policy?
      iii. When to go to war?

IX. Sunday (afternoon), August 26
   a. Topic: The causes of war
   b. Questions:
      i. Do any of the general theories on the origins of war adequately explain why Europe fought two world wars in the twentieth century?

X. Final Examination

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

1. There will be a short mid-term examination on the topics that we have been discussing in class. This will give me a chance to see how you are handling the material and provide you with an opportunity to sample the kind of questions that will be on the final examination. The exam will be worth 20% of your final grade.

2. Contributions to the class discussions will be worth 10% of the final grade. The emphasis here will be on quality rather than quantity, i.e. not simply on participation but on the presentation of intelligent, thoughtful, and stimulating comments to the class.

3. There will be a final written examination given on the last day. It will be designed to last two hours, and it will contain several essay questions. These questions will test the student’s ability to deal with the major issues presented in this course. The final exam is worth 40% of your final grade.

4. To complete the post-seminar readings, you will be required to write two seven-page papers -- one on Steiner & Neilson and one on Lamb & Tarling -- in which you discuss the subject, the authors’ thesis (how does he interpret and explain the subject: e.g. Joll argues that World War I was the result of a combination of interrelated factors), and the evidence that they offer to argue their case. Do the authors prove their thesis? Finally, what can one learn about the origins of war in the modern age from these books? For example, in the case of Steiner and Neilson, what is the importance of domestic factors in explaining why nations go to war; or with Lamb and Tarling, how do broader international factors influence a government’s decision to go to war. The papers are worth 30% of your grade.

Grading: This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Percent of Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>Friday August 24, 2012</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class discussion</td>
<td>During Class</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>Sunday August 26, 2012</td>
<td>40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post seminar readings</td>
<td>September 16, 2012</td>
<td>30%</td>
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NOTICE: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy.

Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental precept in all academic activities and … [you] have a special obligation to observe the highest standards of honesty. Academic misconduct in any form is inimical to the purposes and functions of the University and is therefore unacceptable and is rigorously proscribed. Academic misconduct includes:

- cheating (using unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise), plagiarism, falsification of records, unauthorized possession of examinations, intimidation, and any and all other actions that may improperly affect the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement; assisting others in any such act; or attempting to engage in such acts.

All acts of academic misconduct will be reported and adjudicated as prescribed by the student code of the University of Oklahoma. All students should review the “Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity” found at http://www.ou.edu/provost/integrity

Accommodation Statement

The College of Continuing Education [Advanced Programs] is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Copyright

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For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Gordon D. Drummond, Ph.D.

Education

- Ph.D. in History, Stanford University
- B.Sc., McGill University

Current Positions

Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

HIST 6200 European History: The Origins of World War I and World War II

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Twentieth century Europe
- European diplomacy
- War in Europe
- Modern Germany

Representative Publications and Presentations

- *Erich Ludendorff*: A Biography in process

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- Mortar Board Outstanding Faculty Member, 1990
- OU Student Association Outstanding Professor, 1992

Major Professional Affiliations

American Historical Association