



## Syllabus

### HIS 261 War and Society in the Age of Total War: World Wars I and II

#### General Information

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**Date**

February 17th, 2020

**Author**

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**Department**

Social Science

**Course Prefix**

HIS

**Course Number**

261

**Course Title**

War and Society in the Age of Total War: World Wars I and II

#### Course Information

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**Credit Hours**

3

**Lecture Contact Hours**

3

**Lab Contact Hours**

0

**Other Contact Hours**

0

**Catalog Description**

This course focuses on the era of total war between 1914 and 1945, the Holocaust and the birth of the atomic age. The First and Second World Wars were history's first modern, industrial, technological, total and global conflicts, whose legacy continues to shape the world today. Of particular interest will be the crucial interaction between war and society: how societies give form and substance to modern conflict and how wars, in turn, spark dramatic social, political and economic change. This course carries SUNY General Education credit in Western Civilization and Other World Civilizations.

**Prerequisites**

ENG 095

**Co-requisites**

ENG 101

**Grading Scheme**

Letter

#### First Year Experience/Capstone Designation

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This course **DOES NOT** satisfy the outcomes applicable for status as a FYE or Capstone.

#### SUNY General Education

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This course is designated as satisfying a requirement in the following SUNY Gen Ed categories

Other World Civilizations

Western Civilization

# FLCC Values

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## Institutional Learning Outcomes Addressed by the Course

Vitality

Inquiry

Interconnectedness

## Course Learning Outcomes

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### Course Learning Outcomes

1. Explain of the ways in which World Wars I and II reflect the distinctive features of Western civilization; its history, institutions, geography, economy, religions, society, and/or culture.
2. Connect developments in the West during WWI and WWII to that of other regions of the world.
3. Analyze some of the major events and themes of the Western and/or global experience during WWI and WWII.

## Program Affiliation

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This course is not required as a core course in a program

## Outline of Topics Covered

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Conflict in the Twentieth Century: Themes

Origins of the First World War

Short-Term of the First World War

WWI Begins: Opening Moves

The First World War

- Schlieffen Plan & Opening Moves, 1914
- Trench Warfare and the Western Front
- Verdun, the Somme and the Inferno of 1916
- The Eastern (Russian) Front, 1914-17
- Peripheral Campaigns: Dardanelles, Italy, Macedonia, Africa and the Middle East
- The Air War, 1914-18
- Mobilizing Science and Technology: Tanks, Subs & Chemical Warfare
- Total War on the Home Front
- Rise of the Modern Interventionist State

The Versailles Diktat and the Flawed Paris Peace Treaties, 1919

Russian Revolution, 1917-21

The 1920s Age of Illusion

Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin and the Road to WW2

Second World War

- The Polish Campaign, 1939
- Blitzkrieg in the West, 1940
- Battle of Britain, 1940
- Barbarossa: The Eastern Front, 1941-45
- North Africa & the Mediterranean, 1940-42
- Italian Campaign, 1943-45
- Overlord and the Liberation of France, 1944
- Long Road into Germany: Arnhem and the Ardennes
- Collapse of the Reich, 1945
- The Air War, 1942-45
- War at Sea, 1939-45
- Total War on the Home Front

The Holocaust  
Â War in the Pacific, 1941-45  
Hiroshima and the Birth of the Atomic Age