

Professor Will Hitchcock  
History Department  
285 Nau Hall  
[hitch@virginia.edu](mailto:hitch@virginia.edu)  
Spring 2017 office hours: Monday, 10-12 and by appt.

## **HIST 3162: War and Society in the Twentieth Century**

**Spring 2019**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century has been marred by almost uninterrupted warfare. This class will examine how these wars impacted society across a wide range of human experience. We'll explore such questions as: Why and how have certain societies waged war? What ideas have motivated and sustained people as they fight? What social, political and cultural consequences has war had in these societies? What means do societies use to justify, legitimate, and canonize war? What ethical problems have these wars raised? And how do we write about war? A major goal of the course is to develop critical perspectives on the ways that a "war culture" is constructed.

### **Required Books [please purchase]:**

Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*  
Omer Bartov, *Hitler's Army*  
Vera Brittain, *Testament of Youth*  
Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*  
Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*  
Olson and Roberts, eds., *My Lai*  
Kevin Powers, *The Yellow Birds*

### **Assignments and Grading:**

There will be three graded assignments in this class. Paper copies of all work must be submitted.

- Take-home essay one: 30%, due in class on February 18, 2019.
- Take-home essay two: 30%, due in class on March 25, 2019.
- Take-home essay three: 30%, due in class on April 29, 2019.
- Class and section attendance: 10% of final grade.

Attendance in discussion section is mandatory. A roll will be kept. Failure to attend section will result in a deduction from your final grade for the class. Requests made in advance for permission to miss a section will be considered by the TA.

Please refrain from using laptops, tablets or phones during class.

## Part I. The Era of the First World War

1. Jan 14. The Idea of War circa 1900
2. Jan 16. The Origins of the First World War

Read and discuss in section:

Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Soldier's Faith" (1895) at:  
<http://people.virginia.edu/~mmd5f/holmesfa.htm>;

Theodore Roosevelt, "Naval War College Address," June 2, 1897, excerpt:  
<http://www.theodore-roosevelt.com/images/research/speeches/tr1898.pdf>

Theodore Roosevelt, "The Strenuous Life," (1899):  
<http://voicesofdemocracy.umd.edu/roosevelt-strenuous-life-1899-speech-text/>

### Week Two:

3. Jan 21. MLK Day. No class
4. Jan 23. No class. Sections will meet this week to discuss these readings:

Readings:

Vera Brittain, *Testament*, 1-56;

Sections will not meet.

### Week Three:

5. Jan 28. The Soldiers' Experience in World War I.
6. Jan 30. Women and Gender in World War I.

Readings to be discussed in section:

Vera Brittain, *Testament*, 94-104; 114-34; 164-214; 232-236; 241-44; 265-70; 362-380;  
392-405; 427-444; 460-463.

### Week Four:

7. Feb 4. The United States and the First World War.
8. Feb 6. Coercion, Civil Liberties, Dissent and Race in the USA in WWI.

Readings to be discussed in section:

President Wilson's War Message to Congress, April 1917.

[https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Wilson's War Message to Congress](https://wwi.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Wilson's_War_Message_to_Congress)

"The Espionage Act of 1917."

[http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp\\_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3904](http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/disp_textbook.cfm?smtID=3&psid=3904)

*Schenck v. United States* (1919),

[http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC CR 0249 0047 ZO.html](http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/historics/USSC_CR_0249_0047_ZO.html)

*Debs v. United States* (1919):

<http://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/249/211/case.html>

Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer Makes "The Case against the Reds," at

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/4993/>

Emma Goldman, final statement at deportation

trial, <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/goldman/pdfs/StatementbyEmmaGoldmanattheFederalHearingREdeportation.pdf>

Chad Williams, "African Americans and World War I,"

<http://exhibitions.nypl.org/africanaage/essay-world-war-i.html>

### Week Five:

9. Feb 11. Human Impact of the Great War
10. Feb 13. The Ideological Legacies of World War I.

Readings to discuss in section:

Ernst Jünger, *Storm of Steel*, all.

Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est," <http://www.warpoetry.co.uk/owen1.html>

Siegfried Sassoon, "Repression of War Experience,"

<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/248318>

Woodrow Wilson, "The Fourteen Points," at:

[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/wilson14.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/wilson14.asp)

## Part II: The Era of the Second World War

### Week Six:

11. Feb 18. Hitler's Ideological Vision. ASSIGNMENT ONE DUE IN CLASS TODAY.
12. Feb 20. The Nazi State at War.

Readings to discuss in section:

Omer Bartov, *Hitler's Army*, Introduction and chaps 1-2.

Adolf Hitler, *Mein Kampf*, chapters 2, 5, 6, 7, 11. Go to <http://www.greatwar.nl/books/meinkampf/meinkampf.pdf>. Chapter 2 is pp 24-59; chaps 5-7 are pp. 138-176; chap. 11 is pp. 236-273.

### Week Seven:

13. Feb 25. "The Good War:" American Society and World War II.
14. Feb 27. Race and America's War.

Readings:

Omer Bartov, *Hitler's Army*, chaps 3-4 and conclusion.

Paul Fussell, "My War: How I Got Irony in the Infantry." To be circulated.

### Week Eight:

15. March 4. The Holocaust.
16. March 6. Primo Levi's *Survival in Auschwitz*: Discussion in Class

Readings:

Primo Levi, *Survival in Auschwitz*.

**No section this week.**

**SPRING BREAK MARCH 9-17**

### Part III: Warfighting in Our Time

#### Week Nine:

17. March 18. Ethics in War: The Case of Bombing.
18. March 20. Legal Legacies: Nuremberg and Geneva.

Readings to discuss in section:

Justice Robert Jackson, opening statement at Nuremberg, Nov 1945. Circulated.

“London Charter of the International Military Tribunal.”

[http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/London Charter of the International Military Tribunal](http://en.wikisource.org/wiki/London_Charter_of_the_International_Military_Tribunal)

Common Article 3 of the Geneva Convention: <http://www.icrc.org/ihl.nsf/WebART/375-590006>

William I. Hitchcock, “Human Rights and the Laws of War: The Geneva Conventions of 1949,” to be circulated.

#### Week Ten:

19. March 25. America’s Vietnam War. ASSIGNMENT NUMBER 2 DUE TODAY.
20. March 27. The War Comes Home, 1968-70.

Readings to discuss in section Olson and Roberts, *My Lai*, pp 1-112. MLK Jr., “Beyond Vietnam.”

#### Week Eleven:

21. April 1. The My Lai controversy.
22. April 3. NO CLASS.

Readings to discuss in section: Olson and Roberts, *My Lai*, 113-199.

#### Week Twelve:

23. April 8. US Militarism after Vietnam
24. April 10. 9/11 and the US Response

Readings to discuss in section:

Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*, 1-146.

**Week Thirteen:**

- 25. April 15. The Torture Debate, I.
- 26. April 17. The Torture Debate, II.

Readings to be discussed in section:

Philip Zelikow, "Codes of Conduct for a Twilight War." *Houston Law Review*, 2012. To be circulated.

Senate Select Cttee on Intelligence report on CIA Detention and Interrogation Program:  
[http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/a/9/a992171e-fd27-47bb-8917-5ebe98c72764/7889A5C19ACFE837C78C2192B0876B90.sscistudyfindingsandconclusions.pdf](http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/a/9/a992171e-fd27-47bb-8917-5ebe98c72764/7889A5C19ACFE837C78C2192B0876B90.sscistudyfindingsandconclusions.pdf)

**Week Fourteen:**

- 27. April 22. Soldiers in the US Imagination
- 28. April 24. The Price Soldiers Pay

Readings to be discussed in section:

Kevin Powers, *The Yellow Birds*, all

Sebastian Junger on PTSD: <http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2015/05/ptsd-war-home-sebastian-junger>

Interview with Sgt. Dax Carpenter, USMC, Iraq War Veteran:  
<http://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.57035/transcript?ID=sr0001>

Revealing the Trauma of War, National Geographic: (part I)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/healing-soldiers/index.html>

The Invisible War on the Brain, National Geographic: (part II)

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/healing-soldiers/blast-force.html>

US Military Casualties since 2001: <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RS22452.pdf>

**Week Fifteen:**

- 29. April 29. Conclusion. ASSIGNMENT NUMBER THREE DUE IN CLASS.