



HISTORY 2151A (670)
The First World War: A Global Revolution
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: Dr. Oleksa Drachewych
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction: online asynchronous with an in-person final

Calendar Description:

This course applies a world historical lens to the First World War, examining the causes, course of events, and global ramifications of the conflict. Students will be asked to consider a variety of historiographical schools of thought concerning the war.

Prerequisite(s):

Antirequisite(s): [History 2177A/B](#), [History 2179](#).

Extra Information: 2 lecture hours.

Course Weight: 0.50

Breadth: Category A

Subject Code: History

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

King's University College
History 2151A –
The First World War: The Global Revolution, F26

Course information:

Course Name, Number, Section: History 2151A (670)

Instructor(s): Oleksa Drachewych

Contact Information: odrachew@uwo.ca

Office hours: TBA

Course description: This course applies a world historical lens to the First World War, examining the causes, course of events, and global ramifications of the conflict. Students will be asked to consider a variety of historiographical schools of thought concerning the war.

Course learning outcomes: By the end of History 2151A, students will be able to:

- Identify the causes, events, concepts, trends, immediate consequences, and history of the First World War
- Understand how the First World War impacted domestic affairs in the belligerent nations
- Become comfortable with assessing and grappling with differing interpretations regarding the history of the First World War
- Explain and assess how the war was global in nature
- Reconsider their own preconceived ideas about the First World War through forum discussion and book reflections
- Have information about the World War to annoy friends when watching Hollywood movies on the topic
- Consider the ramifications and consequences of actions during and after First World War on world affairs
- Develop thoughtful evaluations on course content
- Understand how commemoration can affect current-day general understandings of these events

Mode of Instruction: *Online Asynchronous; Final Exam synchronous and in person*

- *Please note that students must attend an in-person final exam during the December exam period as scheduled by the registrar's office. Students will only be able to arrange a make-up exam with approval from academic advising.*

Course textbooks/materials:

- William Kelleher Storey, *The First World War: A Concise Global History*, 3rd Edition (Rowman & Littlefield, 2020) (~\$52.50+ depending on format)

- Henri Barbusse, *Under Fire* (~\$29.29+ depending on format)

Both books are available for purchase at the Bookstore at Western. The 3rd edition is preferred for the Storey textbook. Other editions for Barbusse are acceptable for this course. Other readings will be made available via OWL Brightspace.

Students will be expected to have access to a computer and stable internet in order to complete this course.

Method of evaluation:

- 20% Lecture Quizzes – four of five; each worth 5% (Modules 3, 5, 7, 10, 12)
- 20% Book Reflection (due November 13)
- 20% Online Participation
- 40% Final Exam

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with the instructor's consent.

Online Quizzes: There will be **five Online Quizzes** in this course; students are responsible for completing **four** of them. If a student completes all five, the top four marks will be counted for the final grade. They will be due at the end of Modules 3, 5, 7, 10 and 12. They are there to ensure students are keeping up with class content, while also helping ensure students are comprehending it. These quizzes will be a mix of 15 true/false and multiple choice questions based on lecture material and the assigned reading. These quizzes will take place on OWL Brightspace and be open book. The quizzes will go live at the start of the module and are available until the deadline at 11:59 p.m. ET the day the module ends. No late submissions will be accepted.

Please note that because the submission deadline for this assessment already includes flexibility in the form of choice – students only have to complete FOUR of the FIVE quizzes and can choose whichever four they wish to complete – the instructor reserves the right to deny academic consideration for quizzes which are submitted following each quizzes' deadline.

Online Participation: Some modules will encourage students to respond to course content or assigned readings through online forum discussion on OWL Brightspace. This may entail responding to a question based on the lectures or readings, to think about some of the various arguments made in historical research on these subjects or to analyze a primary or secondary source. Students are expected to both post their initial thoughts, while responding to other students during the module the forum discussion prompts are assigned; late posts may still be marked, but will not be able to receive full credit. Students are expected to interact with other students and the professor respectfully. Any inappropriate content will not be tolerated and will lead to students forfeiting their credit for the given module. This mark will consider a student's contributions over the duration of the course.

Book Reflection: Students will be expected to read Henri Barbusse's *Under Fire* and reflect upon its contents in a 750-1000 word short essay. The reflection should be in full sentences and have citations to specific points in the reading, or, if relevant, the course textbook or other course readings. Students will also have a specific question or questions that they will need to respond to in their reflection. Further instructions will be provided on OWL Brightspace. This assignment is due Friday, November 13, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. ET

Final Exam: There will be a final exam taking place during the December exam period as scheduled by the registrar's office. The exam will be IN PERSON, to take place at King's University College. Students are expected to make themselves available to complete the exam at the scheduled time and in person. The exam will be a mix of short answer and essay questions based on course materials.

Information for all assignments: The book reflection and class participation will be submitted electronically via OWL Brightspace.

Students are expected to include citations for the Book Reflection. Citations should match a recognized citation format (Chicago, APA, MLA, etc.) and include at least the author, title, and page number.

Late Policy: As per the King's University College Department of History guidelines – a penalty of five marks will be assessed for essays submitted the first day after deadline, followed by a penalty of one mark per day including weekends.

Email Policy: Students are welcome to speak to the professor during office hours or by appointment, either in person or via Zoom. The professor will also do his best to be available to answer any questions regarding the course or its content. Regarding email, he will aim to respond within 24 hours. One exception to this rule will be weekends where he will aim to respond within 48 hours.

Academic Integrity / Remote Proctoring:

Western Scholastic Discipline policy:

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

AI Policy: King's is committed to fostering a culture of professionalism, honesty, and academic integrity, and all members of our community—faculty, staff, and students—have a role to play in promoting an ethical learning environment. Furthermore, through the work they submit for academic evaluation, students develop important habits of critical thinking, independent inquiry, and creativity. Thus, it is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor.

Turnitin: This class will use Turnitin on all submitted written assignments to check for plagiarism.

Schedule of Classes and Assessments:

- *Module 1: September 9 to 12 - Introduction*
- *Module 2: September 13 to 19 – Why 1914?*
- *Module 3: September 20 to 26 – The July Crisis (Why Summer 1914?)*
 - *Lecture Quiz 1 due September 26*
- *Module 4: September 27 to October 3 – The War in 1914*
- *Module 5: October 4 to October 9 – The War 1915-1916*
 - *Lecture Quiz 2 due October 8*

- *READING WEEK: October 10-18*

- *Module 6: October 19 to October 24 – Life in the Trenches*
- *Module 7: October 25 to 31 – Atrocities during the First World War*
 - *Lecture Quiz 3 due October 31*
- *Module 8: November 1 to 7 – Life on the Home Front; Innovation and War*
- *Module 9: November 8 to 14 – Commemoration of the First World War*
 - *Book Reflection due November 13*
- *Module 10: November 15 to 21 – The Russian Revolutions*
 - *Lecture Quiz 4 due November 21*
- *Module 11: November 22 to 28 – From American Entry to the Ceasefire*
- *Module 12: November 29 to December 5 – The Paris Peace Conference; The Wilsonian Moment?*
 - *Lecture Quiz 5 due December 5*
- *Module 13: December 6 to December 9 – Global Ramifications*

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (Accessibility)

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found at [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible, and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>.

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this which assessment has been designated as requiring documentation for consideration (that is, exempt from undocumented absences).
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

If an instructor has built flexibility into their assessments (e.g., “complete 8 of 10 quizzes”), this flexibility will already address consideration needs and thus academic consideration may be denied.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the “Special Examination” (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a multiple exam situation (i.e., you are scheduled to write more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King's University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

Good2talk is an online and phone resource for students, available 24/7, with services in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help:
<https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College:
<https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing care@kings.uwo.ca or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a Social Worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western's Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by email (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

Use of Electronic Devices: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom: King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see

https://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

6. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. **Check with you instructor to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools is permitted in other courses.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system; see https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports_-_TurnItIn.html.

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating.

7. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

8. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

9. Policy on Attendance

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.