Daddy, what did YOU do in the Great War?
HY112 Practising History, Part II: Course Programme

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Semester 2, 2014-2015 5 credits

Always refer to Moodle for updated information and access to source material

Module objective:
This module continues the work of HY111 in introducing you to a range of sources used by historians to construct narratives of the past. We will examine the many different kinds of sources used to examine the history of the First World War: news reels, secondary sources, documentaries, government files, newspapers, letters, diaries, oral histories and more. The module aims to foster students’ analytical abilities in interpreting historical sources, a key skill of professional historians.

Module content:
This module is based on the theme of the First World War, also known as the Great War, in which Irish soldiers fought as part of the British Army. Given the current context of centenary anniversaries, particularly the outbreak of the conflict in 1914, we will also examine how the war is currently being remembered and memorialized.

The module will introduce students to different kinds of primary and secondary sources used by historians of the First World War. Students will learn to examine and interpret different kinds of evidence, evaluate potential bias in source material and gain the skills necessary for the analysis of historical materials. The assignments are aimed at increasing students’ writing abilities and interpretive skills.

Learning Outcomes:
At the end of this course it is expected that students will have:
- An appreciation of the rich resources available to students online;
- Skills in online searching, accessing electronic journals, and evaluating the trustworthiness and value of materials made accessible on the web;
- A critical understanding of the different kinds of source materials available and the different perspectives they offer on the First World War.
HY112 thus continues to discuss problems, concepts and terms in historical research already listed for module HY 111 (Practicing History', Part I), such as evidence, primary sources, secondary sources, critical assessment of sources, authenticity, plagiarism, bibliography, bibliographical reference, chronology, journal, monograph, survey and reviewing.

Core Text:
As an introduction to the core themes of World War I students are advised to consult the following text:

This book is available at a special price in the University Bookshop. Specific documents and readings will be assigned for tutorial discussions and will be made available electronically. Other readings that are helpful to your learning will be posted to Moodle.

Select Further Reading:
Joll, James, *The origins of the First World War*, (London, 1992), SHORT 940.5311 JOL
Methodology Readings:
Jordanova, Ludmilla The Look of the Past: Visual and Material Evidence in Historical Practice (Cambridge, 2012) – this has been ordered for the library. A video about the book can be found here [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp8q4-dHwAY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cp8q4-dHwAY)


Internet Resources:
The following are a sample of recommended resources on WWI:
British Library – World War I page - [http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107535.html](http://www.bl.uk/learning/timeline/item107535.html)
British Pathé online [http://www.britishpathe.com/](http://www.britishpathe.com/)
Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Interactive War Dead Map: [http://codehesive.com/commonwealthww1/](http://codehesive.com/commonwealthww1/)
Euro Docs – Online Sources for European History - [http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page](http://eudocs.lib.byu.edu/index.php/Main_Page)
European Film Gateway [http://www.europeanfilmgateway.eu/content/efg1914-project](http://www.europeanfilmgateway.eu/content/efg1914-project)
Eyewitness to History [http://www.eyewitnessstohistory.com/w1frm.htm](http://www.eyewitnessstohistory.com/w1frm.htm)
First World War poetry digital archive [http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/](http://www.oucs.ox.ac.uk/ww1lit/)
First World War propaganda posters [http://www.ww1propaganda.com/](http://www.ww1propaganda.com/)
First World War [http://www.firstworldwar.com](http://www.firstworldwar.com)
Fordham University, Internet Modern History Sourcebook pages on World War I [http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook38.asp](http://www.fordham.edu/Halsall/mod/modsbook38.asp)
Glasnevin Trust WWI Exhibit: [http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/visit-glasnevin/events/ww1-centenary-exhibition/index.xml?gclid=CjwKEAiA28ilBRCy5cXrgtfTxTISJABgX7E2eSf5IYLMMZoCuUf0HNR3LkTbslQ9a5g16vW5pcUDIfRoC_2rw_wC8](http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/visit-glasnevin/events/ww1-centenary-exhibition/index.xml?gclid=CjwKEAiA28ilBRCy5cXrgtfTxTISJABgX7E2eSf5IYLMMZoCuUf0HNR3LkTbslQ9a5g16vW5pcUDIfRoC_2rw_wC8)
Imperial War Museum, Whose Remembrance research portal: [http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections-research/research-programmes/whose-remembrance](http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections-research/research-programmes/whose-remembrance)
Imperial War Museum: [www.iwm.org.uk/thesomme](http://www.iwm.org.uk/thesomme)
Irish Great War Society [http://www.irishgreatwarsociety.com/ww1research.htm](http://www.irishgreatwarsociety.com/ww1research.htm)
Irish History Online [http://www.irishhistoryonline.ie/](http://www.irishhistoryonline.ie/)
Myles Dungan website [http://mylesdungan.com/2014/05/19/some-useful-sources-of-information-for-tracing-irish-ww1-soldiers/](http://mylesdungan.com/2014/05/19/some-useful-sources-of-information-for-tracing-irish-ww1-soldiers/)
Peace Pledge Union, Conscientious Objectors resource
http://www.ppu.org.uk/coproject/index.html

Punch cartoons/illustrations
http://punch.photoshelter.com/gallery/World-War-1-Cartoons/G0000dASULVAdI/

RTE Archive, Ireland and the Great War

Soldier’s Will project at the National Archives of Ireland
http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/search/sw/about.jsp

The First World War diary of Charles Rooke
http://www.duffin.demon.co.uk/family/rooke.htm

The Great War, 1914-1918
http://www.greatwar.co.uk/

The National Archives Kew – World War I resources -
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/records/looking-for-subject/firstworldwar.htm

The National Archives Kew – ‘We were there exhibition’

WW1 Women - Female heroines

Bibliographies

Bibliography of British and Irish history
http://apps.brepolis.net/bbih/search.cfm?

Bibliography of the Western Front (World War I) by Edward G. Lengel on Oxford Bibliographies

Citizendum - the Citizens' Compendium
http://en.citizendum.org/wiki/World_War_I/Bibliography
http://www.esuhistoryprof.com/w_w_i_bibliography.htm

Library of Congress (USA), guide to WWI materials
http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/wwi/wwi.html

Select Bibliography of World War I

Documentaries

BBC, The end of the First World War:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNwkJIV3DOQ

Imperial War Museum, World War 1 in colour:
The First World War: Part 1: Race To Arms documentary available on YouTube
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qY3Sb8xiQ_c
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4OlyOYv8sE

Podcasts, interviews and debates

BBC Witness, Oh What a Lovely War:
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00lf05w
BBC Witness, The Christmas Truce: [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00cjlb5](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00cjlb5)

History Extra, The legacy of the First World War:
http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/witness/witness_20111223-0908a.mp3
http://downloads.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/worldservice/witness/witness_20111111-0915a.mp3
http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/first-world-war-new-perspectives
http://www.historyextra.com/podcast/legacy-first-world-war-and-gandhis-early-years
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yNEvV6lI4

Niall Ferguson, Was World War I the biggest error in modern history?
University of Oxford, First World War New Perspectives series, available via You Tube
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yNEvV6lI4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9yNEvV6lI4)

### Lecture List

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Tutorial</th>
<th>Assignments to be handed in during tutorial</th>
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<td><strong>Lecture 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;2-6 Feb</td>
<td>Course introduction: historians, sources and World War I</td>
<td>Introduction to the course Discussion of Showalter article and newspapers articles (available in Moodle)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Lecture 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;9-13 Feb</td>
<td>Mobilization, enlistment and preparation for war</td>
<td>Review of lecture 1 Discussion on chapter 1 of textbook, and primary source document Preparation for Assignment 1</td>
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<td><strong>Lecture 3</strong>&lt;br&gt;16-20 Feb</td>
<td>War on the Western Front</td>
<td>Review of lecture 2 Discussion on chapter 3 of textbook and primary source document</td>
<td>Assignment 1 due</td>
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<td><strong>Lecture 4</strong>&lt;br&gt;23-27 Feb</td>
<td>War on the Eastern Front</td>
<td>Review of lecture 3 Discussion on chapter by Denis Showalter, ‘War in the East and Balkans, 1914-18’ and primary source document Feedback on Assignment 1 Preparation for Assignment 2</td>
<td>Assignment 1 returned</td>
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<td><strong>Lecture 5</strong>&lt;br&gt;2 – 7 Mar</td>
<td>Propaganda, the First World War and the home front</td>
<td>Review of lecture 4 Discussion of chapters 12 and 16 of the textbook and podcast from Imperial War Museum available on Moodle</td>
<td>Assignment 2 due</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lecture 6 9-13 March</td>
<td><strong>Guest lecture:</strong> Barbara McCormack, Special Collections &amp; Archives: Russell Library and John Paul II Library on the special exhibit currently on show at the college.</td>
<td>Feedback on Assignment 2 Discussion of John Horne, <em>Our War: Ireland and the Great War</em>, Chapter 1, available on Moodle and RTE website source material</td>
<td>Assignment 2 returned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture 7 23-27 Mar</td>
<td>Women and the War</td>
<td>Review of lecture 6 Discussion of chapter 11 of the textbook and primary source document Preparation for Assignment 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>30 Mar – 3 April</td>
<td>No lecture this week due to Good Friday. Tutorials go ahead as normal apart from those scheduled for Friday; students in Friday tutorials should contact the History Department to find alternate tutorial times</td>
<td>‘The Causes of World War One’, available at <a href="http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm">http://www.firstworldwar.com/origins/causes.htm</a></td>
<td>Assignment 3 due</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter holidays April 6-10 – no classes</td>
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<td>Review of lecture 7 Discussion of: Judith Brown, <em>The Oxford History of the British Empire</em>, vi (chapter 5) and David Omissi article available on Moodle And Chapter 22 of textbook Feedback on Assignment 3 Preparation for Assignment 4</td>
<td>Assignment 3 returned</td>
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<td>Lecture 8 13-17 Apr</td>
<td>Empire and the War</td>
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<td>Lecture 9 20-24 Apr</td>
<td>Revolutions and the Treaty of Versailles</td>
<td>Review of lecture 8 Discussion of chapters 17 Preparation for Assignment 5</td>
<td>Assignment 4 due</td>
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<td>Lecture 10</td>
<td>The First World War in memory and literature</td>
<td>Review of lecture 9</td>
<td>Assignment 4 returned</td>
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<td>27 Apr-1 May</td>
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<td>Discussion of chapter 24 of textbook and primary source document</td>
<td>Assignment 5 due</td>
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<td>Feedback on Assignment 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture 11</td>
<td>Course conclusions and preview of second year courses</td>
<td>Review of lecture 10</td>
<td>Assignment 5 returned.</td>
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<td>4-8 May</td>
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<td>Review of course</td>
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<td>Chapter 23 of textbook</td>
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<td>Feedback on Assignment 5</td>
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**Moodle**

As this course is intended to foster computer skills in historical research, it is important to engage online in a wholehearted manner from the outset. Therefore, the course outline, lecture slides, links to recommended websites (visited during the lecture or which we recommend you visit afterwards) will be uploaded on Moodle, accessed from the home page of http://www.nuim.ie or directly at http://moodle.nuim.ie/.

Additional instructions concerning tutorial assignments will be found here, and updated information will be posted as the course proceeds. Moodle will also be the means through which announcements and reminders will be posted. It is expected that students will visit this site at minimum twice weekly. Students who have problems with their passwords or other aspects of Moodle should email moodlesupport@nuim.ie. Please consult with your tutor in the first instance about any questions you have about your assignments or readings.

**Readings**

**Lecture 1, Friday 6th February, Course introduction: historians, sources and World War I**


Tutorial reading: Three newspaper articles charting the outbreak of war, available on Moodle.

**Lecture 2, Friday 13th February, Mobilization, enlistment and preparation for war**


Lecture 3, Friday 20th February, War on the Western Front
Lecture reading: Hew Strachan, The Oxford Illustrated History of the First World War, Chapter 3

Lecture 4, Friday 27th February, War on the Eastern Front

Lecture 5, Friday 6th March, Propaganda, the First World War and the home front
Tutorial reading: Imperial War Museum ‘IWM’s Voices of the First World War’ podcast available here http://www.1914.org/podcasts/podcast-35-life-on-the-home-front/ (a transcript is provided as well as the audio)

Lecture 6, Friday 13th March, Maynooth and the First World War
Guest lecture by Barbara McCormack, Special Collections & Archives: Russell Library and John Paul II Library on the special exhibit currently on show at the college.
Lecture reading: John Horne, Our War: Ireland and the Great War, Chapter 1, available on Moodle.

Reading Week Monday 16th - Friday 20th March - no classes

Lecture 7, Friday 27th March, Women and the War
Friday 3rd April - No class, Good Friday – tutorials are going ahead this week, please seek out an alternate time if you normally have a Friday tutorial

Easter Holidays: April 6th -10th, no classes

Lecture 8, Friday 17th April, Empire and the War
Lecture reading: Judith Brown, *The Oxford History of the British Empire, vi* (chapter 5)

Lecture 9, Friday 24th April, Revolutions and the Treaty of Versailles

Lecture 10, Friday 1st May, The First World War in memory and literature

Lecture 11, Friday 8th May, Course conclusions and preview of second year history courses.

Assessment:
The course will be assessed by five assignments to be handed in to your tutor. Students should pay attention to the word limits for each assignment and stick to them as closely as possible. The following is a breakdown of the grading:

- Assignment 1 20%
- Assignment 2 15%
- Assignment 3 15%
- Assignment 4 30%
- Assignment 5 20%
Presentation of work
Students will submit their assignments by email, directly to their tutors (as explained in the first tutorial). You will also bring a hard copy printout to the scheduled tutorial; this is essential, as the printout will be made available to the external examiners. No hard copy print out, no mark. It will be the student’s responsibility to ensure that he/she keeps both electronic and hard copy versions of all assignments and essays.

Please note: as with all History modules, late work will not be credited unless it is accompanied by a written explanation and the reasons established for lateness are deemed to be sufficiently serious by the examiners when they meet in June. As this module is examined entirely by work during term time, there is no possibility of a repeat examination.

Please refer to the Department Undergraduate Handbook for guidance on referencing

Instructions for Assignments

Please refer to Moodle for further information. You must bring a hard copy of the assignment with you to your tutorial using the departmental cover sheet. You must also email a copy of the assignment to your tutor no later than the day of your tutorial.

Assignment 1: Using websites for historical research - 20%
Students are required to identify THREE websites useful to professional historical research on World War I from the list provided.

Students must submit a short description of each website, discussing their particular intentions, reliability, and usefulness to scholarly research, and drawing comparisons across the three selected sites. The websites selected must be referenced correctly and in full; failure to properly reference the websites will result in a fail grade for this assignment. This assignment is to be emailed to your tutor prior to the tutorial in week 3. A printed copy of the assignment must be brought to the tutorial.

Word Count: 1,000 words

Assignment 2: Using primary sources on World War I - 15%
Produce a short report on one primary source of your own choosing available online that relates to World War I (you may use a site listed in the syllabus if you wish). This report should be accompanied by a bibliography that identifies at least FOUR different other online primary sources relating to the same topic. In each case the information accessed online must be fully referenced, according to the conventions outlined by the course lecturer, and the format recommended by the journal Irish Historical Studies.

A printed copy of the assignment must be brought with you to the tutorial.
Word Count: 750 words not including the bibliography

Assignment 3: Using visual sources – 15%
A content analysis of a poster from the era, used for propaganda purposes, analysed with reference to a secondary source reading (both provided on the module’s Moodle site). This assignment requires you to reflect on the message(s) conveyed in the image and to consider how your reading of the secondary source informs your arguments. Consider, for example, the following questions: Is the image displaying bias? What impact do the colours have on the messages being conveyed? What language is being emphasized?

Word Count: 750 words
A printed copy of the assignment must be brought with you to the tutorial.

Assignment 4: Analysing secondary sources 30%
This assignment requires you to engage with the historiography of the First World War. Historians differ in their accounts of historical events or in their interpretation of them. A key skill you need to learn as a history student is to be able to synthesise and analyse historical arguments in order to form your own opinion. From the secondary sources provided in Moodle, choose three articles/chapters and write the following

(1) A brief summary of the arguments presented in each article/chapter
(2) A comparison of the points of agreement and disagreement between the historians

Word Count: 1500 words
A printed copy of the assignment must be brought with you to the tutorial.

Assignment 5: Analysing films as historical sources 20%
Cinema has been one of the defining media in the presentation of the First World War to twentieth and twenty-first century audiences. In this assignment you will assess the authenticity, originality and significance of film as a means of informing contemporary understanding of the conflict. This assignment requires you to watch the film ‘The Trench’ (1999): http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_QUld96TzJs
With reference to both primary and secondary sources, discuss the cinematic treatment of one of the following themes in this film:
- Life in the trenches
- Military leadership
- Attitudes to the enemy forces
- Soldiers’ relationships with the Home Front

Your essay should address the historical accuracy of the film, the use of cinematic techniques to highlight key arguments/ideas and the potential impact of this motion picture on audiences’ perceptions of the First World War.
Word Count: 1,000 words
A printed copy of the assignment must be brought with you to the tutorial. This film cannot be used as a subject for assignment/exams in the HY119 module: History through Film.

**Contact**

If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact your tutor or lecturer!

Dr. Jennifer Redmond, Room 43, Department of History
[jennifer.redmond@nuim.ie](mailto:jennifer.redmond@nuim.ie) or (01) 7083375

Office hours:

- Mondays: 12.15pm-1.15pm
- Tuesdays: 11.10am-12.10pm
- Wednesdays: 1.45pm-2.45pm