

Sophomore Inquiry 212C
America and the Great War
Introduction to American Studies

Course Requirements for Grade

- **Short Mid Term Exam**
15% An opportunity to crystallize your overview of the war. While you will want to have a general familiarity of the war based on class materials and readings, you will assemble a precis of the war based on prompts that will be provided in class.
- **Group Presentation**
30% Your primary substantive contribution to the learning of the class, this will provide you with the opportunity to work together with a small group of fellow students in identifying, researching, organizing, and presenting a unit in class that examines one of the ways in which the war affected the nature of our society. This might be an immediate effect, such as the introduction of the draft or the suppression of free speech, a long term effect such as the movement of women into the work force or the emergence of federal control of the economy, or an even longer a change in some of the basic values, moral, or general outlook of the American people. We will spend a little bit of time expanding this list, but you will be encouraged to discover topics on your own.
- **Original Poetry**
10% One aspect of any war (or major tragedy) is how it is remembered and commemorated. Poetry was one way the war was dealt with especially among the British. We will read some of their poetry and give you an opportunity to express some of your own impressions of the war by writing a piece of original poetry.
- **Final Exam**
25% The final exam will be based on materials presented toward the end of the term. You should be absolutely sure not to miss the last week of the course. I will explain more about this as we go on.
- **Journal**
10% This is a new requirement, but not an onerous one. Starting with class today (January 14) I am going to ask you maintain a simple journal in which, after each class and mentor session, you write down at least three things that you learned that day (based on in-class materials, discussions with others, the readings, or any other source). You are encouraged to write as much as you want, but for each of the three weekly sessions for the next nine weeks I expect you to have at least three entries.
- **Attendance and participation, based on:**
10% Regular attendance in main class and mentor sections
Participation and contributions to discussions and other class activities
Completion of “ad hoc” assignments: free writes, discussion questions, etc

• **Extra Credit**

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I previously mentioned the possibility of extra credit for the course. This is entirely voluntary; you may wish to wait toward the end of the course to see if you want to nudge your grade upward or you may want to enrich your experience and understanding (and just have a good read) by selecting one of the following novels. You are also free to introduce one of your own choosing, along with a brief description of its aptness to the subject.

On completing the book I will provide you with a set of guidelines that will enable you to frame your reflections and reactions to the book in the form of a critique.

The books listed below are generally regarded as intriguing, instructive, and well written.

Early Classics:

- Aldington, Richard: Death of A Hero [English]
Hemingway, Ernest: A Farewell to Arms [American]**
Manning, Frederick: The Middle Parts of Fortune
(also called Her Privates We) [English]
Remarque, Erich Maria: All Quiet on the Western Front [German]**
Romain, Jules: Verdun [French]
Sassoon, Siegfried: Memoirs of an Infantry Officer
Sherston's Progress [English]
Wharton, Edith: A Son at the Front [American]

More Recent

- Anthony, Patricia: Flanders [American]
Barker, Pat: Regeneration**
The Eye In the Door
The Ghost Road [English]
Faulks, Sebastian: Birdsong [English]
Findley, Timothy: The Wars [American]
Halprin, Mark: A Soldier of the Great War [American]
Hull, Jonathan, Losing Julia [American]
Masters, John: Loss of Eden (trilogy) [English]
Trumbo, Dalton: Johnny Got His Gun [American]**

**Especially recommended