

HI178-30 Farewell to Arms? War in Modern European History, 1815-2015

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 1

Module leader

Liz Egan

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

In the early twenty-first century, many commentators argue that European societies have broken politically, military, and culturally with a past long shaped by wars and military conflicts. Following the 2003 invasion of Iraq and the ensuing transatlantic dispute, many US conservative commentators argued with Robert Kagan that “Americans are from Mars and Europeans from Venus” (Of paradise and power. America and Europe in the New World Order, 2003). In this view, Europeans would now be both both unwilling and incapable of using war and military power to ensure their security. More recently, historian James Sheehan invited us to rethink modern European history as the painful, cruel, and costly process whereby European societies redefined their relationship to war as an instrument of policy (Where Have All the Soldiers Gone? The Transformation of Modern Europe, 2008). These debates, like the history of warfare, raise a series of ethical, political, and intellectual issues of continuing import and relevance. This team-taught first-year optional module will introduce students to the history of war and conflicts in modern European history (1815-2015). It will consider how war, its conduct and experience, shaped states and societies in Europe. It will also investigate how the transformations of warfare reflected the evolutions of European societies.

[Module web page](#)

Module aims

The lectures will provide a brief outline of the military conflicts that shaped the experience of Europeans throughout the period. Most importantly however, in conjunction with weekly seminar discussions, they will help students understand how wars affected – and were transformed by – political ideologies and regimes, cultures, understandings of race and gender, economic systems and international relations and institutions.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

1. Introduction: Why does war matter?
2. Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars
3. The wars of German unification
4. The birth of industrial warfare
5. Colonial warfare
6. Reading week
7. Pacifism in the nineteenth century
8. The causes of modern wars
9. The First World War and the totalisation of warfare
10. Home fronts and social mobilisation in WWI
11. Warfare and welfare in interwar Europe
12. Regulating and preventing war (1899-1939)
13. The Spanish Civil War
14. The Second World War: a “thirty years’ war”?
15. War and genocide in Europe (1915-1945)
16. Reading week
17. From war to civil wars: resistance, collaboration, and the aftermath of WWII
18. Cold War
19. Pacifism after Auschwitz and Hiroshima
20. Wars of decolonization
21. The dividends of peace
22. Yugoslavia and the return of war in Europe
23. Terrorism and the transformations of war

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Gain a broad understanding of the role of war & military conflicts in modern European history.
- Identify a range of related conceptual approaches and historiographical debates, including why scholars have now moved from military history to the history of warfare.
- Identify and engage with a range of relevant primary sources.

- Gain interpersonal and communication skills through the delivery of a presentation.
- Devise well-defined essay topics, collect relevant data from a variety of sources and present results in an effective fashion.

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

[Specific reading list for the module](#)

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	22 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Seminars	22 sessions of 1 hour (7%)
Tutorials	2 sessions of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	254 hours (85%)
Total	300 hours

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A5

Assessment component	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
1000-word essay plan	10%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
Seminar participation/presentation	10%		No
Reassessment component			
1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution			Yes (extension)
Assessment component			
2000 word essay or equivalent	30%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			
Assessment component			
3000-word essay or equivalent	50%		Yes (extension)
Reassessment component is the same			

Feedback on assessment

Written comments and oral feedback will be provided for non-assessed assignments.

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- Year 1 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 1 of UFRA-R1VA Undergraduate French and History
- Year 1 of UGEA-R2V1 Undergraduate German and History
- ULNA-R4V1 Undergraduate Hispanic Studies and History
 - Year 1 of R4V1 Hispanic Studies and History
 - Year 1 of R4V1 Hispanic Studies and History
- UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
 - Year 1 of V100 History
 - Year 1 of V100 History
- UPDA-Y306 Undergraduate History (Part-Time)
 - Year 1 of Y306 History (Part Time)
 - Year 1 of Y306 History (Part Time)
- Year 1 of UIPA-V1L8 Undergraduate History and Global Sustainable Development
- Year 1 of UITA-R3V2 Undergraduate History and Italian
- Year 1 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
 - Year 1 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 1 of VM11 History and Politics
 - Year 1 of VM11 History and Politics
- Year 1 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- UVCA-LA99 Undergraduate Liberal Arts
 - Year 1 of LA99 Liberal Arts
 - Year 1 of LA92 Liberal Arts with Classics
 - Year 1 of LA73 Liberal Arts with Design Studies
 - Year 1 of LA83 Liberal Arts with Economics
 - Year 1 of LA82 Liberal Arts with Education
 - Year 1 of LA95 Liberal Arts with English
 - Year 1 of LA81 Liberal Arts with Film and Television Studies
 - Year 1 of LA80 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 1 of LA93 Liberal Arts with Global Sustainable Development
 - Year 1 of LA97 Liberal Arts with History
 - Year 1 of LA71 Liberal Arts with Law
 - Year 1 of LA91 Liberal Arts with Life Sciences
 - Year 1 of LA75 Liberal Arts with Modern Languages and Cultures
 - Year 1 of LA96 Liberal Arts with Philosophy
 - Year 1 of LA94 Liberal Arts with Theatre and Performance Studies