

Course Syllabus
Version 3 (2 September 2023)

You can always find the most recent version of the syllabus on the course Canvas site:
<https://canvas.rutgers.edu>

Mondays & Thursdays, 12:10 – 1:30pm Campbell Hall A4 (College Avenue)

Instructor: Richard Grippaldi, Ph.D. Email: rgrippal@rutgers.edu
Office: Van Dyck Hall 208 (College Avenue)
Office Hours: Mondays 2:00-3:00pm; Tuesdays 12:30-1:30pm;
Thursdays 10:30-11:30am; & by appointment

Course Description: This is a study of the causes, course, and consequences of World War I, with particular emphasis on American culture and foreign policy within Western civilization.

In addition to discussing American grand strategy and participation in combat on the Western Front, the course will address topics such as the influence of the Progressive movement in prewar America; the interactions of pro-Allied, pro-German or –Austrian, and anti-war social groups; mobilizing men and industry for war; the roles of minorities and women in the war effort; and the peace settlement negotiated at Versailles in 1919.

Special Permission Numbers: If you have not taken a course previously with Dr. Grippaldi, your request for a special permission number will be denied, so DO NOT ASK. Students who have taken courses with him are welcome to ask, but should know they may be placed on a waiting list, and may not be enrolled in the course.

Required Course Texts: Print versions can be purchased from the campus bookstore, or special-ordered from your local bookstore or Internet bookseller. Electronic versions are acceptable, but know that the reading assignments will refer to pages in the printed media.

Neiberg, Michael S. *Fighting the Great War: A Global History*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2005. ISBN 9780674022515
(This book is available electronically via Rutgers University Libraries, at <https://login.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/login?url=https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e089mna&AN=282312&site=ehost-live> .)

Traxel, David. *Crusader Nation: The United States in Peace and the Great War, 1898 – 1920*. New York: Vintage, 2006. ISBN 9780375724657

You will also read articles made available via the course Canvas site, or Rutgers University Libraries. These will require you to use your Rutgers NetID credentials.

The course will regularly make use of maps from the *West Point Atlas of American Wars*. As a work produced by the federal government, the *Atlas* is in the public domain, and is reproduced on the U. S. Military Academy's web site:

<https://www.westpoint.edu/academics/academic-departments/history/digital-history-center/atlases/world-war-one>

General Expectations: Dr. Grippaldi expects you will

- treat him, your classmates, and your work with respect
- silence your cell phone or smartphone before class begins
- first consult the syllabus when you have questions about the course
- follow directions precisely
- ask questions when you require clarification of directions, or when you are uncertain or curious about any aspect of the course, or the material presented

Coronavirus Classroom Policy Statement: per the University's statement of 26 September 2022 (<https://coronavirus.rutgers.edu/important-updates-and-changes-to-rutgers-covid-19-protocols/>), "Face coverings will no longer be required in indoor teaching spaces and libraries. Where masks are optional, we encourage all individuals who prefer to wear them to do so, and we fully respect that personal decision."

Those wearing masks should make sure they conform to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines and should completely cover the nose and mouth. You can find those guidelines on the CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/about-face-coverings.html>

Email and Office Hours: After Dr. Grippaldi submits a final grade for you, he will not allow you to raise it via additional assignments or alternative assessments of course knowledge. You may ask him about your course standing at any time during the semester. If you are dissatisfied with the grades you have earned, it is upon you to contact him for advice or help towards improving.

Email is the best way to contact Dr. Grippaldi. (If you send a message to him using Canvas, he may not learn of it until he reads his Canvas notifications . . . which are sent to his Rutgers email account.) As noted at the top of the syllabus, his email address is rgrippal@rutgers.edu (his first initial and a shortened form of his last name). When you write, please use your Rutgers email account. All University business involving students is bound by the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which limits disclosure of student information to the students themselves, and authorized employees of the University. Because anyone can create a non-Rutgers email account that impersonates an instructor or student, these accounts are not secure ways of transmitting information covered by FERPA. Dr. Grippaldi will always use his Rutgers email account to communicate with you, and you should do the same.

This is not the only course Dr. Grippaldi is teaching this semester. Please include "History 512:240" in the subject line of your email, which will help him place you in the

right course. Email sent without a subject line, even by a Rutgers email account, will be ignored.

As a general rule, Dr. Grippaldi will check his email:

- Once in the late morning (between 9:00am and noon)
- Once in the mid-afternoon (between 2:00 and 4:00pm)
- Once in the early evening (between 6:00 and 8:00pm).

That said:

- Sometimes on weekdays, Dr. Grippaldi will wake up really early and be ready to check his email before 9:00am.
- On Tuesdays and Thursdays, Dr. Grippaldi teaches between 2:00 and 3:20pm. He might leave campus after those classes end without checking his email first.
- On Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, Dr. Grippaldi will not check his email after 5:00pm.

In any event, emails sent from a Rutgers account with a subject line always will be acknowledged. If you do not receive a reply within 24 hours, assume your email did not reach Dr. Grippaldi, and write him again.

Office hours, traditionally, are periods when a college instructor is available (“in the office”) to discuss course matters, broadly defined, with students. Dr. Grippaldi will physically be in his office

- Mondays, 2:00-3:00pm
- Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30pm
- Thursdays, 10:30-11:30am

You can simply drop-in at these times, although you may find Dr. Grippaldi already meeting with a classmate.

If you would like to discuss course matters but are not free at those times, you may make an appointment to meet at a time more convenient for you. This includes making a virtual appointment via Webex or Zoom. (No virtual appointments will be granted after 5:00pm, or at any time on weekends.) You can learn about using these services here:

Webex: https://ithelp.rutgers.edu/sp?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0012722

Zoom: https://ithelp.rutgers.edu/sp?id=kb_article&sysparm_article=KB0012629

Dr. Grippaldi enjoys interacting with students – really! – so if you have a simple course-related question or curiosity that does not warrant privacy, he also encourages you to talk to him before or after class.

Grading: Course grades will be assigned according to the following averages:

| | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| A: 90.00 or more | B+: 85.00 – 89.99 | C+: 75.00 – 79.99 | D: 60.00 – 69.99 |
| | B: 80.00 – 84.99 | C: 70.00 – 74.99 | F: less than 60.00 |

Students will complete six take-home, open-note, open-book examinations, each worth 15 percent of the course grade, and a syllabus quiz, worth 5 percent of the course grade. Attendance and participation will make up the remaining 5 percent.

As students submit work, and as they accumulate points towards attendance and participation, Dr. Grippaldi will enter the grades into the “Grades” function on Canvas as acknowledgement that he has evaluated the work. Your average as calculated by the “Grades” function is *unofficial*, however. You may ask Dr. Grippaldi for your precise standing at any time.

Examinations: you will be offered eight opportunities to complete a take-home examination. Each examination consists of two short essay questions, akin to those that might be given on an in-person blue-book examination. Each question is worth 30 points; thus, each examination is worth 60 points.

These examinations are open-note and open-book. You are encouraged to directly quote, or paraphrase, from these sources. When you do, MLA-style citations are sufficient [(Traxel 126); (Lecture 10/9/23) or (Lecture IV-C-3) or (“1915: The Western Front: Chemical Weapons” lecture)].

Each examination centers on a lecture unit. Normally, the questions will be posted the same day the unit’s lectures are finished, with a due date seven days later. Use the “Assignments” function on the course Canvas site to learn the questions and upload your answers. Please use Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format. Name your file “*Lastname Exam X*,” except you will replace Lastname with your last name, and X with the number of the examination.

By prior arrangement, you may submit examinations via alternate methods, including paper. He discourages requests to submit examinations after the deadline, but does not forbid them. If you wish to explain why you should be permitted to submit an examination after the deadline, he will consider your request.

Dr. Grippaldi will use your six highest examination grades in calculating your course average. You are welcome to take seven or all eight examinations.

Syllabus Quiz: This is a ten-question quiz. Each question is worth 10 points. You are permitted to consult your syllabus while taking the quiz. On Thursday, September 7, Dr. Grippaldi will post the quiz for you to download and complete. Submit your quiz as you

would a unit examination. You may turn it in at any point before, or at the beginning of, class on Thursday, **September 28**.

Class Attendance and Participation: You are required to attend lectures held in-person. Dr. Grippaldi believes you will benefit from exposure to lectures and class discussions. Unexcused absences will hurt your attendance grade.

That said, there will be times you are unavoidably prevented from attending class. Dr. Grippaldi will accept your word that your absence was unavoidable and excuse you. You may use Rutgers' Self-Reporting Absence Application, as the system will notify him when you do:

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>

As far as this course is concerned, you have sick days! Please stay home at the slightest indication you are unwell. Again, Dr. Grippaldi will accept your word that you missed class due to illness and excuse you.

The attendance grade (4 percent) is calculated simply:

$([\text{in-person lectures attended} + \text{excused absences}] / \text{in-person lectures delivered}) \times 4$

The readings for each unit are listed on the course schedule. Although Dr. Grippaldi encourages you to complete all of the readings before a unit begins, he will tell you what must be read for the next lecture. He will regularly set aside time for discussion of course material and/or student questions. He defines "class participation" to include discussions by e-mail, before or after class, or during office hours, as well as during class.

The 1 percent allotted to participation is based entirely on Dr. Grippaldi's judgment.

Fun Bonus Section: Have you wondered if Dr. Grippaldi is egotistical? One piece of evidence may be how often he refers to himself in this syllabus in the third person, Rickey Henderson-style. You can earn an additional 25 percent on your participation average (0.25 percent on your course average) by

- a) Learning how many bases Henderson stole in his major-league career
- b) Writing Dr. Grippaldi an email with the subject line "Rickey starts on second base"
- c) Writing in the body of the email mentioned in b) how many bases Rickey Henderson stole in his major-league career

This year's World Series might end as late as November 4; you have slightly more time to earn this fun bonus, until the beginning of class on November 6.

Remote Instruction Statement: Should Dr. Grippaldi have to cancel class due to illness, or because he is unable to travel safely to New Brunswick to deliver an in-person lecture, he will notify students by posting an announcement on the Course canvas site. To be sure you receive timely notifications of such an announcement, you can set your notifications

preferences to “Notify immediately” and specify an email account or other device to receive it:

Notifications: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-manage-my-Canvas-notification-settings-as-a-student/ta-p/434>

Canvas contact methods: <https://community.canvaslms.com/t5/Student-Guide/How-do-I-add-contact-methods-to-receive-Canvas-notifications-as/ta-p/516>

If class is cancelled for any reason, Dr. Grippaldi will upload audio lectures for the day to the course Canvas site, along with a lecture outline and list of key terms. You would be expected to listen to the lectures before the next in-person meeting.

Should the University mandate the course be completed remotely, it will become *asynchronous*. This means you will not be required to participate in course activities on specific days or at specific times. Although assignments will continue to have specific due dates, you will be able to access the course materials at times of your choosing, and turn in assignments before or on the date due. Dr. Grippaldi will post a revised syllabus and course schedule to Canvas as soon as possible.

Academic Integrity Statement: Academic integrity is essential to the success of the educational enterprise. Breaches of academic integrity, including but not limited to cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating others’ violations of academic integrity, constitute serious offenses against the academic community. Dr. Grippaldi assumes students will familiarize themselves with both Rutgers University’s policies on academic integrity, which you can find at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu> , and the resources for students the University has provided at <http://nbacademicintegrity.rutgers.edu/home-2/for-students/> at their earliest opportunity.

Disability Services Statement: Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University’s educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student must contact the disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation (see <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>). If the documentation supports your request, your campus’ disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. As early as possible, please share this letter with your instructors, and discuss the accommodations with them. To begin this process, please complete the registration form on the Office of Disability Services website, at <https://webapps.rutgers.edu/student-ods/forms/registration> .

Course Schedule

Note that Dr. Grippaldi reserves the right to change the schedule, readings, and assignments.

Unit I – Course Introduction – September 7

Readings: Traxel, preface; Neiberg, introduction

Unit II – Progressive America – September 11 & 14

Readings: Traxel, chs. 1 – 6

Examination #1 due **September 21**

Unit III – 1914 – September 18, 21, 25 & 28

(Origins; German invasion of Belgium and France; War in the East & the Balkans; Early US Response)

Readings: Traxel, chs. 7 – 8; Neiberg, chs. 1 – 2

Syllabus Quiz due **September 28**

Examination #2 due **October 5**

Unit IV – 1915 – October 2, 5, 9 & 12

(Blockade / Counterblockade, Rights of Neutral Powers; Introduction to Trench Warfare, Western Front; Eastern Front; Ottoman Turkey enters the war, Gallipoli; Italy enters the war; Serbian collapse)

Readings: Traxel, chs. 9 – 11; Neiberg, chs. 3 (all), 4 (pp. 95 – 117), 5 (pp. 123 – 34), 6 (pp. 150 – 6)

Examination #3 due **October 19**

Unit V – 1916 – October 16, 19 & 23

(Verdun & the Somme; Jutland; American Preparedness; Eastern Front; Italy and Romania)

Readings: Traxel, chs. 12 – 14; Neiberg, chs. 5 (pp. 134 – 8), 6 (pp. 157 – 76), 7 (all), 8 (pp. 203 – 10), 9 (pp. 250 – 1)

Examination #4 due **October 30**

Unit VI – Nationalisms at War on the Periphery – October 26 & 30

(Britain's "white dominions;" Japan and China; Ottoman fronts [1915 – 1917]; India; Africa)

Readings: Neiberg, chs. 4 (pp. 177 – 22), 5 (pp. 140 – 9), 11 (pp. 294 – 305)

Examination #5 due **November 6**

Unit VII – 1917 – November 2, 6, 9 & 13

(Unrestricted submarine warfare; American entry, goals, economic & military mobilization; Nivelle's offensive; war weariness; Passchendaele; Russian Revolutions, Italy)

Readings: Traxel, chs. 15 – 17 (all), 18 (pp. 312 – 26); Neiberg, chs. 5 (p. 139), 8 (pp. 210 – 23), 9 (pp. 229 – 49, 252 – 3), 10 (all), 11 (pp. 280 – 8)

Articles: Christopher Capozzola, “The Only Badge Needed is Your Patriotic Fervor: Vigilance, Coercion, and the Law in World War I America,” *Journal of American History* 88 (March 2002): 1354 – 1382 (available at <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/2700601>)

Nancy G. Ford, “‘Mindful of the Traditions of His Race’: Dual Identity and Foreign-Born Soldiers in the First World War American Army,” *Journal of American Ethnic History* 16 (Winter 1997): 35 – 57 (available at <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/27502162>)

Donald R. Hickey, “The Prager Affair: A Study in Wartime Hysteria,” *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society* 62 (Summer 1969): 117 – 34 (available at <http://www.jstor.org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/40191045>)

Jeanette Keith, “The Politics of Southern Draft Resistance, 1917-1918: Class, Race, and Conscription in the Rural South,” *JAH* 87 (March 2001): 1335 – 1361 (available at <https://www-jstor-org.proxy.libraries.rutgers.edu/stable/2674731>)

Examination #6 due **November 20**

Unit VIII – 1918 – November 16, 20, 21 & 27

(Building and Training the AEF; German offensives; war ends on Austrian and Ottoman Fronts; war weariness II; Meuse-Argonne & war ends on Western Front)

Readings: Traxel, chs. 18 (pp. 326 – 9) & 19 (pp. 330 – 35); Neiberg, chs. 8 (pp. 223 – 6), 11 (pp. 288 – 93), 12, 13 & conclusion (all)

The University is closed on Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving. Attend your Thursday classes on Tuesday, November 21. Dr. Grippaldi will not check his email after 5:00pm on Wednesday, November 22, or at any time on Thanksgiving Day.

Examination #7 due **December 4**

Unit IX – War's Aftermath – November 30; December 4 & 7

(Versailles and its Discontents; The Presidential Election of 1920; Chaos Abroad)

Readings: Traxel, ch. 19 (pp. 335 – 51) & epilogue

Examination #8 due by 11:59pm on **Friday, December 15** (first day of final examination block)

Unit X – Course Conclusion – December 11