

***Canada and the Great War: Military Topics***

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**Course Description:**

Discussion topics will focus on the major themes in Canada's Great War military experience, including the Canadian Expeditionary Force's recruitment and training, leadership, tactical doctrine, and integration within the British Expeditionary Force, as well as key developments in civil-military relations and on the homefront.

**Weekly Discussion Readings:**

**Please note that because of the enrolment in the course, there will be two sections, A and B, meeting each week, Section A from 930 till 11 and Section B from 11 till 1230. You will be assigned a Section on September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**1. September 8 ... class orientation****2. September 15 ...****Section A ... "The Ordinary Soldier"**

Desmond Morton, *When Your Number's Up: the Canadian Soldier in the First World War*

**Section B ... "Senior Officers and Great Commanders"**

Patrick Brennan, "From Amateur to Professional: The Experience of Brigadier-General William Antrobus Griesbach," in Briton Busch, ed., *Canada and the Great War*

Patrick Brennan, "Major-General Sir David Watson: a Critical Appraisal of Canadian Generalship in the Great War," forthcoming

Stephen Harris, *Canadian Brass: The Making of a Professional Army, 1860-1939* (Chaps 5-7)

\* AMJ Hyatt, *General Sir Arthur Currie: A Military Biography* (Chaps. 2-7)

**3. September 22 ...****Section A ... "Senior Officers and Great Commanders"**

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Patrick Brennan, "From Amateur to Professional: The Experience of Brigadier-General William Antrobus Griesbach," in Briton Busch, ed., *Canada and the Great War*

Patrick Brennan, "Major-General Sir David Watson: a Critical Appraisal of Canadian Generalship in the Great War," forthcoming

Stephen Harris, *Canadian Brass: The Making of a Professional Army, 1860-1939* (Chaps 5-7)

\* AMJ Hyatt, *General Sir Arthur Currie: A Military Biography* (Chaps. 2-7)

**Section B ... "The Ordinary Soldier"**

Desmond Morton, *When Your Number's Up: the Canadian Soldier in the First World War*

**4. September 29 ...****Section A ... "The BEF Tactical Revolution"**

\*Paddy Griffith, *Battle Tactics on the Western Front: The British Army's Art of Attack, 1916-18*

**Section B ... "The CEF Tactical Revolution"**

\* Bill Rawling, *Surviving Trench Warfare: Technology and the Canadian Corps, 1914-1918*

**5. October 6 ...****Section A ... "The CEF Tactical Revolution"**

Bill Rawling, *Surviving Trench Warfare: Technology and the Canadian Corps, 1914-1918*

**Section B ... "The BEF Tactical Revolution"**

\*Paddy Griffith, *Battle Tactics on the Western Front: The British Army's Art of Attack, 1916-18*

**6. October 13 ...****Section A ... "The BEF Operational Revolution"**

Tim Travers, *How the War Was Won: Command and Technology in the British Army on the Western Front, 1917-1918* (Chaps. 2 and 4-6)

**Section B ... "Those Successful Canadians"**

Patrick Brennan, "Julian Byng and Leadership in the Canadian Corps," in Geoffrey Hayes, Andrew Iarocci and Mike Bechthold, eds., *Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment*

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Ian Brown, "Not Glamorous, But Effective: The Canadian Corps and the Set-Piece Attack, 1917-1918," *Journal of Military History*, vol. 58 (July 1994)

\* Shane Schreiber, *Shock Army of the British Empire: The Canadian Corps in the Last 100 Days of the Great War*

### 7. October 20 ...

#### **Section A ... "Those Successful Canadians"**

Patrick Brennan, "Julian Byng and Leadership in the Canadian Corps," in Geoffrey Hayes, Andrew Iarocci and Mike Bechthold, eds., *Vimy Ridge: A Canadian Reassessment*

Ian Brown, "Not Glamorous, But Effective: The Canadian Corps and the Set-Piece Attack, 1917-1918," *Journal of Military History*, vol. 58 (July 1994)

Shane Schreiber, *Shock Army of the British Empire: The Canadian Corps in the Last 100 Days of the Great War*

#### **Section B ... "The BEF Operational Revolution"**

Tim Travers, *How the War Was Won: Command and Technology in the British Army on the Western Front, 1917-1918* (Chaps. 2 and 4-6)

### 8. October 27 ...

#### **Section A ... "Roots of Canadian Success"**

\* Tim Cook, *No Place To Run: The Canadian Corps and Gas Warfare in the First World War*

Dan Jenkins, "The Other Side of the Hill: Combat Intelligence in the Canadian Corps, 1914-1918," *Canadian Military History*, v. 10, no. 2 (Spring 2001)

Patrick Brennan and Thomas Leppard, "How the Lessons Were Learned: Senior Commanders and the Moulding of the Canadian Corps after the Somme," in Yves Tremblay, ed., *Canadian Military History Since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

#### **Section B ... "Rallying English Canada to the War"**

\* Ian Miller, *Our Glory and Our Grief: Torontonians and the Great War*

### 9. November 3 ...

#### **Section A ... "Rallying English Canada to the War"**

\* Ian Miller, *Our Glory and Our Grief: Torontonians and the Great War*

#### **Section B ... "Roots of Canadian Success"**

\* Tim Cook, *No Place To Run: The Canadian Corps and Gas Warfare in the First World War*

Dan Jenkins, "The Other Side of the Hill: Combat Intelligence in the Canadian Corps, 1914-1918," *Canadian Military History*, v. 10, no. 2 (Spring 2001)

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Patrick Brennan and Thomas Leppard, "How the Lessons Were Learned: Senior Commanders and the Moulding of the Canadian Corps after the Somme," in Yves Tremblay, ed., *Canadian Military History Since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century*

**10. November 10 ...****Section A ... "Conscription"**

John English, *A Peculiar Kind of Politics: The Conservatives and the Party System, 1901-20*, Chaps. 5-11

Robert Craig Brown, *Robert Laird Borden, A Biography*, Vol. II: 1914-1937, Chaps. 7-11 and 13

JL Granatstein and JM Hitsman, *Broken Promises: A History of Conscription in Canada*, Chaps. 2-3

**Section B ... "Civil-Military Relations and Canadian Autonomy"**

\* Desmond Morton, *A Peculiar Kind of Politics: Canada's Overseas Ministry in the First World War*

**11. November 17 ...****Section A ... "Civil-Military Relations and Canadian Autonomy"**

\* Desmond Morton, *A Peculiar Kind of Politics: Canada's Overseas Ministry in the First World War*

**Section B ... "Conscription"**

John English, *A Peculiar Kind of Politics: The Conservatives and the Party System, 1901-20*, Chaps. 5-11

Robert Craig Brown, *Robert Laird Borden, A Biography*, Vol. II: 1914-1937, Chaps. 7-11 and 13

JL Granatstein and JM Hitsman, *Broken Promises: A History of Conscription in Canada*, Chaps. 2-3

**12. November 24 ...****Section A ... "The Ordinary Soldier's Family"**

\* Desmond Morton, *Fight or Pay: Soldiers' Families in the Great War*

**Section B ... "War and Remembrance"**

\* Jonathan Vance, *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning and the First World War*

**13. December 1 ... essay improvement week – no seminar****14. December 8 ...**

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**Section A ... “War and Remembrance”**

\*Jonathan Vance, *Death So Noble: Memory, Meaning and the First World War*

**Section B ... “The Ordinary Soldier’s Family”**

\*Desmond Morton, *Fight or Pay: Soldiers’ Families in the Great War*

\* indicates titles which can be used for the book review assignment

**Course Requirements:**

Book Reviews (1500 words each)	3 x 5 %	due on the day <b>before</b> the book’s discussion date in <b>either</b> section of the seminar (reviews can be submitted electronically)
Essay Proposal	5%	due no later than October 6 <sup>th</sup>
Essay (4000+ words)	40%	due no later than December 1 <sup>st</sup>
Seminar Participation	40%	

The topic of the **research essay** **must** be approved by the instructor. After some preliminary reading, students **must** submit a detailed essay proposal in which they outline their thesis and principal supporting arguments, and list their research sources. Among possible essay topics are the following: (a) a critique of GWL Nicholson’s official history of the Canadian army in the Great War (published in 1964), *Canadian Expeditionary Force: 1914-19*, in the light of recent scholarship, (b) an examination of the value of published diaries and memoirs in our understanding of the CEF experience, or (c) a critical analysis of popular historical accounts of the Canadian Corps in the light of recent scholarship. The instructor will provide specific guidance in the formulation of these three topics, including a suggested reading list. Of course there are many other possible topics, and the instructor is more than willing to discuss these, and the research requirements to complete them, with interested students. The most useful bibliography in Canadian military history, at least for publication dates through the mid-1990s, remains O.A. Cooke, *The Canadian Military Experience, 1867-1995: A Bibliography* (1997). The University of Calgary library system has a librarian specializing in Military and Strategic Studies whose expertise on sources for research essays can be of invaluable assistance. John Wright can be reached at 403-974-2831 or [jpwright@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jpwright@ucalgary.ca). Please note - **upon the instructor’s request, all students must be prepared to submit their research notes with their essay.**

**Book Review Assignment:**

The **book reviews** should be approximately 1500 words in length. The three reviews will contain a summary of the main arguments and evidence plus an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of **books indicated with a \*** in the reading list.

## *Canada and the Great War: Military Topics*

**1. What should your review include?** Firstly, it should include a clear summary of the author's thesis (or theses) and supporting arguments, the main points of evidence, and the principal conclusions. This will comprise the larger part of the review. But a review consists of more than a summary of the book's contents. You will also be expected to analyse the book, e.g. is it logically developed? Is it clearly written? Is the argumentation persuasive? Is the supporting evidence weak or convincing? In other words, what do you think are the book's strengths and weaknesses? Dealing adequately with this second part of the assignment will require some additional reading on the subject. As far as possible, you want to be able to place your assessment, be it favourable, unfavourable, or a mix of both, in the context of what other historians have said about the same subject. The best way to achieve this is to read other scholarly reviews of the book you are examining. An index of reviews of Canadian books can be found in the *Canadian Periodical Index* AI 3 C3.

**2. Grading, length, etc.:** Your grade will be determined by three factors: the conciseness and accuracy of your summary, the thoroughness and originality of your analysis, and the quality of your written presentation (grammar, spelling, style). Finally, be sure to list in a formal bibliography any other sources you have consulted in preparing your review. Remember, explicit references to scholarly reviews should be included in your review and must be footnoted. **Note:** there is an informative tutorial on how to write a history book review on the History Department web site.

## **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it's not.

As noted in the *Department of History Guide to Essay Presentation*, plagiarism may take several forms:

- (a) Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, ideas, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- (b) Borrowed, purchased, and / or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- (c) Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works. The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

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Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. A plagiarized paper will automatically be failed. Plagiarism may also result in a failing grade for the entire course and other penalties as noted in *The University of Calgary Calendar*.

**Emergency Evacuation**

Assembly Points have been identified across campus in case of an emergency evacuation. Should an emergency occur, our class would assemble at the Social Sciences Food Court. See the following link for a complete list of assembly points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>