The chief aim of this course is to make you reasonably familiar with great power relations from the demise of the Bismarckian alliance system in 1890 to the defeat of the Axis powers in 1945. The main theme is the causes and issues of the 20th century’s two world wars, which will be examined through the prisms of the international crises preceding them and the worldwide problems unresolved – or even created – by the peace treaties following World War I. The course is open to juniors and seniors (HIS 455) and to graduate students (HIS 555).

Readings

**HIS 455 & 555**


**DOCS** Documentary sources available on the Internet.


**HIS 555**

Tests

Ignore the official final exam schedule! In this course there are four 30-minute in-class essay tests, each worth 20% of the final grade. The grading considers factual knowledge, comprehension of issues, and effective writing. A list of questions will be distributed in advance of each test, three of them will appear on the test, and you answer one. A makeup test is given if you miss a scheduled one for reasons beyond your control, but you must take it before the next scheduled test or lose it. You may not skip one of the first three tests, but you may submit a blank bluebook on the last if you have nothing to gain by taking it. If you take all four tests, the lowest grade will be dropped – unless you duplicate it. The total value of the tests is 80% whether you take three or four. A grade of Incomplete may be recorded if you have completed no less than three of the five assignments. University regulations prohibit extra work for improved grades. Students with learning or performance disabilities should register at CC-137, pronto!

Research Paper

A research paper is required. Worth 20% of your final grade, its optimum length – exclusive of notes and bibliography – is 3,500 words for HIS 455 and 5,000 words for HIS 555. Papers must be typed, double spaced, and carefully proof read. *The Happy Footnoter*, a rather personalized style manual, will be distributed as a model for you to emulate.

Report your tentative choice of topic by **Sept. 15**, and submit a preliminary bibliography by **Sept. 27**. Your paper is due on **Nov. 17**, but may be submitted any time before that. The bibliographies in your textbooks are good starting points for finding literature on your topics. I’d be glad to discuss your research and ideas with you as your work progresses.

General Rules

ATTENDANCE is expected, and a roster is circulated for your signature most of the time. Excessive absenteeism (over 20%) will affect your final grade. Please arrive on time and stay until the end.

CHEATING means instant failure in this course and must be reported to the appropriate administrative office, which may lead to suspension for undergraduates and probable expulsion for graduate students. Note this History department warning:

> Plagiarism is taking (which includes purchasing) the word and ideas of another and passing them off as one’s own work. If in a formal paper a student quotes someone, that student must use quotation marks and give citation. Paraphrased or borrowed ideas are to be identified by proper citations. Plagiarism will result, at the minimum, in the student failing the assignment.
Schedule of Topics

        READ:  **NR** pp. 218-50; **DOCS**: “The Dual Alliance between Austria-Hungary and Germany (World War I Document Archive),” “The Three Emperors League (Avalon Project),”
        “The Reinsurance Treaty (World War I Document Archive).”

Sept 1:  The Breakdown of Bismarck’s Alliance System.
        READ:  **NR** pp. 251-62.

6:  The Legacy of Imperialism.
    READ:  **NR** pp. 263-68; **SM** pp. 2-16.

8:  The Scramble for Africa.
    READ:  **NR** pp. 269-99.

13:  Focus on China: Annexationist Scramble or “Open Door”?

     NOTE:  *Deadline for choosing term paper topics.*

20:  Uncle Sam Flexes His Muscles, 1895-1914.

**TEST #1:**  *Assigned readings and class coverage, Aug. 30 – Sept. 20.*

22:  The Bosnian Annexation Crisis, 1908-09.
     READ:  **NR** pp. 408-18.

27:  The Second Moroccan Crisis and the Tripoli War, 1911-12.
     READ:  **NR** pp. 418-22.
     NOTE:  *Preliminary bibliography due.*
     NOTE:  *Classes suspended 9/28 at 2:35 p.m.; resume 10/3.*

Oct  4:  The Balkan Wars and Their Aftermath, 1912-14.
        READ:  **NR** pp. 423-37.

6:  The July Crisis of 1914.
    READ:  **NR** pp. 437-61; **SM** pp. 19-30; **HHH** pp. 15-117.

11:  The Question of War Guilt.
     READ:  **NR** pp. 461-65; **SM** pp. 31-36; **HHH** pp. 1-13, 119-159.

     READ:  **SM** pp. 38-61; **PCH** pp. 67-87.
**TEST #2:** Assigned readings and class coverage, Sept. 22 – Oct. 13.

    READ:  **SM** pp. 81-119; **PCH** pp. 87-96; **DOCS:** “The Versailles Treaty (Avalon Project),” articles 42-45, 49, 51, 81, 87, 102, 119, 141-42, 159-60, 164, 173, 180-91, 198, 231.
    NOTE: *Advance Registration for Winter and Spring begins 10/19.*

20:  Immediate Aftermath: Settling Outstanding Issues.

25:  Imperial Slippage: Problems in Africa and the Middle East.

27:  Imperial Slippage: Problems in Latin America.

Nov 1:  Europe in the 1920s: Recovery, Diplomacy, Depression.

3:  Embittered Powers: Germany, Italy and Japan, 1919-39.

    READ:  **RO** pp. 73-163.

**TEST #3:** Assigned readings and class coverage, Oct. 18 – Nov. 8.


    READ:  **RO** pp. 298-343; **PCH** pp. 106-38; **SM** pp. 254-70; **DOCS:** “Neutrality Acts of 1930’s” [Wikipedia].
    NOTE: *Research papers due.*

    READ:  **SM** pp. 317-40; **PCH** pp. 139-51; **AI** pp. 1-39; **DOCS:** “The Versailles Treaty (Avalon Project),” articles 1-26; “WW 2 Ships: The 1935 Anglo-German Naval Agreement.”
    NOTE: *Research papers due.*

22:  The Road to War in Europe, 1937-41.
29: The Road to War in Asia and the Pacific, 1931-41.

Dec 1: Triumph and Tragedy: The Trichotomous Grand Alliance.

6: From Teheran to Potsdam, 1943-45.

TEST #4: Assigned readings and class coverage, Nov. 10 - Dec. 6.

Krosby’s office: SS-145G
Office hours: Tu & Th 9:00-11:30 & 1:30-2:15
E-mail address: krosby@albany.edu