**The Guns of August**

**Class Syllabus 25299**

**Course Description:** Study the earliest phases of World War I. Included is a review of the political reasons for the war and the resulting movement on the Eastern and Western Fronts. The Battles of Mons, the Marne, and Tannenberg are studied in detail.

**Course Objectives**:

* Discuss the historiographical arguments over the causes of the Civil War.
* Analyze the decisions that led to the outbreak of World War One.
* Recognize the factors that led to a lack of historical consensus for the causes of World War One.
* Review the fighting of 1914 before the advent of trench warfare.

**Course Outline**:

Notes

1. Intro
2. The horror of World War One
3. The Strategy Primer and intro to von Clausewitz
4. The Current Historiography of WW 1
   1. German guilt
   2. Austrian neuroses
   3. Serbian aggression
   4. British bungling
   5. French aggression
   6. Russian aggression
   7. Collapse of the Ottoman Empire
   8. The Arms race
   9. The Short war illusion; Cult of the Offensive
   10. Imperialism
5. The Alliance System on the outbreak of war
6. The Context a European Diplomatic and Social History Primer
   1. Religious and Diplomatic issues from before the Treaty of Westphalia.
   2. France does not wish to see a dominant German state aka France vs the Holy Roman Empire
   3. The balance of power
   4. Austria vs Prussia
   5. British strategy aka Britain vs France than
   6. Rise of Russia
   7. The end of the Napoleonic Period and the Long Peace
   8. The 48 Revolutions
   9. The rise of German nationalism and or rise of Prussia/Bismarck
   10. The rise of Italian nationalism
   11. The race for the Colonies.
   12. Britain vs Russia
   13. The naval arms race
   14. Late Colonial problems
   15. Italo-Turkish War
   16. The Balkan Wars
   17. The Alliance Systems
       1. Triple Alliance
       2. Triple Entente or Entente Cordiale
       3. Liman von Sanders Affair
   18. 1914
       1. July Crisis
       2. Mobilization and War
7. The Western Front of 1914
8. The Eastern Front of 1914

* Recommended Reading and Useful Websites:
* Clark, Christopher. *Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914* (2012)
* Fischer, Fritz (1967). *Germany's Aims in the First World War*. New York: Norton.
* Levy Jack S and Johnn A Vasquez editors *The Outbreak of the First World War* (2014) Cambridge University Press- (Not a history per se, but a collection of academic essays from the different schools on the causes of the war. Need and extensie background to understand concepts)
* Hamilton, Richard F.; Herwig, Holger H. (2004). *Decisions for War, 1914-1917*
* Hillgruber, Andreas (1981) [1967]. *Germany and the Two World Wars.* Harvard UP.
* Mayer, Arno J. (1981). *The Persistence of the Old Regime: Europe to the Great War.* Croom Helm. (Marxist viewpoint)
* Mombauer, Annika (2013). *The Origins of the First World War: Diplomatic and Military Documents*. Manchester and London: Manchester University Press (requires extensive background knowledge as this is less of a history than a collection of primary source material with annotation.)
* Strachan, Hew (2001). *The First World War: Volume I: To Arms.* Oxford UP. (Strachan is the dean of modern World War One historians.)

Websites:

Indy Neidell’s The Great War Youtube site. l<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUcyEsEjhPEDf69RRVhRh4A>