

## USU 1320 Humanities (BHU)

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Office hrs.: Wed. 9:30-10 or by appointment

### Course Description/Scope:

USU 1320 focuses on theme(s) about human behavior persisting everywhere and throughout time. War certainly meets this requirement. Throughout recorded history, wars have plagued humanity, past and present. In modern times, the Great War (1914-1918) devastated the global community. As the title of your textbook notes, the result of World War I was a “world undone.” Along with war, a persistent theme is domestic unrest. Throughout history, certain dates stand out—1517, 1789, 1848, 1919, 1989—which stand as symbols of tremendous social change and upheaval. One such year upon which this class will focus is 1968. This year witnessed an incredible cavalcade of events (Vietnam war, student rebellion, assassinations, communist crackdown, etc.) which shock the foundations of global society. In focusing on the Great War and the tumultuous year of 1968, this course aims to offer insights into the positive and negative features of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, as humanity moved into a modern, industrialized age and then began the shift to a globalized, post-industrial, era.

### Textbooks:

Meyer, *A World Undone: The Story of the Great War: 1914-1918*  
Kurlansky, *1968: The Year that Rocked the World*

### Course Goals:

1. One aim is to encourage the students to realize the long-term consequences of war and the fact that “history” has a long reach.
2. Another goal is to ascertain the tumultuous events of 1968, a time when your parents (or grandparents) were in their youth (the postwar “babyboomers” who rocked the world in 1968 and thereafter).
3. And, an objective is to promote your understanding of the Vietnam War and the American civil rights movement, and how these phenomena affected not only US citizens but also other peoples of the world.
4. A fourth goal is to enhance the student’s scholarly skills--examining diverse primary sources and analyzing them critically, articulately concisely one’s thoughts in a classroom setting, etc.

### Requirements:

1. Various class-designated assignments on textbook readings (reading list provided first week), primary source assignments, etc.
2. Possible quizzes, class responses (to material presented in class, assigned readings, etc)
3. Final exam: take-home essay (due last day of final exam week)

## Tentative Topic/Reading Schedule

### ***Part I: World War I: Causes and Consequences***

First Week- Background to the Great War. Read Meyer, *A World Undone: The Story of the Great War: 1914 to 1918*; Chp. 1: Serbian Threat & Bosnian Terrorism; chp. 2: Austria Empire's Weakness; Chp. 3: German Support of Ally, Austria; chp. 4: Revolutionary Challenges to Russia's Romanovs; Chp. 5: Weak Man of Europe/Ottoman Turk Empire; Chp. 6: Beginning of War ("Leaping into the Dark")

Second Week: War Begins, 1914. Read Chp. 7: German invasion; chp. 8: British Entry; chp. 9 "Junkers"; chp. 10 French; Chp. 11: British; Chp. 12 "Flanders"

Third Week: Unique Features of the Great War. Read Chp. 13 (Machinery); chp. 14 (Sea War); chp. 17 (Genocide)

Fourth Week: War without End, 1915-16: Read chp. 15 (Ypres); Chp. 16 (Galliopi); Chp. 18 (more on Galliopi, Poland, etc); chp. 19-21 (Verdun); chp. 23 (Somme); chp. 30 (Passchendale)

Fifth Week: Terrible Times in 1917: chp. 24 ("Exhaustion"), chp. 25 ("Hunger"); chp. 26 ("Propandga"), chp. 27 ("Revolution"); More fighting--chps. 28-29

Ninth Week: 1918: chps. 31, 33 ("Going for Broke"); chp. 32 (Fighting in Middle East); Chp. 34 (Women's role); chps. 35-36 (Collapse of German Army)

Tenth Week: Discussion of US Role and Repercussions of WWI

### ***Part II: Post-World War II Era***

Eleventh Week: Introduction to World Developments between 1919-1949 (Class material)

Twelfth Week: Events of 1968 (based on Kurlansky's *1968: The Year That Rocked the World*); Chps. 1-7

Thirteenth Week: Kurlansky, chps. 8-12: Cuba, Paris, Israel, Counterculture

Fourteenth Week: Kurlansky, chps. 13-17: Turmoil in Czechoslovakia, Poland; chps. 18-21: End of 1968, violence in Mexico, election of Richard Nixon; aftermath of 1968

Fifteenth Week: Discuss, Review, Catch-up; preparation for final exam on Kurlansky book and 1968

Sixteenth Week: Final Exam on designated day