We study literary responses to World War I as reflected in poems, novels, memoirs, et al., by British, Australian, Canadian, American writers and by European writers in English translation.

The core books, listed below, will be taken up in the order shown; but the anthology by Silkin will be used continually and therefore should be brought to every class. (I do not issue a day-by-day schedule, since I adapt lectures to the amount and quality of discussion that arises in class.)

PAPERS: Two papers (of about 5 to 7 pages each) are designed to encourage you to work on the primary material. Your prose is expected to exhibit coherence, clarity and formal correctness. See also the back of this page.

EXAMS: The mid-term test will be on material covered up to that date. The final exam will cover the books assigned below, plus any other material I discuss in any class meeting. (Therefore, cutting class is imprudent.) You will be called on to identify and comment on passages of prose and poetry, and to write short essays on such topics as “Compare and contrast the ways in which X and Y reacted to the enemy.” There will be a small amount of choice in both kinds of question, and emphasis on matters which have not been the subject of papers.

Your participation in this course requires your full compliance with the Honor Code. Out of respect for the conscientiousness and responsibility which most students manifest, I will not accept late papers or give “make ups” for missed quizzes and exams (unless missed through illness for which an official verification is presented.) Produce your best work from the start. Rewritten or “extra credit” exercises are not accepted, since allowing them to individuals is unfair to other students.

All the preceding requirements apply not only to students who seek a letter grade but equally fully to those who seek a mere “Pass.”

If you have any questions about the course, do not hesitate to consult me, either immediately after class or in my office (514 Greenlaw), hours as announced; phone 962-4047. I read emails (armitage@email.unc.edu) but, being no typist, my replies are terse.

CORE READING

Murphy, Donald J. (ed.) World War I (Turning Points in World History)
Silkin, Jon (ed.) The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry
Sassoon, Siegfried Memoirs of an Infantry Officer
Blunden, Edmund Undertones of War
Remarque, Erich Maria All Quiet on the Western Front
Graves, Robert Goodbye to All That
Barker, Pat Regeneration
Faulks, Sebastian Birdsong