Syllabus

Emotions and Violence at the Homefront in Imperial Germany in the First World War - 39866

Last update 28-02-2017

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: history

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Sven-Oliver Mueller

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Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:
Prof Sven-Oliver Muller
**Course/Module description:**

This seminar uses an approach to analyse the impact of emotions as a cause for violent assaults at the home front in Germany in the First World War. Inhabitants of the German Empire chased car drivers and national minorities, they were afraid of immigrants and hunted alleged agents of enemy armies. The physical violence of civilians against civilians reveals a wide-reaching change of behaviour; it also extended the scope of violent actions during the First World War and created a theatre of hostilities that is often neglected by historians.

**Course/Module aims:**

An analysis of the impact of emotions will demonstrate the links between different instances of violence and the respective societies; moreover, it will make clear how assaults in 1914 and 1920 correlate. The point of the seminar is to discover the interactions between arbitrary government measures, the emotions of civilians and their acts of violence. The students are asked to examine three forms of civil violence: The violence against occupants of cars and trains (1); assaults against foreigners, national minorities (2), and the growing number of violent crimes (bodily injury, aggressive robbery) (3). It is finally important to analyse of the impact of emotions and violence beyond 1918 and to illustrate the decisive changes in the public sphere in post-war Germany in the 1920s.

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**

To be published later

**Attendance requirements(%):**

99

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** The main sources of this seminar are texts but movies and music will be used as well for lecture/presentation and discussion in class as well as individual referates.

**Course/Module Content:**

1 Introduction

2 The first Total War? Perspectives on the First World War
3 Strength and Limits of analyzing Emotions

4. The Myth of Enthusiasm. The Behavior of the German Civilians during the Outbreak of the First World War

5 Mass Murder - A New Way of Warfare in summer 1914

6 A Close Perspective – Living in a provincial Town

7 Nationalism – and Beyond

8 Culprits and Victims: German Civilians in the Air War

9 Legal Victims? Assaults against Prisoners of War

10 Never Ending Violence? The Impact of the Great War in 1920s and 1930s Europe

Required Reading:


**Additional Reading Material:**


Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 5 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 95 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:
The course will take place in March, April, May 2017. First meeting will be on March 9, 2017. - Teaching language will be English. Everyone has to participate regularly. Try to arrive in time, please prepare the texts carefully, and feel free to criticize aspects of the current research and the opinion of some scholars. Please do not hesitate do encourage each other to participate in the discussion.