

WASTES OF WAR

A Century of Destruction

History 497

Fall 2015

Credits 4

Mo: 10:00-1:00pm

Haven Hall 2608

Anne Berg

1029M Tisch Hall

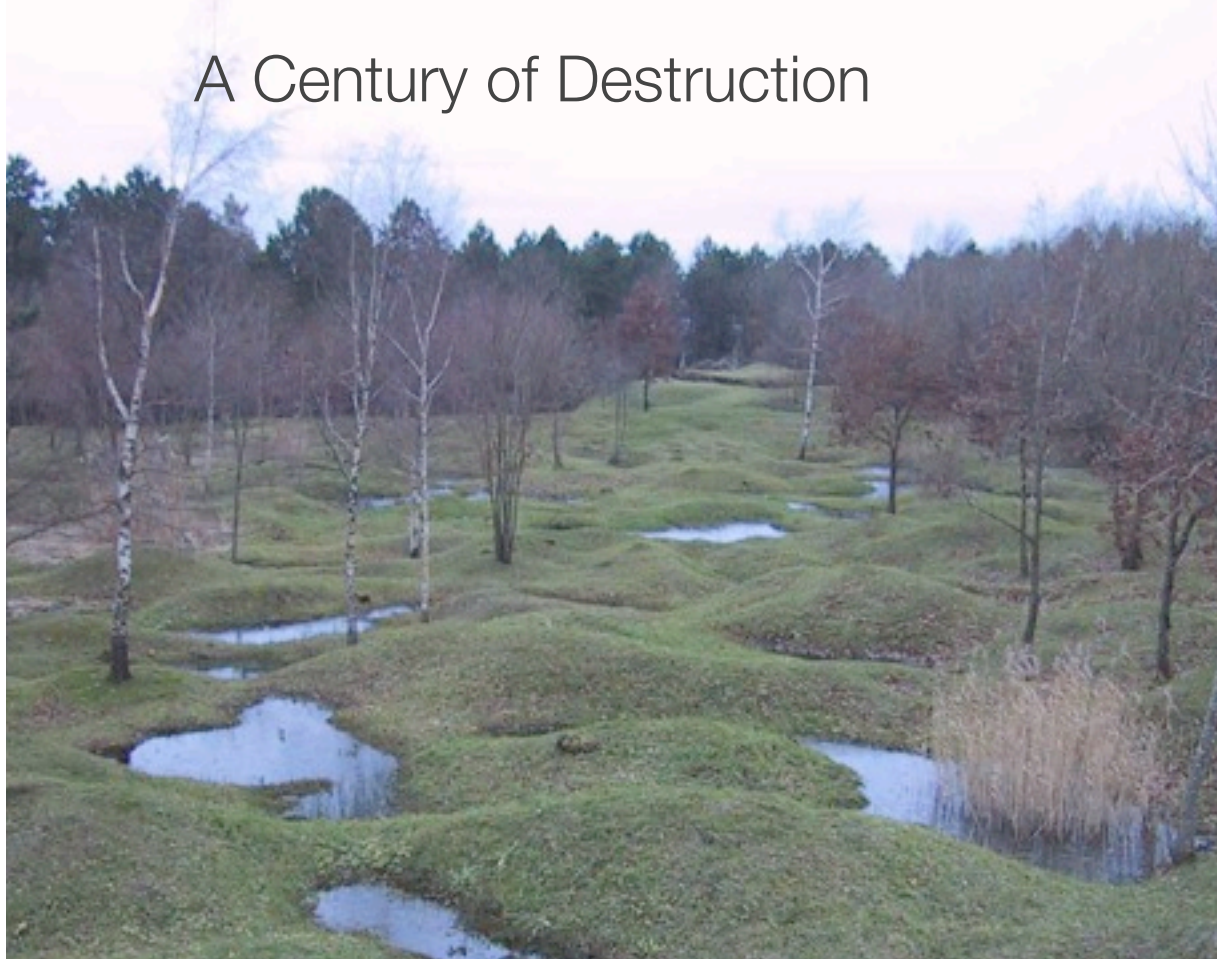
734.763.8905

akberg@umich.edu

Office Hours: Tue:

9:30-11:00 & by

appt.



Course Description

This upper level colloquium examines the human and environmental consequences of violent conflict from the Boer War at the beginning of the 20th century to the current War Against Terror. Every war produces different categories of wastes and valuelessness and thus dramatically reorders everyday life and shapes possible futures of participating and affected societies. Since war (often violently) transforms the physical environment, it fundamentally alters environmental processes, which again have social and political ramifications. The interactions between the ideological reordering and the material destruction of bodies, spaces, societies, habitats, ecosystems and cultures are the focus of this course and we examine not only the systematic production of wastes but the technological and ideological strategies to combat and eradicate them. We approach war as an engine of destruction and transformation rather than as politics gone awry. The wastes of war will serve as our focal point as we examine the new worlds (technological, social and environmental) that war not merely leaves in its wake but systematically generates. This course will neither offer a chronicle of 20th century wars nor a litany of the destruction wielded. Rather we will critically examine the two key categories – “waste” and “war” – explore how together they fundamentally restructure our social, cultural and natural worlds. No prior familiarity with any particular war or the history of waste is required.

Capstone Course: The sections of History 496/7 function as a capstone course for history majors and are designed as reading and writing intensive seminars. You will become familiar with the historiography and develop advanced methods of research and writing. These courses are similar to graduate-level seminars and the assignments focus around debating and critiquing the literature in the field, evaluating and analyzing primary source evidence, and conducting original research in archives, libraries and online databases. In addition, you will work as an academic community, being a critic and a resource to your peers.

Course Requirements: Active participation in class and careful preparation for class is key to your success. You are required to complete all assigned readings prior to our weekly meeting and write a short (1-2 page) reading response. In addition, each of you will provide discussion questions and a short introduction to one session. You will further be required to find primary sources for one week to be determined during our first session. Attendance of, preparation for and participation in our weekly meetings is mandatory and counts for 50% of your grade.

The remaining 50% consist of your final portfolio toward which you will work throughout the semester. It will include drafts and revisions of the following components: prospectus (3-4 pages), primary source analysis (3-4 pages), historiographical review essay (5-6 pages), and your final research paper (20-25 pages) and a final bibliography. You will workshop your historiographical review essay and a draft of your final research paper in peer review sessions. You will receive written feedback from peers and/or instructor so you can revise all work for submission in the final portfolio.

Research Paper: Your work for this colloquium culminates in a scholarly essay of 20-25 pages based on original historical research. You will be guided through the process and will find specific guidelines on canvas in the Resources/ Research Paper folder. We will reserve time at the end of most sessions for individual progress reports and presentations, writing workshops and peer review.

Time Table

Individual Meetings with Instructor	09/25
Topic Presentations	10/05
Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography	10/12
Primary Source Analysis	10/19
Historiographical Review Essay	11/06
Peer Review of Historiographical Essay	11/09
Individual Meetings with Instructor	11/12
Research Paper Draft	12/4
Peer Review	12/7
Research Paper Presentations	12/14
Final Portfolio	12/18

Readings: The following books are required and should be purchased. Articles, weblinks and primary documents will be available through our course website. In addition to the assigned readings, you will have to identify and carefully read both primary and secondary texts in preparation for your final research project. Please check the course website regularly as primary texts will be uploaded on a rolling basis.

Required Books

- ❖ Jean Baudrillard, *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1991)
- ❖ Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (New York: Harper, c.1992)
- ❖ Edmund Russell, *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001)
- ❖ Sarah Wagner, *To Know Where He Lies: DNA Technology and the Search for Srebrenica's Missing* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2008)
- ❖ Donovan Webster, *Aftermath: The Remnants of War* (New York: Vintage, 1996)

Absences: Since we meet only once a week, attendance is crucial. If you must miss a meeting for medical reasons, due to a religious holiday or any other justifiable reason you should contact me ahead of time if possible or as soon as you are able. To make up for your absence you must submit a 2-3 page, single-spaced summary of the assigned readings in addition to the weekly reading response and any other assignment due that day.

Office Hours: I hold regular office hours but am available by appointment as well and hope to see you frequently. You are required to come and see me twice during scheduled meetings. But I encourage you to come and discuss your ideas for and progress on your papers, ask questions or talk about issues and readings on a regular basis.

Accommodations: If you require special accommodations please let me know during the first two weeks of class and provide the requisite documentation in support of your request.

Course Schedule

Week 1 **Introduction: Waste and War**

September 14

Mariah and Katrina

Readings

- ❖ Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger: An Analysis of the Concepts of Pollution and Taboo* (London: Routledge, c.1966), 1-6, and 30-41.
- ❖ Joshua O. Reno, "Toward a New Theory of Waste: From 'Matter out of Place to Signs of Life'" *Theory, Culture, Society* 31 3 (2014) 3-27
- ❖ John Kekes "War" *Philosophy* 85 2 (April 2010) 201-218
- ❖ Chris J. Cumo "War is not Just an Event: Reflections on the Significance of Everyday Violence" *Hypatia* 11 4 Women and Violence (Autumn 1996) 30-45
- ❖ Mark Mazower, "Violence and the State in the Twentieth Century" *The American Historical Review* 107 4 (October 2002) 1158-1178.

Week 2 **Remnants and Representations**

September 21

WORKSHOP: Historical Research

NOTE: Individual Meetings with Instructor 09/25

Readings

- ❖ Albert Grundlingh, "Reframing Remembrance: The Politics of the Centenary Commemoration of the South African War of 1899-1902" *Journal of Southern African Studies* 30 2 (June 2004) 359-375.
- ❖ Michael Godby, "Confronting Horror: Emily Hobhouse and the Concentration Camp Photos of the South African War" *Kronos* 32 (November 2006) 34-48.
- ❖ Jonathan D. Glover, "Genocide, Human Rights, and the Politics of Memorialization: 'Hotel Rwanda' and Africa's World War" *South Atlantic Review* 75 2 Human Rights and the Humanities (Spring 2010) 95-111.
- ❖ Paul Moore, "'And What Concentration Camps Those Were!': Foreign Concentration Camps in Nazi Propaganda 1933-9" *Journal of Contemporary History* 45 3 (July 2010) 649-74.
- ❖ Christina Schwenkel, "Exhibiting War, Reconciling Pasts: Photographic Representation and Transnational Commemoration in Contemporary Vietnam" *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 3 1 (Winter 2008) 36-77.

Week 3 **Wastelands**

September 28

WORKSHOP: Thesis Statements, Prospectuses, and other Monsters

Readings

- ❖ Dorothee Brantz. "Environments of Death" in *War and the Environment: Military Destruction in the Modern Age* edited by Charles E. Closmann (Texas A&M University Press, 2009) 68-91
- ❖ Webster, *Aftermath: The Remnants of War*, 1-80.
- ❖ "Adoption of Fifth CCW Protocol of Explosive Remnants of War" *The American Journal of International Law* 98 2 (Apr 2004) 357-360
- ❖ Joseph R. Oppong and Ezekiel Kalipeni, "The Geography of Landmines and Implications for Health and Disease in Africa: A Political Ecology Approach" *Africa Today* 52 1 (Autumn 2005) 3-35

Week 4 Health and Science

October 5

WORKSHOP: Topic Presentations & Feedback

Readings

- ❖ Russell, *War and Nature: Fighting Humans and Insects with Chemicals from World War I to Silent Spring*, 1-94
- ❖ Jay Winter, "Shell-Shock and the Cultural History of the Great War" *Journal of Contemporary History* 35 1 Special Issue: Shell-Shock (Jan., 2000): 7-11
- ❖ Jason Crouthamel, "Male Sexuality and Psychological Trauma: Soldiers and Sexual Disorder in World War I and Weimar Germany" *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 17 1 Special Issue: Masculinity and Homosexuality in Germany and the German Colonies, 1880-1945 (Jan., 2008): 60-84.
- ❖ Katherine N. Boone, "The Paradox of PTSD" *The Wilson Quarterly* 35 4 (Autumn 2011) 18-22.

Week 5 Total Destruction

October 12

WORKSHOP: Primary Sources

DUE: Prospectus and Preliminary Bibliography 10/12

Readings

- ❖ Webster, 81-129
- ❖ Hans Erich Nossack. *The End* (1-87), excerpts from W.G. Sebald, *On the Natural History of Destruction* (New York: Modern Library, 2004)
- ❖ Russell, 95-118

Week 6 Annihilation

October 19

NOTE: no class (study break)

DUE: Primary Source Analysis 10/19

Readings

- ❖ Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland*
- ❖ Russell, 119-144

Week 7 **War Economies**

October 26

WORKSHOP: Making Sense of Historiography

NOTE: We will discuss the readings from weeks 6 and 7.

Readings

- ❖ Russell, 145-164
- ❖ Mark Riley, "From Salvage to Recycling - New Agendas or Same Old Rubbish" *Area* 40 1 (Mar 2008) 79-89.

Week 8 **Hot Waste, Cold War**

November 2

DUE: Historiographical Review Essay Draft 11/6

Readings

- ❖ Andrew Jenks. "Model City USA: The Environmental Cost of Victory in World War II and the Cold War" *Environmental History* 12 3 (Jul 2007): 552-577
- ❖ Webster, 130-217
- ❖ Allison Macfarlane, "Underlying Yucca Mountain: The Interplay of Geology and Policy in Nuclear Waste Disposal" *Social Studies of Science* 33 5 Earth Sciences in the Cold War (October 2003) 783-807
- ❖ "Burning the Remnants of War" *Environmental Health Perspectives* 104 12 (Dec 1996) 1274-5
- ❖ Russell, 184-235

Week 9 **Remote Control**

November 9

WORKSHOP: Peer Review Historiographical Essay

NOTE: Individual Meetings with Instructor 11/12

Readings

- ❖ Baudrillard, *The Gulf War Did Not Take Place*
- ❖ Thomas G. Mahnken, "Weapons: The Growth & Spread of the Precision-Strike Regime" *Daedalus* 140 3 The Modern American Military (Summer 2011) 45-57
- ❖ Matt Delmont. "Drone Encounters: Noor Behram, Omer Fast, and Visual Critiques of Drone Warfare" *American Quarterly* 65 1 (Marc 2013): 193-202

Week 10 **Out of Place**

November 16

WORKSHOP: Writers Block

Readings

- ❖ Tara Zahra, "Lost Children: Displacement, Family and Nation in Postwar Europe" *The Journal of Modern History* 81 1 European Childhood in the Twentieth Century (March 2009) 45-86.
- ❖ Jo Ellen Fair and Lisa Parks, "Africa on Camera: Television News Coverage and Aerial Imaging of Rwandan Refugees" *Africa Today* 48 2 (Summer 2001) 35-57

❖ Webster 218-252

Week 11 Intimate Technology

November 23

WORKSHOP: Footnotes and Bibliographies

Readings

- ❖ Sarah Wagner, *To Know Where He Lies: DNA Technology and the Search for Srebrenica's Missing*
- ❖ Eyal Weizman, "Forensic Architecture: Notes from Fields and Forums" *dOCUMENTA* 100 Notes - 100 Thoughts (13) 3-20.

Week 12 Just Terror

November 30

DUE: Research Paper Draft 12/4

Readings

- ❖ Stephen Graham. "Constructing Urbicide by Bulldozer in the Occupied Territories" *Cities, War and Terrorism: Towards an Urban Geopolitics* ed. Stephen Graham (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004):192-213.
- ❖ Marc W. Herold. "Urban Dimensions of the Punishment of Afghanistan by US Bombs" *Cities, War and Terrorism: Towards an Urban Geopolitics* ed. Stephen Graham (Oxford: Blackwell, 2004): 312-329.
- ❖ Lloyd Gardner and Bevan Sewell, "Beyond the Ends of the Earth: Donald Rumsfeld, the Mantra of Progress, and an Outer-Space View of America's War on Terror" *Journal of American Studies* 45 Special Issue 4 (November 2011) 643-665.

Week 13 Climate

December 7

WORKSHOP: Peer Review of Research Paper Draft

Freddy and Nikki

Readings

- ❖ Joseph Masco, "Bad Weather: On Planetary Crisis" *Social Studies of Science* 40 1 February 2010) 7-40
- ❖ Webster, 253-273
- ❖ Mike Hulme, "Reducing the Future to Climate: A Story of Climate Determinism and Reductionism" *Osiris* 26 1 Klima (2011) 245-266

Week 14

December 14

WORKSHOP: Student Presentations

DUE: Final Portfolio 12/18