Remembering World War I: A Hundredth Anniversary Commemoration

The Department of History at Old Dominion University is pleased to host a series of events throughout this academic year called “Remembering World War I: A Hundredth Anniversary Commemoration,” designed to commemorate and address World War I and its history and legacy. The centenary of 1914 is of significant interest throughout Europe and the world and an opportunity for public discussion and classroom instruction. On 18 September 2014 in BAL 1012 at 7:00 p.m., Professor Jay Winter of Yale University will present “Commemorating Catastrophe: The Great War 100 Years On.”

“One hundred years after the outbreak of hostilities in 1914,” Professor Winter notes, “the First World War still represents the opening of a revolution in violence that transformed the world. This lecture focuses on the question what should we commemorate, where should we commemorate, and why should we commemorate what Europeans still term the ‘Great War’, the foundational catastrophe of the twentieth century.” Professor Winter is the Charles J. Stille Professor of History at Yale University, and his many books include Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History, 1914-1918, and The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century. He was the co-producer, co-writer and chief historian for the PBS series “The Great War and the Shaping of the 20th Century.” For more information please contact Program Administrator Kelly Duggins at kduggins@odu.edu.

On 14-15 November 2014, the Department of History is collaborating with the MacArthur Memorial and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in the presentation of a “World War I Centennial Symposium.” At the MacArthur Memorial in downtown Norfolk (Visitors Center, 198 Bank Street, Norfolk, VA 23510), scholars and authors from around the world will address topics such as the origins of the war, military tactics and technology, America before the war, the archaeology of the war, the role and experience of Japan, the memory of the war, and other topics. Speakers include Professor Sean McKeekin of Bard College of Columbia University, for example, author of works such as The Russian Origins of the First World War (2011). The event is free, but registration is required. To register, please go to the following website: http://www.macarthurmemorial.org/wwi_centennial_symposium.asp. For more information, please call 757-441-2965 or write WWISymposium@norfolk.gov.

With the support of Town-N-Gown, the Department will sponsor lectures, films, and other public events. Faculty will work with journalism scholars and The Virginian-Pilot, and students will take advantage of the newspaper’s archival collections on the experience of the war in Hampton Roads. And finally, undergraduate students can look forward to a Student Essay Contest that will recognize and award the best undergraduate essay devoted to WWI and its legacy. For further information about activities and opportunities in the Department of History, please refer to the department website (https://www.odu.edu/historydept), Kelly Duggins (kduggins@odu.edu), or Chair Austin Jersild (ajersild@odu.edu).