Course Title: Art of War: World War I in Literature, Painting, and Film
Course Code: CLS 250
Instructor: Nicholas Jenkins

Grade options and requirements:
Students are required to take this course for Credit, submit written work, and contribute to class discussions, as happens in all MLA seminars. Credit will be determined by an 8- to 10-page paper, on a topic agreed in advance with me.

Procedure:
Each week, there will be assigned reading - you will get a detailed breakdown of the material on the full syllabus to be distributed at the start of our sessions together. Usually, the reading will be prose, complemented by a short selection of poems by First World War poets. All reading should be done in advance of class. In class, I will present an overview of the material and introduced any relevant background information. After that, each class will be in seminar-style, progressing by means of questioning and dialogue.

Assigned texts:
Pat Barker, Regeneration (1991)
Vera Brittain, Testament of Youth (1933)
Paul Fussell, The Great War and Modern Memory (1975)
Ernst Jünger, Storm of Steel (1920)
William March, Company K (1933)
Siegfried Sassoon, Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man (1928)
Rebecca West, The Return of the Soldier (1918)
Tentative weekly outline:

Week 1: 12 January
Prologue - Siegfried Sassoon, Memoirs of a Fox-Hunting Man (1928)

Week 2: 19 January

Week 3: 26 January
Frames (2) - Paul Fussell, The Great War and Modern Memory (1975) + selection of poetry

Week 4: 2 February
Home front - Vera Brittain, Testament of Youth (1933) + selection of poetry

Week 5: 9 February
Art of war - [continue reading Vera Brittain; seminar will focus on painting and photography of war] + selection of poetry

Week 6: 16 February
The Enemy - Ernst Jünger, Storm of Steel (1920) + selection of poetry

Week 7: 23 February
Allies - William March, Company K (1933) + selection of poetry

Week 8: 2 March
Poetry of war - selections from Hardy, Kipling, Sassoon, Owen, Rosenberg and others

Week 9: 9 March
Aftermath - Rebecca West, The Return of the Soldier (1918) + selection of poetry

Week 10: 16 March
Retrospect - Pat Barker, Regeneration (1991)

Bibliography: Some overviews and guides beyond our assigned texts
[the literature from, and on, the war in all its aspects is gigantic - this is just a tiny sampling of material]

General history:
Historical atlas:

Online resources:
The British Library has digitized and commissioned a mass of well-organized material: http://www.bl.uk/world-war-one

TV series:
*First World War: Complete Series* - DVD, 10 episodes

Language of war:
“100 Words that Define the First World War” -
http://blog.oxforddictionaries.com/2014/06/oed-ww1-timeline/

Visual record:

Literary classics:
[some war-related masterpieces we just won’t have time for]

Virginia Woolf, *Jacob’s Room* (1922)


Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)

Erich Maria Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1928)

Robert Graves, *Good-bye to All That* (1929)

Ernest Hemingway, *A Farewell to Arms* (1929)

Fredric Manning, *The Middle Parts of Fortune* (1929)