Robin Bates  
History 300-0-28  
EUROPE IN THE AGE OF TOTAL WAR, 1789-1945  
Day/Time: MW 12:30-1:50  
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Maximum Enrollment: 45  

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The outbreak of the French Revolution in 1789 created modern politics and, in so doing, brought forth a new form of war – a total social mobilization on a previously unimaginable scale fought by mass armies of ordinary citizens in the name of the nation, its glory and its survival. This course will trace the social, political and cultural implications of total war through the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars, World War I and World War II, comparing these to the colonial wars of imperial conquest pursued by European states in the same period as extensions of the political claims of the nation on a global scale – wars whose practices in turn changed and intensified the conduct, scale and purposes of war in Europe itself.

AREA OF CONCENTRATION: Europe  

TEACHING METHOD: Lecture  

EVALUATION METHOD: Essay assignments, written exams, and in-class participation.  

GRADING BASIS: Student option  

TENTATIVE READING LIST:  
David A. Bell, The First Total War: Napoleon’s Europe and the Birth of Warfare as we Know it (Boston: Mariner Books, 2008), 9780618919819.  

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE: I am a historian of Modern Europe, specializing in France and the francophone world, especially the cultural and social implications of the transformation of politics during and after the Revolution of 1789. My dissertation at the University of Chicago, where I received a PhD in 2015, is titled “Regimes of Education: Pedagogy and the Political Reconstruction of post-revolutionary France, 1789-1848.” In this project, I examine how, at a moment of great instability and upheaval, the theory and practice of education was transposed onto many crucial relationships of power – whether between parents and children, masters and slaves, men and women, or political leaders and their people as a way to envision and enact a new order of things.