Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic year: 2026/2027	**Semester:** Summer semester
Year of study: 1	**Study Program:** Komunikologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski) Sociologija (R) (elective) (Prijediplomski)

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name: World War I	
Abbreviation: IZBP228	
ECTS: 6	**Code:** 251877
Prerequisites: No	
Total Course Workload	
Teaching Mode	**Total Hours**
Lecture	30
Seminar	15
Class Time and Place: HKS - according to the published schedule	

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder

Name and Surname: Holjevac Željko

Academic Degree:	**Professional Title:** naslovni redoviti profesor
Contact E-mail: zeljko.holjevac@unicath.hr	**Telephone:**

Office Hours: According to the published schedule

Course Assistant

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language: English

Course Description	World War I was a global war from 1914 to 1918 on the land, at sea, and in the air among many countries on several continents. At the same time, it was the first total war involving millions of soldiers on the battlefields and millions of civilians in the war economy. Many Croats also participated, suffered, and were killed at war. In the hell of terrible collisions, the world order that had existed for many decades before the outbreak of war collapsed. Some old empires ceased to live, and many new states were established. Europe was slowly losing its leading role, and the United States emerged as a global power for the first time. Centuries-long Habsburg rule disappeared, and the Croatian lands entered the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, later the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. It resulted from the idea of South Slavic unification on the one hand and the price for avoiding the division of Croatian lands after the dissolution of Austria-Hungary on the other. The course aims to acquaint students with general features, problems, and processes in Croatia, Europe, and the rest of the world during the Great War in a comparative perspective from inside and outside, from above and below. In a series of lectures and seminars, students will analyze international relations before the war, evaluate the origins of global catastrophe, and discuss the polarization of Europe before the conflict. Furthermore, they will acquire problem-oriented knowledge about the beginning, significant events, and the end of the war by comparing the stalemate and slaughter in the trenches with the growing challenges and impacts at the Home Front. Special attention will be devoted to considering details from the Croatian history of that time. Finally, the students will gain insight into the consequences of the First World War and the widening tensions after the global, European, and Croatian peace settlement.
Educational Outcomes	1. **To judge the hierarchy of historical factors in the complex nature of the origins of war, 2. Compare fundamental processes from Croatian and world history during the war, 3. Critically analyze sources, scientific and professional literature, 4. Deliver a prepared oral academic presentation that is supported by arguments, 5. Acquire the necessary skills for continuing studies, independent work and professional development, 6. Adhere to ethical principles at work**
Textbooks and Materials	
Required	Stevenson, David, *1914-1918: The History of the First World War*, London: Allen Lane, 2004; Clark, Christopher, *The Sleepwalkers: How Europe Went to War in 1914*, London: Penguin Books, 2013.
Supplementary	Gerwarth, Robert, *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End, 1917-1923*, London: Allen Lane, 2016; Mombauer, Annika, *The Origins of the First World War: Controversies and Consensus*, London: Taylor & Francis, 2002; Rauchensteiner, Manfried, *The First World War and the End of the Habsburg Monarchy*, Wien-Köln-Weimar: Bohlau Verlag, 2014; Stevenson, David, *The Outbreak of the First World War: 1914 in Perspective*, London: Macmillan Press, 1997.
Examination and Grading	

To Be Passed DA	**Exclusively Continuous Assessment** NE	**Included in Average Grade** DA

Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam	**Regular attendance of classes** – attendance at least 70% of classes according to the study program and implementation curriculum **Properly completed seminar obligations** – prepared and held presentation and accepted written version of the seminar paper **Obtaining a minimum success rate of 35% during classes within the given teaching activities** – achieved cumulatively

The numerical scale for evaluating student work is:

insufficient (1) – 0 to 49.9%

sufficient (2) – 50 to 64.9%

good (3) – 65 to 79.9%

very good (4) – 80 to 89.9%

excellent (5) – 90 to 100%

Examination Manner

Way of obtaining the grade:

a. **Teaching activities** – 70% of the grade

1. seminar obligations – 20%
2. 1st colloquium – 25%
3. 2nd colloquium – 25%

a. **Final exam** – 30% of the grade

Oral exam – 30% (*to pass it is necessary to solve 50% of the exam*)

Grading Manner

Teaching activities - seminar obligations; 1st colloquium (written) and 2nd colloquium (written)

Final exam (oral)

Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	**ECTS –** student load coefficient	**GRADE SHARE** (%)
Attending class	1.125	0
Seminar obligations	0.975	20
First colloquium	1.21	25
Second colloquium	1.21	25
Total during class	**4.52**	**70**
Final exam	1.48	30
TOTAL ECTS	**6**	**100**

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

[Predavanja]

#	Topic
1	International relations before the war
2	Reflections on the origins of global catastrophe
3	Europe and the world in the Great War, 1914-1916
4	Global and total war: Slaughter in the trenches
5	Global and total war: Blood in the air
6	Global and total war: Battles at the sea
7	The road to the Russian Revolution
8	Croatia in the Great War, 1914-1916
9	Croatia in the Great War, 1917-1918
10	Between two eagles: Austria-Hungary and Yugoslavia
11	Europe and the world in the Great War, 1917-1918
12	The Armistice of 1918: Victory and defeat
13	The Vanquished: Why the First World War failed to end

[Seminari]

#	Topic
1	Introduction
2	Serbian Ghosts
3	The Empire without Qualities
4	The Polarization of Europe, 1887-1907
5	The Many Voices of European Foreign Policy
6	Balkan Entanglements
7	Last Chances: Détente and Danger, 1912-1914
8	Murder in Sarajevo
9	The Widening Circle
10	The French in St Petersburg
11	The Ultimatum
12	Warning Shots
13	Last Days