

Course Number  
College 120

Term  
Fall 1995

Instructors  
Barbara Gold (Classics), Isserman (History), Ring (Physics), and Rabinowitz  
(Comparative Literature)

**Institution**  
Hamilton College, Clinton, New York

**Description**  
College 120 is an interdisciplinary course with four instructors. Each of the four sections in the course will meet independently and as part of the larger group. We will have a varying schedule of section meetings and group meetings, and two regular meeting places.

**Assignment**  
Six short essays.

**Assigned Books**  
John Hersey, Hiroshima  
Martin Sherwin, A World Destroyed  
Stephen Ambrose, Rise to Globalism  
Homer, The Iliad  
Sophocles, The Three Theban Plays (Robert Fagles trans.)  
Mary Shelley, Frankenstein  
Herman Bondi, Relativity and Common Sense  
William A. Myers, Replacing the Warrior  
Richard Wolfson, Nuclear Choices

Xeroxes of all other assigned reading will be distributed in class the week before they are due.

Week One: Introduction  
8/28 Introduction to the course  
8/30 Section meetings  
9/1 Film: "The Day after Trinity"  
Reading: John Hersey, Hiroshima, pp. 1-90; xerox of Hideo Tamura; Friedman, "Hiroshima Memories."

Week Two: The Good War, America and World War II  
9/4 Film: "Prelude to War" from the "Why We Fight Series"  
9/6 Lecture by Isserman on "The Good War"

9/8 Section meetings

Reading: Stephen Ambrose, *Rise to Globalism*, pp. 1-74; Martin Sherwin, *A World Destroyed*, introduction and pp. 3-63; "Early History" xeroxed documents.

The first paper due in class on September 8th.

Week Three: The Physics of the Bomb

9/11 Lecture by Ring on " $E=mc^2$ "

9/13 Joint meeting of Ring and Rabinowitz sections

9/15 Joint meeting of Gold and Isserman sections

Reading: Herman Bondi, *Relativity and Common Sense*, chapter 1-8; Richard Wolfson, *Nuclear Choices*, chapters 2 and 5.

Week Four: The Manhattan Project and the Enola Gay Exhibit

9/18 Class meeting with Martin Sherwin, evening talk by Sherwin.

9/20 Section meetings.

9/22 Film: "A Conversation with I.I. Rabi"

Reading: Sherwin, pp. 67-238; xerox of Robert Jay Lifton and Greg Mitchell, "Commemoration Hiroshima: The Smithsonian Controversy."

The second paper due in class on September 18th.

Week Five: Heroism and War in Western Culture

9/25 Lecture by Gold on "Heroism and War"

9/27 Joint meeting of Gold and Isserman sections

9/29 Joint meeting of Ring and Rabinowitz sections

Reading: Homer, *The Iliad*, Books 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 16-18, 21-22, 24; William A. Myers, "Replacing the Warrior."

Week Six: The Ethics of the Bomb: Part 1. Scientists and Creation

10/2 Section meetings

10/4 Section meetings

10/6 Film: "Building of the Bomb"

Reading: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*, xeroxes on post-war scientists' movement.

The third paper due in class on October 2nd.

Week Seven: The Ethics of the Bomb: Part 2. Women and War

10/11 Section meetings

10/13 Lecture by Carol Cohn on "The Legacy of Antigone, Women and War"

Reading: *Antigone*; xeroxed articles by Charlene Spretnak, "Naming the Cultural Forces That Push Us Toward War"; Carol Cohn, "Sex and Death in Palace"; Jane S. Wilson, "Not Quite eden."

Week Eight: The Ethics of the Bomb: Part 3. Just Wars

10/16 Lecture by Professor Rick Werner on "Just Wars"

10/18 Section meetings

Reading: xeroxed selection from Michael Walzer, "Just Wars" and other readings to be

announced.

The fourth paper due in class on October 16th.

Week Nine: The World the Bomb Made: Part 1. International Relations

10/23 Lecture by Professor Vincent Auger on "International Relations and Bomb"

10/25 Section meetings

10/27 Film: "Dr. Strangelove"

Reading: Rise to Globalism, pp. 75-189; xeroxes of Kegley and Wittkopf, World Politics, 405-410, 496-502; Kenneth Waltz, "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities"; Barry Blechman and Cathleen S. Fisher, "Phase Out the Bomb."

Week Ten: The World the Bomb Made: Part 2. Domestic Politics

10/30 Lecture by Isserman on "The Bomb, Espionage, and Domestic Politics"

11/1 Section meetings

11/3 Film: "The Atomic Cafe"

Reading: xeroxes of documents concerning the Rosenberg case.

Week Eleven: Biological Effects of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Reactors

11/6 Class meeting with Jim Werner, Director of Strategic Planning and Analysis for Environmental Management, Department of Energy, and evening talk by Werner.

11/8 Section meetings

11/10 Film: "The Final Epicemic" and "The China Syndrome"

Reading: Richard Wolfson, Nuclear Choices, chapters 3,4,8,9,10,13; xeroxes of Jonathan Schell, "Nuclear Holocaust"; Carl Sagan, "Nuclear War and Climatic Catastrophe: A Nuclear Winter"; Linda Tothstein, "Nothing Clean about 'Cleanup'".

The fifth paper due in class on November 10th.

Week Twelve: Defense Against Nuclear Attack

11/13 Lecture by Rig on "Is there a Defense Against Nuclear Attack?"

11/15 Section meetings

11/17 Film: "Panic in the Year Zero"

Reading: Wolfson, chapters 14-17, and other xeroxed articles to be announced.

Thanksgiving Week

11/20 Section meetings

Week Thirteen: The Bomb and the Arts

11/27 Section meetings

11/29 Section meetings

12/8 Film: "Day of the Triffids"

Reading: Walter Miller, "A Canticle for Liebowitz"

Week Fourteen

12/4 Lecture by Rabinowitz on music and the bomb

12/6 Section meetings

12/1 Section meetings

Music: Blitzstein, "Airborne Symphony"; Vaughan Williams, six symphony; Penderecki, "Threnody for the Victims of Hiroshima." Note: Recording of these compositions will be available in the Music Library: students should listen to all three recordings in the week before our 12/4 class.

The final paper due in class December 8th.