

## Remembering World War I:

### A Hundredth Anniversary Commemoration

The Department of History has been a longtime sponsor of “Remembering World War I: A Hundredth Anniversary Commemoration,” a multi-year exploration of the origins, experience, and consequences of World War One. The program, in part supported by Town-N-Gown, began on 18 September 2014 with a public presentation by Professor Jay Winter of Yale University. His talk, “Commemorating Catastrophe: The Great War 100 Years On,” explored the legacy of the war by focusing on the practices of commemoration since 1918. Town-N-Gown also invited a panel of Department of History faculty members to address the war as part of their outreach program. On 15 November 2014, the Department of History collaborated with the MacArthur Memorial and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum in the presentation of a “World War I Centennial Symposium” in downtown Norfolk, Virginia. Scholars and noted authors from around the world addressed topics such as the origins of the war, military tactics and technology, America’s role in the war, the consequences of the war on the Russian and Ottoman empires, the archaeology of the war, the memory of the war, and other topics. Department of History undergraduates prepared presentations on “Medicine and World War I” as part of the ODU Undergraduate Research Symposium in February 2015. And finally, in April, Professor Michael Neiberg of US Army War College spoke on “‘If You are in Favor of the Kaiser, Keep it to Yourself:’ US Responses to the War from 1914 to American Entry in 1917.”

The program continued through 2015-16, with a lecture in October by Professor Linda McGreevy, formerly of the art department, on the response of German painters to the war. In November, the Department arranged an exhibit in Perry Library, a display of numerous propaganda posters from the era. “The Power of Persuasion” was accompanied by lectures and a scholarly panel on “Posters and Propaganda in the Great War.” The exhibit remained in the Learning Commons area of the library throughout the entire month, and also served as a source of classroom projects and exercises for students.

The exploration of the war has continued in 2016-2017. On 24 September 2016, Professor Tim Orr led a bus and walking tour of Fort Monroe, the coastal fortification on the outskirts of Hampton that operated between 1822 and 2011. On 21 March 2017, Professor Robert Holden will present a talk on the “Zimmerman Telegram” in BAL 1012 at 7:00 p.m.