

**Preview of Mid-Term Exam  
History 348: WWI**

The exam concerns all the material covered up to the mid-term, and will consist of four parts: 1) matching; 2) chronology; 3) short answer; 4) triads. The point values designated below are approximate and may be different on the exam itself.

**PART ONE: Matching (16 points).** Here you will encounter a number of prominent people who have appeared in our discussions so far and you will be asked to connect them to brief biographical descriptions using numbers. Example:

_____ Dr Paul Werth	1. The author of the book <i>The Dance of the Furies</i>
_____ Michael Neiberg	2. Instructor of HIST348 and chair of the Department of History

So you would place a “2” on the line before Dr Paul Werth and a “1” before Michael Neiberg. There will of course be more than two of these on the exam itself. In most cases if you have been reading attentively and diligently, you should be fine.

**PART TWO. Chronology (10 points).** This part of the exam is designed to ensure that you have a basic grasp of the sequence of events before & during the war. I will provide you with a group of events. In the case of each group, you will put the events in their proper chronological order. Most likely, I will provide you with four groups of events, asking you to choose two of them to write on (@ 5 points each).

Example:

- A) "July crisis" and outbreak of the war
- B) Russo-Japanese War
- C) Creation of Franco-Russian alliance
- D) Bosnian Annexation Crisis

So you would write: *C, B, D, A*

Note that I will not ask you to identify specifically when the event occurred, but rather the *sequence* of the given events. Though I suppose you could go about memorizing dates, My assumption is that if you have been attentive to sequence and causality, you will know how to deal with these.

**PART THREE: Short answers (48 points).** The purpose of this portion of the exam is to ensure that you have mastered some basic factual information in an active sense. I will try to devise question that you can answer using a few words or a phrase.

*Name two European states that entered the war NOT from its very beginning in August 1914, but only subsequently.*

As always, be sure to read the questions carefully, as they have been written judiciously in order to elicit a particular response. Note that the example here says “European state,” which would exclude countries like Japan, Honduras, Liberia, and the United States. Nor could Russia or Great Britain be considered correct, as both states entered the war already in late July or very early August. Because the Ottoman

Empire had a (small) European presence, and because it entered the war a couple of months after August, it would be an acceptable answer. There are several others as well.

**PART FOUR: “Triad” (26 points).** This is the major interpretive portion of the exam and undoubtedly the most amusing part. A triad represents a list of three items (people, places, ideas, abstract concepts) that I propose are linked in a fundamental way in the context of the history we are studying. For each triad, I ask that you write a well-developed paragraph or mini-essay explaining the historical relationship among the three items. The idea is to focus above all on the *connections*, rather than on addressing each item in isolation from the others. In each case, the best answer will state in the paragraph's first sentence the relationship involved; the rest of the paragraph will then elaborate on that relationship, *using specific evidence and detail from the materials at your disposal* (lecture notes, textbook, and any other relevant materials). Though the three concepts can usually be put together in a variety of ways, please make sure that you do not ignore important evidence in putting your answer together. The triads below will appear on the exam itself, and you will be offered an element of choice concerning the **TWO** triads on which you may write. I strongly encourage you to think about all of the triads, since these will compel you to prepare for the exam as a whole.

Austria-Hungary  
Serbia  
Bosnia-Herzegovina

Russia  
Austria-Hungary  
Balkans

Germany  
Belgium  
Propaganda

“war enthusiasm”  
patriotism  
hatred of enemy

European diplomatic system  
International socialism  
Diplomatic crises (1905-1914)

July Crisis  
“defensive” war  
European socialists

**GENERAL ADVICE:** In addressing the triads, the first thing to do is to determine which texts and materials will allow you to analyze the relevant issues. I would quickly review all of the readings to determine which of them might be deployed where. This is crucially important, as you will be assessed, in large measure, based on the specific evidence that you bring to bear in making your assertions. The more evidence you have, the stronger your case. The NUMBER ONE deficiency of triads generally involves the failure to deploy evidence.

In general, you should want to use the exam to demonstrate to me the depth of your knowledge and the seriousness of your preparation. Each of the triads above, for example, could probably be addressed in a sentence. But that would be very superficial and would not demonstrate your engagement with the material. Thus you want to make your answers as robust as possible (note that “robust” does not necessarily mean “long”; a well-written and concise answer can be packed with insight, while a lengthy and verbose answer may say little or nothing). Because I am providing you with a good portion of the exam right here, I indeed expect your answers to be robust, to go somewhat beyond the immediately obvious connections, and to provide elaboration on the connections involved.

This might sound like a challenge. It is. But I have full faith that everyone in this course can do this well, as long as they are willing to make the effort.