

HIST 418: AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Wars were central to the history of the United States. The Revolutionary War, the Civil War, the First World War, and particularly the Second World War loom large in public and private memory. Yet, rather than military exploits, the grand narrative of the history of the United States stresses settlement and a benign expansion of a sphere of liberty and democracy as its major themes. In this understanding, only serious threats to freedom have forced otherwise peaceful Americans to take up arms and defend their country and the values it represented – far away from home if necessary. While such claims might hold true for the First or Second World Wars, a different picture emerges when looking at the numerous wars against American Indians, the Mexican War, or the Spanish-American War. These conflicts are difficult to understand as anything but wars for empire, fought to conquer territory and extend American power beyond its previous borders.

Confronting such perplexing contradictions in lectures and discussions, this survey course studies American military history from the colonial world of the seventeenth century to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Students who successfully complete this course will be able to recognize that warfare cannot be placed in a separate category of horrible human behavior or be seen simply as a terrible exception to otherwise peaceable human progress; acknowledge that warfare remains a common and central theme of even the world's most advanced societies; understand how wars altered patterns of societies over both long and short runs; compare and contrast the complex ramifications of warfare for politics, economy, society, and culture; see how wars affected civilians and soldiers, combatants and non-combatants – male and female, high- and low-ranking – why soldiers joined an army, how societies mobilized to fight wars, and how communities dealt with the effects of warfare. However, this course will not forget what John A. Lynn once said, “The ultimate fact of military history is combat, actual fighting with all its danger and its heavy costs.” To that end, students will also study leadership in warfare by preparing and taking part in a staff ride to the Civil War battlefield in Perryville, Ky.

2. ROOM AND TIME

Time: TTh, 1 – 2.15pm

Room: Davidson 202

3. OFFICE HOURS

W: 10am – 12pm, or by appointment

Room: Gottschalk Hall 102C

Advising you in respect to course-related problems is an important and integral part of my profession. I encourage all students to come in for counseling or help as often as needed.

4. BLACKBOARD

PowerPoint presentations, lecture outlines, and other material for this course are available on Blackboard (<http://blackboard.louisville.edu/>). Make sure to check Blackboard regularly to learn about changes or check your grades/points.

5. EMAIL

Use your university email account to send email to the professor or your classmates. Be aware of proper form, grammar, and language when writing your messages.

6. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Available at the Bookstore (see the Weekly Schedule below for reading assignments):

1. AMH: Allison, William T. et al. *American Military History: A Survey From Colonial Times to the Present*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, 2007.
2. RMH: James M. Morris, ed. *Readings in American Military History*. Upper Saddle River: Pearson Education, 2004.

7. RECOMMENDED READINGS

These books will not be required readings. However, to be better prepared for lectures and class discussions, the instructor highly recommends reading at least some of the chapters in these textbooks. You will also find further readings at the end of each chapter in AMH.

1. Millett, Allan R., and Peter Maslowski. *For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America*. Revised and expanded Edition. New York: Free Press, 1994.
2. Sweeney, Jerry K., ed. *A Handbook of American Military History: From the Revolutionary War to the Present*. Second Edition. Lincoln and London: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
3. Doughty, Robert A., Gruber, Ira D. et al. *American Military History and the Evolution of Warfare in the Western World*. Lexington and Toronto: D.C. Heath and Company, 1996.
4. Stewart, Richard W. *American Military History*. Vol. 1: The United States Army and the Forging of a Nation, 1775 – 1917. Vol. 2: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917 – 2003. Washington, D.C.: Center of Military History, 2005.

8. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

I. Final Exam	60 points
II. Mid-Term Exam	60 points
III. Quizzes (4)	40 points
IV. Staff Ride/Essay	50 points
V. Class Participation	10 points
Total:	220 points

Grading:

Letter Grade:	Percentage:
A+	100 – 97
A	96 – 94
A-	93 – 90
B+	89 – 87
B	86 – 84
B-	83 – 80
C+	79 – 77
C	76 – 74
C-	73 – 70
D+	69 – 67
D	66 – 64
D-	63 – 60
F	<60

Disability clause: All students with a disability who require special accommodations to participate in and complete this course must contact the Disability Resource center (852-6938) for verification of eligibility and for determination of specific accommodations. Make-up exams for students registered with the DRC will be held at the DRC.

Plagiarism: Students must not plagiarize, which is the use of primary or secondary materials without proper citation in the footnotes, endnotes, or in the work. Plagiarism is theft of intellectual property. For further discussion and definitions of plagiarism and its penalties, see <http://louisville.edu/a-s/history/plagiarism.html>. All students must consult these statements and are hereby given due notice of this History Department policy. If the instructor should find out about a case of plagiarism, the student will fail the course and will be reported to the Dean of the College. All students have the right to appeal such decisions.

Due Dates and Make-up exams: Extensions or make-up exams will be granted only to those students who have a valid reason. Valid reasons are: illness, traffic accidents on the way to school, school-related activities (the student is a member of a UofL sports team, band, ROTC training, etc.), or a death in the immediate family. Other reasons might apply but will have to be discussed with the instructor prior to the test/due date. Students have to provide documentary proof (a note from your physician, coach, orders, etc.) within two workdays (not including weekends) to be granted an extension or make-up test.

Course Requirements and Syllabus:

The instructor reserves the right to give additional, unannounced quizzes and make changes to the syllabus when necessary.

I. Final Exam

This comprehensive exam covers lectures, reading assignments, discussions, and other information presented in the second half of the semester. Usually, the final exam takes about 65 minutes to complete. It contains a mix of multiple-choice, matching, short answer (bullet points allowed) and/or essay questions.

II. Mid-Term Exam

Similar to the final exam, this comprehensive exam covers lectures, reading assignments, discussions, and other information presented in the first half of the semester. The exam takes about 55 minutes to complete.

III. Quizzes

The quizzes test you about various reading assignments. These are unannounced quizzes. Most questions are multiple-choice and/or short answer.

IV. Staff Ride to Perryville/Essay

Staff rides are a great way to study and learn from past campaigns and battles. A staff ride is defined as follows: "A staff ride consists of systematic preliminary study ..., an extensive visit to the actual sites ..., and an opportunity to integrate the lessons derived from each. It envisions maximum student involvement ... to guarantee thoughtful analysis and discussion. A staff ride thus links a historical event, systematic preliminary study, and actual terrain to produce battle analysis in three dimensions." In other words, a staff ride is a group exercise in which each student gives a briefing on plans, orders, events, decisions, and individuals. They frequently take on the persona of one of the primary participants in the battle. Afterwards, his/her colleagues question him/her about that participant's view of what has occurred on the battlefield at that point. In order to prepare for your role during the staff ride, you will have to download the handbook at: <http://cgsc.leavenworth.army.mil/carl/resources/csi>. The instructor will distribute further material (journal articles and maps) in class. To allow for preparing the staff ride, two class periods will be cancelled (see Weekly Schedule below).

Students who cannot participate in this staff ride because of work-schedules, family duties, or other valid reasons (to be discussed with the instructor at the beginning of the semester) will have the opportunity to earn the same number of point by writing an essay (12p, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 10 pages, incl. footnotes, utilizing at least five books and/or academic journal articles) on a Civil War battle. The detailed topic will be determined by the instructor upon consultation.

V. Class Participation

You will be asked to be present and participate in all classes, prepare the course readings, and contribute to class discussions and activities. In other words, simply sitting in class and raising your hand sometimes will not earn you full points in this category. You are expected to be on time and conduct yourself with decorum and courtesy in the classroom. The instructor does not tolerate sleeping, chatting, texting, and wearing hats or hoods. Cell phones, pagers, etc. that ring, beep, clang, or buzz must be turned off and stored away. Surfing the internet or watching movies on your laptop/ipad/iphone/blackberry or other electronic device will not be tolerated. Students who use electronic devices to take notes have to be prepared to show these notes to the instructor after each session. Grading Scale in this category: : A+ = 10, A = 9, B+ = 8, B = 7, C+ = 6, C = 5, D+ = 4, D = 3; F = 2.

9. REVIEW SHEETS AND LECTURE POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS

Review sheets and PowerPoint presentations for lectures are available for download on Blackboard. Additional handouts might be distributed in class. Review sheets contain a list of events, ideas, developments, persons, places, etc. that will be covered/discussed that day. Certain names, places, dates, and events are highlighted to signify their importance. Use these review sheets to prepare for quizzes/exams/tests.

10. STUDY, WRITING, AND RESEARCH GUIDES:

Study guides on listening to lectures, taking notes in class, studying for an exam, citing sources, and writing a history essay are available on Blackboard.

11. ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/csi/INDEX.asp>

U.S. Army. Combat Studies Institute

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/>

U.S. Army. Center for Military History

<http://www.army.mil/cmh-pg/reference/CSAList/CSAList.htm>

Essential readings in military history

<http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/>

U.S. Army. Military History Institute

12. WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topic	Readings
1:	08-23 08-25	T: Introduction Th: Invasion and Expansion	No Readings AMH: Ch. 1
2:	08-30 09-01	T: Colonial Militias Th: Quest for Empire	RMH, Ch. 1, Boucher AMH: Ch. 2, pp. 18-28
3:	09-06 09-08	T: The Seven Years' War Th: The American War of Independence	AMH: Ch. 2, pp. 28-43 AMH: Ch. 3
4:	09-13 09-15	T: General George Washington Th: Weapons and Tactics in the Early Modern Era	RMH: Ch. 2, Fleming No Readings
5:	09-20 09-22	T: A New Nation is Challenged No Class (Instead: Public lecture on Oct. 27; see below)	AMH: Ch. 4 & 5

6:	09-27	T: Toward a Professional U.S. Military	AMH: Ch. 7
	09-29	Th: An Imperial Republic	AMH: Ch. 6
7:	10-04	T: Civil War – Politics and Society	AMH: Ch. 8
	10-06	Th: Civil War – Strategy, Operations, Tactics, and Weaponry	No Readings
8:	10-11	T: No Class (Fall Break)	
	10-13	Th: Civil War – Antietam	RMH: Ch. 4, Sears
9:	10-18	T: Warfare in the Age of Industrialization	No Readings
	10-20	Th: Mid-Term Exam	AMH, Chs. 1 – 8; RMH; Lectures
10:	10-25	T: World War I	AMH: Ch. 10
	10-27	Th: No Class	Preparing for the Staff Ride
		5pm: Lecture by Dr. Andrew Cayton, Chao Auditorium	Power, Persuasion, and the Imperial Republic
	10-30	Staff Ride to Perryville	Handbook/Maps/Articles
11:	11-01	T: WWII – Europe	AMH: Ch. 12: pp. 241 – 244 & 248 – 259
	11-03	Th: WWII – Pacific	AMH: Ch. 12: pp. 244 – 248 & 259 – 261
12:	11-08	T: WWII – Eastern Front	No Readings
	11-10	Th: The Cold War and Korea	AMH: Ch. 13 & 14
13:	11-15	T: Vietnam	AMH: Ch. 15
	11-17	Th: Vietnam – How the U.S. Lost	RMH: Ch. 12, Davidson
14:	11-22	T: New Threats in the 21 st Century	RMH: Ch. 14, Doran
	11-24	Th: No Class (Thanksgiving)	
15:	11-29	T: U.S. Counterinsurgency – Doctrine and Operations	Rid/Keaney: Chs. 5 and 6 (handed out in class)
	12-01	Th: Final Exam	AMH, Chs. 10, 12 – 15; RMH; Rid/Keaney; Lectures

13. IMPORTANT DATES

Last day for drop/add: 08/26

Last day to withdraw: 10/13