

Course Outline

War and Society in World Civilizations (HIS K257)

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 – 12:20

Three Rivers Community College

Norwich, CT 06360

Instructor: Peter Patsouris

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Office Phone: (860) 892 - 5703

Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - Tuesday and Thursday: 10-

11; 12:30 – 2:00

Or by appointment

Fall 2008

Course Description:

This course is a survey of war and the military institutions of World society from the beginning of civilizations to the advent of the nuclear age. Emphasis will be placed on the evolution of war and its apparatus in the context of political, social, economic, and technological change.

Course Objectives:

The overall purpose of this course is to help students gain a solid foundation in understanding the evolution and impact of warfare on human societies, and inversely, how human society has impacted warfare. A secondary, yet equally important, goal is to help further critical thinking skills, especially reading and writing. Finally, I expect students to be active participants in the course and in class discussions. Interrupting me in order to ask questions and taking the initiative to delve deeper into topics is very much encouraged. I can learn as much from you as you can from me, and I look for students to be enthusiastically engaged with the subject matter.

Required Books:

O'Connell, Robert L. Of Arms and Men. Oxford University Press. 1989.

Hanson, Victor Davis. The Western Way of War. University of California Press. 1989

Mattingly, Garrett. The Armada. American Heritage Library, Houghton Mifflin. 1987

Keegan, John. The Face of Battle. Penguin Books. 1978

Tentative Schedule of Lecture Topics and readings in “Of Arms and Men”:

1. Introduction to the Course (Chapters 1-3)
2. Ancient Warfare: The Greeks (Ch. 4)
3. Ancient Warfare: The Romans (Ch. 5)
4. The Byzantine Empire
5. Western Europe: The Feudal Military Tradition (Ch. 6)
6. The Collapse of the Medieval Art of War (Ch. 7)
7. “Modern” War Begins: the 16th and 17th Centuries (Ch. 8)
8. Warfare Moderated: the 18th Century (Ch. 9)
9. Western Sea power from the Beginnings to 1800
10. War in the New World in the Early Modern Period, 1500-1800
11. Mass Warfare Begins: the French Revolution & Napoleon (Ch. 10)
12. The 19th Century: Land Warfare (Ch. 11)
13. Britain and World Empire: the “Pax Britannica” (Ch. 12)
14. The Approach to Total War (Ch. 13)
15. Total War, 1914-1918 (Ch. 14)
16. Talk of Peace, Preparation for War: the Interwar Period, 1919-1939
17. World War II, 1939-1945 (Ch. 15)
18. Retrospectus: War and Society in World Civilization (Ch. 16)

The other books are to be read in the following order before each of the exams:

1. The Western Way of War – Exam 1
2. The Armada - Exam 2
3. The Face of Battle – Exam 3

Method of Evaluation:

Exams – At three points during the semester, an exam will be given that covers material learned up to that point only. The first exam will be given after topic 6; the second after topic 11, and the final one at the end of the semester. The exams will have three components: short identification, longer identification, and a take home essay based upon the book for that section of the course. Each exam will be worth 20% of your total grade.

Research Paper – Near the end of the semester (April 26th), you will be required to complete a research paper (15 page minimum) that covers an important topic related to the course. I will allow you to choose your topic, but you need to hand in a topic proposal on what you will be writing on by the middle of the semester. I will go into more detail on the assignment as the semester progresses, but you should begin the thought process as soon as possible. The paper will be worth 40% of your total grade

Grading System:

A = 94-100	C = 74-77
A- = 90-93	C- = 70-73
B+ = 88-89	D+ = 68-70
B = 84-87	D = 64-67
B- = 80-83	D- = 60-62
C+ = 78-79	F = Below 60

Paper Information

All written materials that are handed in must be typed and double spaced. If you have any trouble with writing, I strongly advise you visit the writing center in room 106 at Mohegan and TASC in the library at both campuses. They are resources that you should use. Furthermore, the following web site will help answer many, if not all of your questions on writing: http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/writing_center/

Attendance:

Please look at the student handbook regarding the college's attendance policies. I take attendance at the beginning of each class, and it goes without saying that habitual absences or lateness will negatively affect your grade.

Disabilities Statement:

If you have a hidden or visible disability, which may require classroom or assignment modifications, you are obligated to come see me as soon as possible.

Academic Dishonesty:

Any form of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the college immediately, and may result in the failure of an assignment or the course itself.

Civility in the Classroom:

The classroom is a place of learning. In this setting all ideas and opinions are to be heard and respected, even if you disagree with what is said. Anyone who upsets this environment, or who disrespects anyone in the class, will not be tolerated.