

IR 478 LT2020: Formative and Summative Questions

Formative Questions

The questions below should be answered primarily with reference to the single text they refer to. You should select your question with an eye to the books and themes you want to write your summative essay on. You may turn in a formative essay at any time, please do so by sending it to Tarak on email (not on moodle). Note that you may also write a book review of a single text for a formative, as described in the course guide.

- 1) According to Strachan, how do policy, strategy, operations and war relate to one another?
- 2) What, for Dudziak, is wartime and what does it do?
- 3) Critically assess Lee's theory of atrocity and restraint in warfare.
- 4) What, for Engberg-Pedersen, is the "empire of chance" and why is it important?
- 5) What, for Strachan, is new about contemporary warfare and what is not?
- 6) How do "culture" and "war" relate to one another in Lee's *Barbarians and Brothers*?
- 7) What, for Dudziak, is the relationship between war and wartime?
- 8) In Engberg-Pedersen, what is the relationship between war and knowledge about war?
- 9) What, for Engberg-Pedersen, is the "state of war"?
- 10) For Gerwarth, when and why did World War I end?
- 11) Assess the significance of defeat in Gerwarth's book.
- 12) What are the main themes that emerge from Sledge's memoir?

- 13) What can an ethnography of a military community or base town tell us about soldiers and war?
- 14) What is Yoneyama saying about nation-states, transnational relations, and empires in *Cold War Ruins*?
- 15) What is the significance of the concept “transwar” in Yoneyama? How does she use it in *Cold War Ruins*?
- 16) What does Macleish tell us about relations between soldiers, civilians, and people in between the two categories (such as military spouses or civilian workers in military settings)?
- 17) Assess Grove’s concept of the Eurocene.
- 18) What does an ecological and new materialist analysis of war consist of for Grove?

Summative Questions

This course is formally assessed through one long (5,000 word) essay, which is due to be submitted via moodle on **18 May, 2019** by 1600 BST. This essay will put at least three of the course texts into conversation with one another around a theme of your choice. See Taught Course Student Handbook and Moodle Site for Regulations on Assessed Essays.

The questions below should be answered primarily with the required seminar texts. You may make use of the recommended and further readings listed in the syllabus. You may also draw upon outside sources of your choice. However, be sure that the **primary focus** of your essay remains on the **required seminar texts**. You are welcome to weight your discussion of those texts in any way you choose, but you must discuss at least three. That is, you can focus heavily on one and briefly discuss several others; or focus mostly on two and lightly discuss one other; etc. **Think of each question as having “Discuss with reference to at least three course texts” at the end.**

You may use one of the questions below or come up with your own question. If you come up with your own question, it must be agreed with TB either in a meeting or an email exchange. Narrow down your answers to the questions below by focusing on a subset of course texts, and on particular thinkers or historical episodes

discussed in those texts. Make sure to organize your thoughts around a thesis, a point of view you are taking that responds directly to the question and which you support with argument and with evidence drawn from the texts.

- 1) Assess Wayne Lee's theory of atrocity and restraint in warfare.
- 2) In what ways does war challenge received beliefs, truths, and knowledges? How does it produce new ones?
- 3) How would you characterize the relations between policy, strategy and operations?
- 4) How would you characterize relations between homefront and warfront?
- 5) War can only be known through interpretation, representation and simulation. What are the effects of these practices on war, politics and society?
- 6) Does war create or destroy cultures?
- 7) Assess the ways in which the "high politics" of war—strategy, war aims, national purposes, war preparation—are entwined with the "low politics" of the everyday lives of people.
- 8) Why and how does war occasion epistemic shifts?
- 9) What is the meaning and significance of "uncertainty" in Strachan, Engberg-Pedersen, and Macleish?
- 10) Assess Yoneyama's concept of "transwar" and use it to make sense of material from at least two other course texts.
- 11) Drawing on at least one other course text, compare and contrast Engberg-Pedersen's and Grove's account of the generative powers of war.