

Professor Kevin Adams
Spring 2023
M 5:30 to 8:30 pm
104 Satterfield
Office Hours: M 2-5 and by appointment
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HIST 6/82400: The Lens of War: American History Through the Study of the Military

"The Lens of War" is designed as a graduate-level survey of the manifold ways in which armed conflict and the military as an institution have shaped the history of what is now the United States. Since the course is part of the "States of Violence" concentration in our graduate program, many of its readings will also consider the reach, meaning, and significance of violence. Outside of reinforcing my central belief that chronological breadth is essential for Americanists, my goals for the class are to provide you a new synthetic lens through which you can understand American history and to expose you to some of the many ways specialists in War & Society approach the subject.

Readings: Outside of the monographs (all ordered through the KSU bookstore), we shall read two articles each week. The articles have been chosen with an eye toward creating a larger thematic unity for the week. PDFs of the articles can be found on our course Canvas page.

Requirements: *Constant and informed participation during every class period, to include leading one class discussion: 50%. Two focused essays (5-6 pages) due in weeks 5 and 10: 20%. Final Paper (10-12 pages) due Monday, May 8th: 30%.* Everyone is permitted to miss one class, no questions asked.

Week One (Monday, January 23rd)

Jill Lepore, *The Name of War: King Philip's War and the Origins of American Identity* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1998)

Articles: Daniel Richter, "War and Culture: The Iroquois Experience," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 40, no. 4 (1983): 528-59; Andrew Lipman, "'A Meanes to Knitt

Them Together': The Exchange of Body Parts in the Pequot War," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 65, no. 1 (2008): 2-38.

Week Two (Monday, January 30th)

Steven Oatis, *A Colonial Complex: South Carolina's Frontiers in the Era of the Yamasee War, 1680-1730* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004)

Articles: Jeffrey Ostler, "'To Extirpate the Indians': An Indigenous Consciousness of Genocide in the Ohio Valley and Lower Great Lakes, 1750s-1810," *The William and Mary Quarterly* 72, no. 4 (2015): 587-622; Gervase Phillips and Laura Sandy, "Slavery and the 'American Way of War,' 1607-1861," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63, no. 4 (2021): 825-50.

Week Three (Monday, February 6th)

Charles Royster, *A Revolutionary People at War: The Continental Army and American Character, 1775-1783* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1979)

Articles: Michael McDonnell, "Popular Mobilization and Political Culture in Revolutionary Virginia: The Failure of the Minutemen and the Revolution from Below," *Journal of American History* 85, no. 3 (1998): 946-81; Sarah Knott, "Sensibility and the American War for Independence," *The American Historical Review* 109, no. 1 (2004): 19-40.

Week Four (Monday, February 13th)

Liam Riordan, *Many Identities, One Nation: The Revolution and Its Legacy in the Mid-Atlantic Region* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007)

Articles: David Waldstreicher, "Ancients, Moderns, and Africans: Phillis Wheatley and the Politics of Empire and Slavery in the American Revolution," *Journal of the Early Republic* 37, no. 4 (2017): 701-33; Emily Arendt, "'Ladies Going About for Money': Female Voluntary Associations and Civic Consciousness in the American Revolution," *Journal of the Early Republic* 34, no. 2 (2014): 157-86.

Week Five (Monday, February 20th)

Amy Greenberg, *A Wicked War: Polk, Clay, Lincoln, and the 1846 U.S. Invasion of Mexico* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2012)

Articles: Brian DeLay, "Independent Indians and the U.S.-Mexican War," *The American Historical Review* 112, no. 1 (2007): 35-68; Peter Guardino, "Gender, Soldiering, and Citizenship in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848," *The American Historical Review* 119, no. 1 (2014): 23-46.

Paper #1 Due

Week Six (Monday, February 27th)

Michael Fellman, *Inside War: The Guerilla Conflict in Missouri during the American Civil War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989)

Articles: Joseph Beilen, "The Guerrilla Shirt: A Labor of Love and the Style of Rebellion in Civil War Missouri," *Civil War History* 58, no. 2 (2012): 151-79; Diane Miller Sommerville, "'A Burden Too Heavy to Bear': War Trauma, Suicide, and Confederate Soldiers," *Civil War History* 59 no. 4 (2013): 453-91.

Week Seven (Monday, March 6th)

Drew Gilpin Faust, *Mothers of Invention: Women of the Slaveholding South in the American Civil War* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996)

Articles: Tyler Anbinder, "Which Poor Man's Fight? Immigrants and the Federal Conscription of 1863," *Civil War History* 52, no. 4 (2006): 344-72; John Sacher, "'Twenty-Negro,' or Overseer Law: A Reconsideration," *Journal of the Civil War Era* 7, no. 2 (2017): 269-92.

Week Eight (Monday, March 13th)

Andrew Lang, *In the Wake of War: Military Occupation, Emancipation, and Civil War America* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2017)

Articles: John Casey, "Marked by War: Demobilization, Disability, and the Trope of the Citizen-Soldier in *Miss Ravenel's Conversion*," *Civil War History* 60, no. 2 (2014): 123-51; Nina Silber, "Reunion and Reconciliation, Reviewed and Reconsidered," *Journal of American History* 103, no. 1 (2016): 59-83.

Week Nine (Monday, March 20th)

Karl Jacoby, *Shadows at Dawn: A Borderlands Massacre and the Violence of History* (New York: Penguin Press, 2008)

Articles: Pekka Hamalainen, "Reconstructing the Great Plains: The Long Struggle for Sovereignty and Dominance in the Heart of the Continent," *The Journal of the Civil War Era* 6, no. 4 (2016): 481-509; Jeffrey Ostler, "Conquest and the State: Why the United States Employed Massive Military Force to Suppress the Lakota Ghost Dance," *Pacific Historical Review* 65, no. 2 (1996): 217-48.

Spring Break, March 27th through April 2nd (**N.B.: Your final paper topic must be approved by me before Spring Break**)

Week Ten (Monday, April 3rd)

Chad Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy: African American Soldiers in the World War I Era* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010)

Articles: Paul Kramer, "Race-Making and Colonial Violence in the U.S. Empire: The Philippine-American War as Race War," *Diplomatic History* 30, no. 2 (2006): 169-210; Nancy Gentile Ford, "'Mindful of the Traditions of His Race': Dual Identity and Foreign-Born Soldiers in the First World War American Army," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 16, no. 2 (1997): 35-57.

Paper #2 Due

Week Eleven (Monday, April 10th)

Mark Clodfelter, *Beneficial Bombing: The Progressive Foundations of American Air Power, 1917-1945* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010)

Articles: Lucy Salyer, "Baptism by Fire: Race, Military Service, and U.S. Citizenship Policy, 1918-1935," *Journal of American History* 91, no. 3 (2004): 847-76; Chris Rasmussen, "'This Thing has Ceased to be a Joke': The Veterans of Future Wars and the Meanings of Political Satire in the 1930s," *Journal of American History* 103, no. 1 (2016): 84-106.

Week Twelve (Monday, April 17th)

Thomas Guglielmo, *Divisions: A New History of Racism and Resistance in America's World War II Military* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2021)

Articles: Benjamin Alpers, "This is the Army: Imagining a Democratic Military in World War II," *Journal of American History* 85, no. 1 (1998): 129-62; Margot Canaday, "Building a Straight State: Sexuality and Social Citizenship under the 1944 G.I. Bill," *Journal of American History*, 90, no. 3 (2003): 935-57.

Week Thirteen (Monday, April 24th)

Andrew Huebner, *The Warrior Image: Soldiers in American Culture from the Second World War to the Vietnam Era* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008)

Articles: Petra Goedde, "From Villains to Victims: Fraternization and the Feminization of Germany, 1945-1947," *Diplomatic History* 23, no. 1 (1999): 1-20; Susan Carruthers, "'Produce More Joppolos': John Hersey's 'A Bell for Adano' and the Making of the 'Good Occupation,'" *Journal of American History* 100, no. 4 (2014): 1086-1113.

Week Fourteen (Monday, May 1st)

Beth Bailey, *America's Army: Making the All-Volunteer Force* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009)

Articles: Jennifer Mittelstadt, "'The Army is a Service, Not a Job': Unionization, Employment, and the Meaning of Military Service in the Late-Twentieth Century United States," *International Labor and Working-Class History* 80 (2011): 29-52; Michael Allen, "Sacrilege of a Strange, Contemporary Kind': The Unknown Soldier and the Imagined Community after the Vietnam War," *History and Memory* 23 no. 2 (2011): 90-131.

Final Paper Due by 5 pm on May 8th (in my mailbox in the History Department)