

Professor Kevin Adams
kadams9@kent.edu
Office Hours: M, 2-5 and by appointment
305 Bowman

History 31102: War and Society from 1865 to the Present

MWF 1:10 to 2:00
317 Bowman

"I might suggest... War is a human phenomenon you can't argue out of existence."—John Dos Passos

Course Description: While military history has long been a subject of interest to professional historians, only recently have they started to expand the study of the military and war to other aspects of history. In this course, we will take advantage of this rapidly growing literature in order to assess the impact of war and the military upon the society, culture, politics, and economy of colonial America and the United States. At the outset, it should be understood that this is *not* a course in military history and it is not comprehensive. (Given the length of time covered in this course and the amount of scholarly material already in existence, such a goal would be impossible to achieve.) Instead, we shall make episodic interventions into the history of the United States from the colonial period to the end of the Civil War, using the course lectures and readings to consider topics that are interesting, important, or undergoing historiographical revision.

Course Objectives: 1). To gain an understanding of the central role warfare and the peacetime military have played in the development of the United States since the Civil War. 2). To become acquainted with relevant historiographical debates and traditions. 3). To become proficient at developing historical arguments based upon a synthesis of both primary and secondary sources. 4). To practice the wide range of skills utilized by modern historians: analysis of individual primary and secondary sources; synthesis of a body of historiographical literature; use of research skills to find a diary or memoir from a veteran of the Second Iraq War that you will read and analyze in concert with Peter Van Buren's account.

Grade Breakdown

Book Review of *Kent State: Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties*: 10%, Laurence essay, 10%, Williams Source Analysis: 15%, Historiographical Synthesis: 15%, Midterm: 10%, Cumulative Final: 25%, Participation: 15%. Grading is not strictly mathematical—positive or negative trends over the course of the semester will be rewarded/penalized. You might note that there attendance does not appear above. This is because attendance is assumed—absences (without documentation) will be penalized at the rate of ½ a point off the final grade per absence. **Proper documentation for absences and make-up examinations denotes a valid excuse signed by a medical doctor, university official, or commanding officer (for those in the National Guard/Reserves). Car troubles must be supported by documentation from a mechanic.**

Assignments handed in late will be penalized 1/3 of a grade *per day* (including weekends)

Office Hours and Required Readings

My office hours are listed above; I am also available by appointment: simply drop a note in my mailbox in 305 Bowman, catch me after class, or send me an email. If you have not purchased the books by now, do so ASAP. The texts required are:

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

Thomas Grace, *Kent State; Death and Dissent in the Long Sixties* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2016)

Mary Leefe Laurence, *Daughter of the Regiment: Memoirs of a Childhood in the Frontier Army, 1878-1898*, ed. Thomas T. Smith (University of Nebraska Press, 1996)

Mary Louise Roberts, *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* (University of Chicago Press, 2013)

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

Other readings, which include a mix of scholarly articles and primary sources, will be provided at no cost, either via hard copy or JSTOR (accessible through the KSU library web site).

Kent State Policies

Students with Disabilities:

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

Enrollment Issues:

The official registration deadline for this course is **September 7th**. University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated. Registration errors must be corrected prior to the deadline.

Withdrawal

Withdrawal from any or all courses is permitted through the 10th week of the semester (or the prorated deadline for flexibly scheduled sections). After that time, students are considered to be committed to all remaining courses and must complete them. *If students are unable to complete the semester because of extreme circumstances that first occur after the deadline, students should consult their college or campus dean's office.* **Any course withdrawal(s) processed after the second week of the semester will appear on the students' academic record with a grade of "W."**

Plagiarism and Cheating Policy:

Plagiarizing and cheating are serious academic offenses. You are expected to do your own work, to acknowledge all sources used, and to write your assignments and exams in your own words. If you are uncertain about what constitutes

cheating or plagiarism, consult with me or any of the TAs. *I will automatically prosecute documented cases of plagiarism to the fullest extent of University policy up to and including expulsion.*

For additional information, please consult University policy 3342-3-01.8, which deals with the problem of academic dishonesty, cheating, and plagiarism. The sanctions provided in this policy will be used to deal with any violations. If you have any questions, please read the policy at <http://www.kent.edu/policyreg/chap3/3-01-8.cfm> and/or ask.

Week 1

August 23: Introduction; goals of the course; requirements for success

August 26: Reconstruction: The Second Civil War

Reading: William Blair, "The Use of Military Force to Protect the Gains of Reconstruction."

August 28: How believing in the "Vanishing Indian" made the Indian "vanish": The Army and Federal Indian Policy

Reading: Michael L. Tate, "In Defense of 'Poor Lo': Military Advocacy for Native American Rights" from *The Frontier Army in the Settlement of the West*.

Laurence Essay Assignment Handed Out

August 30: "A Miniature Picture of the Whole World": Daily Life, Society, and Culture in the Frontier Army, 1865-1890

Reading: Laurence, *Daughter of the Regiment*, 5-44.

Week 2

September 2: *No Class: Labor Day*

September 4: Nature's Army: The U.S. Army and the Western Environment

Reading: Laurence, *Daughter of the Regiment*, 45-105.

September 6: The Buffalo Soldiers

Reading: Frank Schubert, *Voices of the Buffalo Soldiers* (excerpts); Laurence, *Daughter of the Regiment*, 106-136.

Week 3

September 9: Building a New American State (?): The Military and American Political Development, 1865-1898

Reading: Theda Skocpol, "Did The Civil War Further Democracy? A Reflection on the Expansion of Benefits for Union Veterans" in *Democracy, Revolution, and History*

Laurence Essay Due

September 11: What Price Victory? The Meaning of the Civil War in a Postwar World
Reading: Sarah Handley-Cousins, "Wrestling at the Gates of Death: Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain and Nonvisible Disability in the Post-Civil War North"

September 13: Roadblocks to Reconciliation: Cities of the Dead
Reading: Barbara Gannon, "Liberty and Union, Now and Forever, One and Inseparable : What They Remembered They Won," from *The Won Cause* and Keith Harris, "Calumny Masquerading as History: Rebels' Response to the Emancipationist Cause" from *Across the Bloody Chasm: The Culture of Commemoration among Civil War Veterans*

Week 4

September 16: "War is a bad thing, no doubt, but there are worse things both for nations and for men": The Spanish-American War
Reading: Kristin Hoganson, "The Spanish-American War and the Martial Idea of Citizenship" from *Fighting for American Manhood*

September 18: Innocents Abroad: The New American Empire and the Philippines
Reading: Willard Gatewood, *Smoked Yankees and the Struggle for Empire: Letters from Negro Soldiers, 1898-1902* (excerpts); "How to Convert a White Man Into a Savage."

September 20: Guardians of Empire; The United States Military in Haiti and the Pacific
Reading: Brian McAllister Linn, "The Impact of the Philippine Wars (1898-193) on the U.S. Army" in *Colonial Crucible: Empire in the Making of the Modern American State*
Source Analysis Assignment Handed Out

Week 5

September 23: Discussion of Late Nineteenth-Century Material

September 25: **Midterm**

September 27: Progressives at War, Part One: Ideology
Reading: Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy*, 13-62.

Week 6

September 30: Progressives at War, Part Two: The State
Reading: Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy*, 63-144.

October 2: Life "Over There": Service and Sacrifice in the A.E.F.
Reading: Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy*, 145-86.

October 4: “War is the Health of the State”: 100% Americanism, 1917-1918
Reading: Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy*, 187-260.

Week 7

October 7: The Price of War: America’s Engagement (???) with Fascism, 1922-1941
Reading: Williams, *Torchbearers of Democracy*, 261-352.

October 9: No Class—BrANCH Conference

October 11: No Class—Fall Break

Week 8

October 14: No Class—BrANCH Conference

Source Analysis of Williams Due by Midnight (Email papers to me)

Historiographical Assignment Handed Out

October 16: Army of Democracy: The Setting

Reading: Benjamin Alpers, “This is the Army: Imagining a Democratic Military in World War II.”

October 18: Army of Democracy: Practice

Reading: Thomas Guglielmo, “‘Red Cross, Double Cross’: Race and America’s World War II-Era Blood Donor Service”

Week 9

October 21: Women and the War

Reading: Leisa Meyer, “‘What Has Become of the Manhood of America?’: Creating a Woman’s Army,” and “‘Ain’t Misbehavin’?: The Slander Campaign Against the WAC” from *Creating G.I. Jane*

October 23: American West Transformed

Reading: Marilynn Johnson, “The Second Gold Rush,” from *The Second Gold Rush*.

October 25: Combat!: World War II and Modern Warfare

Reading: Roberts, *What Soldiers Do*, 15-110.

Week 10

October 28: The Worst War Ever?

Reading: Kurt Vonnegut Jr., "Wailing Shall Be in All Streets" in *Armageddon in Retrospect*; Roberts, 113-92.

October 30: The Double V Campaign: The Military and Civil Rights, 1941-1960

Reading: "Opinions of Negro Platoons in White Companies of 7 Divisions," July 3, 1945; Executive Order 9981; Roberts, *What Soldiers Do*, 195-262.

November 1: Discussion of World War II

Historiographical Synthesis Due

Week 11

November 4: The Cold War: Culture

Reading: Laura Belmonte, "Selling Capitalism: Images of the Economy, Labor, and Consumerism" in *Selling the American Way: U.S. Propaganda and the Cold War*

November 6: The Cold War State: Science, Security, and Surveillance

Reading: Audra Wolfe, "The Military-Industrial Complex" in *Competing with the Soviets: Science, Technology, and the State in Cold War America*

November 8: Unofficial Ambassadors: Garrison Life in the Cold War

Readings: Donna Alvah, "Young Ambassadors" in *Unofficial Ambassadors: American Military Families Overseas and the Cold War, 1946-1965*

Week 12

November 11: No Class (Veteran's Day)

November 13: The Cold War and the "Newest" Immigrants

Reading: Ji-Yeon Yuh, "Camptown U.S.A." from *Beyond the Shadow of Camptown*.

Grace Book Review Handed Out

November 15: The Vietnam War at Home: Communities and the Draft

Reading: Grace, *Kent State*, 1-81.

Week 13

November 18: The War at Home: Kent State

Reading: Grace, *Kent State*, 82-186.

November 20: FNGs, Humpin' the Boonies, and the World: The Combat Soldiers' Vietnam

Reading: Grace, *Kent State*, 187-230.

November 22: Learning to Forget: The U.S. Army “remembers” the Vietnam War

Reading: Grace, *Kent State*, 231-83

Week 14

November 25: Be All That You Can Be!: The Post-Vietnam Military, the New Right, and the Redefinition of Citizenship

Reading: Bailey, *America’s Army*, 1-129.

Grace Book Review Due

November 27: No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

November 29: No Class (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Week 15

December 2: Iraq, 1991-??

Readings: Bailey, *America’s Army*, 130-97.

December 4: The Gilded Age Redux: America’s “Imperial Grunts”

Readings: Bailey, *America’s Army*, 198-262.

December 6: Final Thoughts and Final Exam Preparation

Final Exam: 10:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Friday, December 13th in 317 Bowman