

History 0864

Military Force and U.S. Foreign Policy since 1945

Spring 2014
Tuesdays & Thursdays 11:00AM – 12:20PM
Location: Ritter Hall, Room 108

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Course Description: This course examines the idea that the practice of war and the making of peace have been intimately linked to the nature of American society. From Cold War competition with the Soviet Union to the recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the “how, who, when, where, and why” America fights has been directly related to our national culture, our values, and other social, political, and economic characteristics. The course will use both theoretical approaches and historical case studies to explore how this linkage of war, peace, and society has played out over the past six decades of American history. Although its primary mediums are military and diplomatic history, students will be exposed to and engage in other basic elements of social science methodologies, including political science, sociology, and anthropology.

Course Requirements / Assignments:

In order to receive a satisfactory grade in this course, students must complete the following assignments:

- 1. Attendance /Course Engagement** - Do the reading and participate in class discussions. Each unit will consist of both lectures and discussions. Participation in these discussions of the reading and lecture material are essential to helping you understand the themes of the course. They are therefore an important part of your grade. Good attendance is also part of this assignment as well, since you can't participate if you aren't there. Attendance is required in this class, and will be regularly taken. I am well aware that missing a class may happen occasionally, but **regular absence will be noted and affect your class participation grade**. Students missing three or more classes for any reason cannot receive higher than a “C” in Course Engagement.
- 2. Examinations** – Students are required to take a midterm and a final examination. The midterm will take place in class on **February 27**. The final exam will be held during exam week. The date, time, and location TBD. Both exams will include the material covered in class, including lectures, readings, and discussion material. The midterm will include five short answers and two essay questions. The final will include seven short answers and two essay questions.
- 3. Optional Term Paper** – If they desire, students may but are not required to submit a 10-12 page term paper on a topic germane to this course. If a student wishes to do so, a paper topic must be approved by the instructor by **February 6** and a paper prospectus (that includes thesis, outline, and sources) submitted by **February 20**. The final paper is due on **May 1**. No late papers will be accepted after this date.

Grading – Grades will be based on the following percentages:

Standard Option (for students not writing a term paper)

Course Engagement: 10%

Midterm Exam: 40%

Final Exam: 50%

Term Paper Option (for students who choose to write a term paper)

Course Engagement: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 30%

Optional Paper: 40%

Reading list:

- Lewis, Adrian R. *The American Culture of War: The History of U.S. Military Force from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom*. New York: Routledge, 2007.
- Bacevich, Andrew J. *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*. New York: Metropolitan Books, 2010.
- Junger, Sebastian. *War*. New York: Twelve, 2010.

Course Schedule: The dates listed below are tentative and may change as the semester progresses.

Week 1 (1/21 & 1/23): Introduction, Definitions, and Theories of War and Peace

Readings: Dawson, Doyne. "The Origins of War: Biological and Anthropological Theories." *History and Theory* (Feb 1996): 1-28; Kekes, John. "War." *Philosophy* (April 2010): 201-218.

Week 2 (1/28 & 1/30): War, Culture, and Changing Conceptions of Warfare

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 1-3; Bacevich, Introduction

Week 3 (2/4 & 2/6): Early Cold War and Korea

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 4-6

PAPER TOPIC – The term paper topic must be approved by your instructor by Thursday February 6th

Week 4 (2/11 & 2/13): Eisenhower, Massive Deterrence, and the Military Industrial Complex

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 7-8; Bacevich, Ch. 1
Film: Atomic Café

Week 5 (2/18 & 2/20): Kennedy, McNamara, and Limited War

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 9; Bacevich, Ch. 2

Film: The Fog of War

PAPER PROSPECTUS – the prospectus for your term paper is due Thursday February 20th

Week 6 (2/25 & 2/27): The Vietnam War Part I

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 10

MIDTERM EXAM – The midterm examination for this course will be given in class on Thursday February 27th

Spring Break – There will be no class on March 4th or March 6th

Week 7 (3/11 & 3/13): The Vietnam War Part II

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 11

Week 8 (3/18 & 3/20): Military Recovery and Reorganization

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 12; Bacevich, Ch. 3

Week 9 (3/25 & 3/27): The Persian Gulf War / The New American Way of War

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 13-15

Week 10 (4/1 & 4/3): The War in Iraq Part I

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 16; Bacevich, Ch. 4

Film: Inside Shock & Awe

Week 11 (4/8 & 4/10): The War in Iraq Part II

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 17; Bacevich, Ch. 5

Film: Endgame

Week 12 (4/15 & 4/17): Counterinsurgency

Readings: FM 3-24 *Counterinsurgency*, Ch. 1; Clemis, "The 'Cultural Turn' in U.S.

Counterinsurgency Operations: Doctrine, Application, and Criticism," *Army History* 74 (Winter 2010): 21-29.

Film: Human Terrain

Week 13 (4/22 & 4/24): The War in Afghanistan

Readings: Junger, All.
Film: Restrepo

Week 14 (4/29 & 5/1): Conclusion: The New American Citizenship / The Future of War?

Readings: Lewis, Ch. 18; Bacevich, Ch. 6

FINAL EXAMS WEEK: May 8th – May 14th // *Date of final exam TBD