

History 230, Sec: 500, Fall 2021
American Military History, 1609-Present

Class Meeting: MWF 12:40-1:30 AIEN 207

Phone: 845-7151 (Dept)

Instructor Information: Professor Brian McAllister Linn Office: 200B Glasscock BldgOffice

Hours: M/W 1:45-2:45, M-W

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This syllabus contains policies on quizzes, makeups, extra credit, test dates, and other important information. Students are responsible for knowing the material on the syllabus. Further course information may be emailed via Canvas. TAMU Student Rule #61 requires each student to have a valid TAMU official email and to access this email in a timely manner.

Course Description: This course focuses on the events, personalities, technologies, and social changes that have shaped US military policy. **Themes:** How has US military policy changed over time and in what ways has it remained constant? How have the US armed forces evolved and adapted in peace and war? How have Americans tried to balance their need for national security with civilian control of the military? How has the United States begun, waged, and ended its wars? How have veterans' narratives informed understanding of war? How has the American public's and the armed forces' interpretation of the 'lessons of history' shaped military policy? How have Americans viewed their armed forces in popular culture?

Prerequisites: None

Core Objectives for American History Component Area 1. Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information); 2. Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication); 3. Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities); 4. Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making).

Learning Outcomes: Texas A&M University has identified student learning outcomes that describe our institutional commitment to your educational goals. These include the ability to demonstrate critical thinking, effective communication, and social, cultural, and global competence. During the semester, students will: 1. enhance their ability to ask questions of, accurately evaluate, and effectively synthesize primary and secondary historical writings; 2. develop the ability to effectively express their own ideas in written and oral form; 3. expand their knowledge of the historical and social contexts that created diversity in past and present human cultures; 4. apply knowledge about the human condition—in the past and present—to their personal lives and studies.

Required Learning and Reading Materials: All students must have a Canvas-accessible device for quizzes and polls

Allan Millett, Peter Maslowski, William Feis, *For the Common Defense* 3rd ed. (FCD)

James McDonough, *Platoon Leader*

Charles Macdonald, *Company Commander*

Movies: All movies can be streamed via Campus Mediasite. Students are responsible for watching the movie before the class for which it is assigned.

Last of the Mohicans *Glory* *Sergeant York* *Battleground* *Dr. Strangelove* *Platoon* *Aliens*

Grading Assessment: Quizzes: 50% [100 points based on 9 quizzes of 10 points each]
Participation: 5% [10 points based on 4-point syllabus quiz and polls]; Book Research Essay: 45% [90 points]. **Grading Scale:** 200 point total. A=180-200; B=160-179; C=140-159; D=120-139; F=below 120. *Failure to submit a Book Research Essay will result in failure for the course.* For further info, see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule10>

Course Schedule: Readings/movie assignments should be completed by the class period for which they are listed. In almost no case is the required reading more than 30 pages, which is in keeping with A&M standards. In the event of unforeseen events, the instructor may change quiz dates and notify students through Canvas and/or email.

30 Aug: Introduction US Military History (*FCD*, Intro)

1 Sep: Frontier (*FCD*, Ch. 2); *Last of the Mohicans*)

3-6 Sep: War of Independence (*FCD*, Ch. 3)

6 Sep: Syllabus quiz

8-10 Sep: Military and Naval Policy, 1783-1812 (*FCD*, Ch. 4) **Quiz 1**

13 Sep: War of 1812 (*FCD*, Ch. 4)

15-17 Sep: Military and Naval Policy to Civil War (*FCD*, Ch. 5)

20-24 Sep: Civil War (*FCD*, Chs. 6-7, *Glory*) **Quiz 2**

27-29 Sep: Military/Naval Policy, 1865-1898 (*FCD*, Ch. 8), **Quiz 3**

1-6 Oct: Imperial Wars, (*FCD*, Ch. 9)

8-11 Oct: Military Reform (*FCD*, Ch. 10) **Quiz 4**

13-18 Oct: World War I (*FCD*, Ch. 11, *Sergeant York*),

20-22 Oct: Military/Naval Policy, 1919-1941 (*FCD*, Ch. 12) **Quiz 5**

25 Oct-1 Nov: World War 2 (*FCD*, Chs 13-14, *Battleground*) **Quiz 6**

3-8 Nov: Korea and Cold War (*FCD*, Ch. 15-16) **Quiz 7**

5 Nov: Book Research Essay Due at 11:00 AM, class will not meet

10-12 Nov: New Look and JFK (*FCD*, Ch. 16, *Dr. Strangelove*) **Quiz 8**

17-29 Nov: Vietnam (*FCD*, Ch. 17-18, *Platoon*) **Quiz 9**

24-26 Nov: Thanksgiving break: No class meetings

1-8 Dec: From Vietnam to War on Terror (*FCD*, Ch. 20, *Aliens*) **Quiz 10**

Note Taking: The instructor believes that listening to lectures and taking notes is a crucial skill and necessary to achieve the Core Objectives. An outline of each lecture is available on the Canvas module, the complete lecture slides will not be posted or sent. *Students are prohibited from taking pictures of the slides or recording the lectures without permission. The instructor will file an Honor Code or other violation report against any person taking notes or recording lectures for a non-TAMU authorized business.*

Quizzes: There will be 10 quizzes of 10 points each based on the lectures, movies, and readings completed up to that date. The lowest score will be dropped and the top 9 counted. In the event

of unforeseen events, the instructor may change quiz dates and notify students through Canvas. Students are responsible for confirming quiz time on Canvas.

Participation: A maximum of 10 points will be given for student participation via polls and the quiz on the syllabus. The syllabus quiz will be pass-fail (60%) and count as 4 participation points. *Students who miss a combined total of five (5) polls and/or quizzes will receive a zero (0) for their participation grade.*

Posting Grades: Grades will be posted as soon as possible on Canvas. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of his/her grades and to notify the instructor via email of any discrepancy within 48 hours after the grade is posted. *Any review requests after this period are likely to be rejected.* Both TAMU policy and state law prohibit the dissemination of grades via email or in other circumstances that may violate individual privacy. For the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and TAMU policy: <http://registrar.tamu.edu/general/ferpa.aspx>

Extra Credit: None

Late Papers: Quizzes and class participation assignments must be completed by the due dates. Late papers will not be accepted.

Backup assignments: TAMU provides free Google drive cloud service to back up assignments. Failing to save an assignment is not a valid excuse for not turning it in on time.

Office hours and email: Office hours are an opportunity for students to discuss the course, to review lecture slides, and to seek advice. No appointment is necessary. Students who wish to meet outside the office hours should make an appointment with the GTA or instructor. The instructor will try to answer all emails within 24 hours during the school week. He will not answer emails during the weekend and will not answer questions that are clearly explained in the syllabus.

Chatlines: There is no authorized chatline. Students who participate in an unauthorized chatline should be aware that sharing information during quizzes is cheating and that sharing information on the book research essay may result in being charged with complicity, plagiarism, and falsification.

Research Essay: This assignment is a **900 to 1,200 word** essay (minimum and maximum) that requires students to use *Company Commander* and *Platoon Leader* as primary sources to answer a historical question. Students must upload their essays on Canvas—essays submitted via email or some other form will not be accepted. ***A student who fails to complete the research essay will fail the course regardless of the totals of his/her other assignments.*** No outside sources (Wikipedia, books, etc.) are required nor should they be referenced or used. Book research essay questions and format instructions are posted on Canvas.

Writing Center: Students are encouraged to look at the website for the University Writing Center (UWC) at writingcenter.tamu.edu. The UWC is located in Evans Library 1.214. To find

out more about UWC services or to schedule an appointment, call 458-1455, visit the web page at writingcenter.tamu.edu, or stop by in person.

Makeup Work Policy: Please read this carefully

- “The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)). **No makeup work will be provided**
- *There are no makeup quizzes. Students with TAMU-approved absences will receive a quiz grade based on their course quiz average.* Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student’s grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor. Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines. **Do not send the instructor emails asking to retake a missed quiz.**
- Students must submit documentation for a TAMU-approved absence within 48 hours of the assignment/quiz due date. **Any excuses submitted are likely to be denied**
- Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor” ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).
- Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy: “*An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do.*” The instructor will report all suspected violations to the Aggie Honor Council.

“Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one’s work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case” ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)). You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at aggiehonor.tamu.edu

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact Disability Resources in the Student Services Building or at (979) 845-1637 or visit disability.tamu.edu. Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

Title IX and Statement on Limits to Confidentiality Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, sexual exploitation, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

With the exception of some medical and mental health providers, all university employees (including full and part-time faculty, staff, paid graduate assistants, student workers, etc.) are Mandatory Reporters and must report to the Title IX Office if the employee experiences, observes, or becomes aware of an incident that meets the following conditions (see [University Rule 08.01.01.M1](#)):

- The incident is reasonably believed to be discrimination or harassment.
- The incident is alleged to have been committed by or against a person who, at the time of the incident, was (1) a student enrolled at the University or (2) an employee of the University.

Mandatory Reporters must file a report regardless of how the information comes to their attention – including but not limited to face-to-face conversations, a written class assignment or paper, class discussion, email, text, or social media post. Although Mandatory Reporters must file a report, in most instances, you will be able to control how the report is handled, including whether or not to pursue a formal investigation. The University's goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and to ensure access to the resources you need.

Students wishing to discuss concerns in a confidential setting are encouraged to make an appointment with [Counseling and Psychological Services](#) (CAPS).

Students can learn more about filing a report, accessing supportive resources, and navigating the Title IX investigation and resolution process on the University's [Title IX webpage](#).

Statement on Mental Health and Wellness Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors that influence a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in proper self-care by utilizing the resources and services available from Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS). Students who need someone to talk to can call the TAMU Helpline (979-845-2700) from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. weekdays and 24 hours on weekends. 24-hour emergency help is also available through the National Suicide Prevention Hotline (800-273-8255) or at suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

Personal Illness and Quarantine: Students required to quarantine must participate in courses and course-related activities remotely and **must not attend face-to-face course activities**. Students should notify their instructors of the quarantine requirement. Students under quarantine are expected to participate in courses and complete graded work unless they have symptoms that are too severe to participate in course activities. Students experiencing personal injury or illness that is too severe for the student to attend class qualify for an excused absence (See [Student Rule 7, Section 7.2.2.](#)) To receive an excused absence, students must comply with the documentation and notification guidelines outlined in Student Rule 7.