



HIST:460 American Military History

Instructor: Dr. Matt McDonough

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Office Hours: MWF from
9:00-9:50am; 12:00-1:50pm
and by appointment

Welcome to American Military History: This will not be your traditional military history. While we will cover important wars, battles and commanders we shall also discuss the role of the home front, the everyday soldier and concepts such as gender and republicanism.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Familiarize students with American military history and theory.
2. Recognize the role of the military within American society, including its contributions beyond national security.
3. Convey opinions and research via presentations, written communication, as well as class participation.
4. Analyze the major political, economic, geographic, cultural, and technological developments of the United States military.
5. Explicate the ways that military service has impacted the quality of life for individuals who participate in armed conflict.

Required Course Texts:

James McPherson, *For Cause and Comrades: Why Men fought in the Civil War*
ISBN: 0195124995

Kristin Hoganson, *Fighting for American Manhood: How Gender Politics provoked the Spanish-American and Philippine-American Wars*,
ISBN: 0300085540

Required Films:

Instead of additional secondary sources all students are expected to watch, write a short reflection paper on and be ready to discuss four (4) war movies. If you have access to these through a streaming service or a DVD then use that. If not, you can rent the movie on YouTube for \$3.99

Glory (1989)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny8KGUqTNkM>

Saving Private Ryan (1998)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pddSegN5dLg>

We Were Soldiers (2002)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtdQcvQKllk>

The Outpost (2020)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bb9hj_11fJ0

Attendance Policy

CCU regulations specify that attendance must be taken for any survey courses. Any student that misses 25% or more classes shall automatically fail the course. Also keep in mind that merely attending class will not garner any favor with the instructor as participation is more important. (It is also worth noting that you cannot earn participation points if you are not present)

Course Requirements: Understand that there are not a whole lot of assignments in this course so the ones assigned make up significant portions of your grade. Prepare accordingly.

Class participation (40pts)

Each student is expected to participate in class discussions with informed questions and responses. This class is lecture/discussion based so each student's participation is crucial. Subsequently a significant portion of your grade shall be earned here. Simply showing up to class is not enough. You must participate.

Reflection Papers (4) (10pts each, total of 40pts)

Students are expected to write a 2-3pg reflection paper for each of the selected films. Each paper shall respond to a series of questions

Additional instructions are posted online

Propaganda Poster/ Historical Letter (total of 20pts)

Each student will be expected to flex their creative muscles and create and then present a historically appropriate Propaganda Poster for World War II. As well as write a letter to a loved one in 1963 outlining your role in the Cold War and your concern of Nuclear War. Each assignment will be worth 10pts and your presentations will be factored into your overall participation grade. **Additional instructions are posted online**

Two Exams (2) (50pts each for a total of 100pts)

The exams will all follow the same format and consist of three parts. The first shall be a section testing your grasp of chronology. The second section shall be identifications. The Third Section shall be an essay question. All answers are to be put down in a Blue/Green Book. All information from the course, including readings, lecture notes, movies, books, clips and primary source documents are fair game.

Two (2) Book Reviews (25pts each for a total of 50pts)

For these assignments you must read the assigned book and write a three to four (3-4) page critical review. I expect all students to answer several questions pertaining to the book. **Additional instructions are posted online.**

Oral Presentation (50pts for presentation)

All students shall make a final oral presentation over their chosen topic. The presentation must include visual aids of some sort (pictures, artifacts etc) **Creativity is encouraged.** All students are

expected to speak for no less than eight (8) and no more than ten (10) minutes. **Additional instructions are posted online.**

Grade Breakdown

Letter grades for the course will be determined using the scale below

A=270-300pts

B=240-269pts

C=210-239pts

D=180-209pts

F= 179pts and below

Classroom Policies, Cheating and Miscellaneous:

Do not sleep in class. The chairs are not that comfortable and you do not get points for simply being present, so go sleep elsewhere.

Do not use your cell phone in class.

Please refrain from leaving in the middle of class. The process of gathering your things and walking out can be distracting to both the instructor as well as fellow students. If you must leave class early for a legitimate reason please notify me before class and sit near the door.

Do not text in class. This rule also applies to text speak on exams and papers; I do not want to see: OMG Lincoln's BFF was Gen. Lee. (Not only is this grammatically incorrect but it is also factually wrong)

If you are using a laptop in class make sure you are taking notes and doing nothing else. If I find someone surfing the web in class I will bar the use of laptops for everyone.

Do not video tape or record the class unless you have express authorization from the instructor.

Failure to follow any of these directives will result in a loss of participation points.

Plagiarism

“Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) borrowing words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or

organization of an assignment without proper acknowledgment from a source (for example, a book, article, electronic documents or another student's paper);

(ii) submitting another person's work in place of his/her own;

(iii) allowing someone else to revise, correct or edit an assignment without explicit permission of the instructor;

(iv) submitting work without proper acknowledgment from commercial firms, websites, fraternity or sorority files or any other outside sources, whether purchased or not;

(v) allowing another person to substitute for them any part of a course for them, including quizzes, tests and final examinations;

(vi) submitting any written assignments done with the assistance of another without the explicit permission of the instructor;

(vii) submitting work that was originally prepared for another class without the explicit permission of the instructor;

(viii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in plagiarism.

b. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) using unauthorized information, materials or assistance of any kind for an assignment, quiz, test or final examination;

(ii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in cheating.

2. Furnishing false information to any University official, faculty member or University office to obtain academic advantage.”

Cheating and plagiarism undermines the honest work that thousands of scholars do on a regular basis. This is a serious offense and will result in drastic action. You will receive no mercy from me for a cheating or plagiarism violation.

Students with Special Needs

“Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349-2503 or <https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/>).”

Students with disabilities are responsible for contacting Disability Services to find out about their rights. Students who qualify for services must bring me official documentation from Disability Services before I can make any exceptions to regular classroom policies.

Communication

Email is the best way to contact me. I check it freakishly often and will respond within 24hrs. I expect all students to use proper spelling and grammar when sending any communication email or otherwise. **Be sure to include your full name, the class and section you are in for any communication.** If an important announcement needs to be made outside the class I will use moodle.

Make Up

I do not give makeup exams (unless there has been an illness or death of a close family member). You will need a valid, documented excuse on official letterhead and a signature from the doctor (in case of illness) If it is a death in the family you must contact student life. (All excuses must be handed to me within seven days of the exam date) If you do not have a valid excuse and you do not show up on the day of the test, you will receive a 0. Late papers will not be accepted. If you know you will be out the day a paper is due you may turn it in early.

Class Schedule (the topics and dates are subject to change)

Week 1 (Jan 20, 22)

- : Introduction to Course
- : Phases of Warfare/Definitions/Militia

Week 2 (Jan 25,27,29)

- : American Revolution: Overview
- : American Revolution: Experience of War
- : War of 1812

Week 3 (Feb 1,3,5)

- : Battle of New Orleans/Texan War for Independence
- : Mexican-American War
- : **Book Discussion: For Cause and Comrades** (Book Review 1 due Feb 5th)

Week 4 (Feb 8,10,12)

- : Origins of Civil War
- : Civil War: Advantages and Leadership
- : Battle of Antietam and Battle of Gettysburg

Week 5 (Feb 15,17,19)

: Civil War: Innovation and Strategy

: Civil War

: **Film Discussion: Glory** (Reflection Paper 1 due Feb 19th)

Week 6 (Feb 22,24,26)

: Closing of the Frontier

: Spanish-American War

: **Fighting for American Manhood** (Book Review 2 due Feb 26th)

Week 7 (Mar 1,3,5)

: World War I

: World War I

: **Mid Term** (Exam Mar 5th)

Week 8 (Mar 8,10,12)

: World War II: Early Years

: WW2: Eastern Front

: **Propaganda Poster Presentations/Discussion** (Poster due Mar 12th)

Week 9 (Mar 15,17,19)

: WW2: Homefront

: Battle of Midway/D-Day

: **Film Discussion: Saving Private Ryan** (Reflection Paper 2 due Mar 19th)

Week 10 (Mar 22,24,26)

: World War II: Endgame

: Atrocity/Nuremburg

: **Discussion on Fascism and UCMJ** (Reading posted on moodle “Ur Fascism”)

Week 11 (Mar 29,31, Apr 2)

: Korean War

: Cold War

: **Discussion on M.A.D. and speech** (Reading posted on moodle “A Chance for Peace”) **Historical Letter Due on April 2nd**

Week 12 (Spring Break)

- : **No Class/Student Holiday**
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Week 13 (Apr 12,14,16)

- : Vietnam War: Overview
- : Vietnam War: Home-front and Lessons
- : **Film Discussion: We Were Soldiers** (Reflection Paper 3 due Apr 16th)

Week 14 (Apr 19,21,23)

- : Guest Speaker: Japanese Internment Camps
- : Guest Speaker: Sea Power
- : Guest Speaker: Air Power (**Oral Presentations due April 23rd**)

Week 15 (Apr 26,28,30)

- : Peace Dividends and 9/11
- : Iraq/Afghanistan/Iraq Revisited
- : **Film Discussion: The Outpost** (Reflection Paper 4 due Apr 30th)

Week 16 (May 3,5)

- : **Discussion: Modern War** (Reading posted on moodle “Watch out for IED’s”)
- : Class Wrap Up

Final Exam (AKA Exam 3): (**Exam open from 0800-11:59pm on May 7th**)