

## History 5025: Military Historiography

Fall 2016

Dr. Matthew Muehlbauer

### Course Description:

This course will provide an overview of important ideas and concepts that have shaped the writing of military history.

### Required Texts:

John Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction* (e-book available via Woodward Library online catalog)

Jeremy Black, *Rethinking Military History* (e-book available via Woodward Library online catalog)

Miguel Angel Centeno, *Blood & Debt*

Antulio J. Echevarria II, *Clausewitz & Contemporary War*

Victor Davis Hanson, *The Western Way of War*

John Keegan, *The Face of Battle*

John A. Lynn, *Battle: A History of Combat and Culture*

Carol Reardon, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory* (e-book available via Woodward Library online catalog)

John Resch and Walter Sargent, eds., *War & Society in the American Revolution*.

### Semester Grade:

Students' grades for the course will be based on performance of the following assignments, which will comprise the indicated percentage of their final grade:

Discussion Boards: 35%

Book Reviews/Precis (7): 35% (5% each)

Final Exam: 30%

Total: 100%

Discussion Boards: Students will post appropriate and timely responses on weekly discussion boards, following posted instructions and demonstrating they have completed and considered their readings. Weekly postings should be made by Monday night before midnight, and consist of at least 350 words. The discussion board grade will be determined at the end of the semester, based on the body of the student's work in the course.

**IMPORTANT:** Student posts and remarks are to be considerate and respectful. You are welcome and encouraged to express your opinions and to disagree with others. But do not do so in a manner that is

insulting or crude. Students that do so will receive a warning; students that continue to do so with receive no credit for Discussion Board participation.

Book Reviews/Precis: Students will write and submit (to the course Dropbox) seven (7) book reviews or precis over the course of the semester. Six of these will be on the required course texts; one will address a book of operational military history on a particular war, campaign or battle, to be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

For further instructions on writing these reviews, see "Reviews and Precis" topic in the "Course Overview" module. Note that students will discuss their assessment of every reviewed book in the discussion board for that week.

Final Exam: At the end of the semester, students will submit a take-home final exam where they will write an essay demonstrating what they have learned about military historiography in this class. Further instructions will be provided.

#### Additional Concerns:

\* Students who the university has designated as requiring additional consideration should contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Any student who feels he or she may have issues meeting course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

\* Plagiarism: Students are expected to know what it is and to NOT do it! An example of plagiarism would be typing text from a book or another source into a discussion board, book review or test and failing to identify that text as coming from another source (and failing to identify that source). Incidents of plagiarism will be handled according to APSU's Academic Misconduct Policy. To learn about or review what plagiarism is, how to avoid it, and university policies on misconduct, see the library's tutorial at <http://library.apsu.edu/plagiarism> and the Academic Integrity Guide at [https://www.apsu.edu/sites/apsu.edu/files/student-affairs/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.apsu.edu/sites/apsu.edu/files/student-affairs/Academic_Integrity_Guide.pdf).

\* Communicating with the Instructor: The best way to reach me is via e-mail. The best way to e-mail me is go to the site for this course on the D2L system, and send me a message from inside the site. I encourage e-mails, and will try to answer them within a business day (for example; if sent on the weekend, responses may be sent on Monday). I will also post announcements on the D2L site for the course on a regular basis (at least once a week, usually more often). Students are expected to read all announcements, which will contain or direct you to important information relevant for fulfilling the requirements of the course.

If you wish to talk to me by phone, send me an e-mail to set-up a time and obtain a number where you can reach me.

#### Schedule of Readings & Assignments:

Note: Students will submit indicated work by Monday before midnight, unless otherwise noted below:

Week 1, Aug. 22-29: Obtain copies of/access to required course texts.

Week 2, Aug. 30- Sept. 5: Read Arnold, *History: A Very Short Introduction*, and Robert Citino "Military Histories Old and New: A Reinroduction" (posted in Week 2 module); post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 3, Sept. 6-12: Read Jeremy Black, *Rethinking Military History*; post comments on the Discussion board..

Week 4, Sept. 13-19: Read John Keegan, *Face of Battle*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 5, Sept. 20-26: Read Victor Davis Hanson, *The Western Way of War*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 6, Sept. 27-Oct. 3: Read Resch & Sargent, eds., *War & Society in the American Revolution*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 7, Oct. 4-10: Submit proposed reading for Week 12 (a book on operational military history) to Discussion Board.

Week 8, Oct. 11-17: Read Carol Reardon, *Pickett's Charge in History and Memory*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 9, Oct. 18-24: Read John A. Lynn, *Battle: A History of Combat and Culture*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 10, Oct. 25-31: Read Antulio J. Echevarria, *Clausewitz & Contemporary War*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Week 11, Nov. 1-7: Read Miguel Angel Centeno, *Blood & Debt*; upload review to Dropbox, and post comments on the Discussion board.

Weeks 12, Nov. 8-14: Read book on operational military history; upload review to Dropbox.

Weeks 13-14. Nov. 15-30: Write take-home final exam, upload to Dropbox by Wednesday Nov. 30 before midnight.