

**Department of History  
Texas A&M, San Antonio  
Spring 2021**

**History 4363  
War and Society**

**Instructor: Dr. Edward Westermann**

**Class Times: Thursday, 12:30 p.m.-1:45 p.m.**

**Office: CEAC Room 313G  
Phone: (210) 784-2213  
[ebwester@tamusa.edu](mailto:ebwester@tamusa.edu)**

**Office Hours:  
Tuesday: 11:00-12:30  
Thursday: 11:00-12:30  
ZOOM by appointment**

## **Course Purpose and Philosophy:**

**Warfare and state versus state conflict have helped to shape the course of human history. The Greek historian Thucydides in his classic history of the Peloponnesian Wars discusses the conflict between Athens and Sparta. He argues that states embark on war for one of three reasons: fear, honor, and/or interest. In this course we will examine the social, economic, political, and technological impact of warfare in a cross-cultural context.**

**Initially we will analyze the nature and course of warfare in the “primitive” or “preliterate” era in order to understand the social role of warfare in early civilization. We will also examine the intellectual foundations and theories of two influential military theorists, Sun Tzu and Carl von Clausewitz. The former epitomizes the Oriental tradition of the “indirect approach” while the latter is the most cited military theorist in the Western world. We also will analyze Mao’s writings on the concept of “war in the shadows” or guerrilla warfare. In addition to the theoretical underpinnings of warfare, the course examines the United States, European, and Asian experience with warfare and compares and contrasts the use of state sanctioned force based on the strategic cultures of each area. Likewise, the influence of technology and technological change played an instrumental role in the nature of warfare from the armor and spears of the Greek hoplites to the advent of the nuclear bomb.**

**At the conclusion of the course, you will have an understanding of the way in which warfare has influenced social, cultural, political, and economic development on a global scale. The quality and depth of intellectual rigor that you bring into the classroom each day will determine the value that you receive from the course and the benefits that accrue to you today and in the future. I look forward to our journey together.**

## **Course Objectives:**

- **Develop a cognitive framework for analyzing the methods by which warfare has shaped the social, cultural, political, and economic developments of the modern world.**
- **Identify and evaluate the impact of technology and technological change on the nature of warfare and state versus state conflict.**
- **Compare and contrast the experience of warfare in a cross cultural context.**
- **Communicate clearly and concisely in written and verbal assignments.**

## **Course Texts:**

Aussaresses, Paul. *The Battle of the Casbah*. New York: Enigma Books, 2002.

Carr, Caleb. ed. *The Book of War*. New York: Modern Library, 2000.

Naylor, Sean. *Not a Good Day to Die*. New York: Dutton Caliber, 2006.

Sheftall, M.G. *Blossoms in the Wind*. New York: NAL Publishers, 2005.

## GRADING

<u>Graded Event</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Book Essay #1	100	10%
Book Essay #2	100	10%
In-Class Essay	50	5%
Book Quiz	100	10%
Discussion Board	250	25%
Final Paper	300	30%
Class Participation	100	10%

**Critical Book Essays:** You will write two critical essays (700-900 words) on a specific aspect of an assigned work. The assignment may focus on a specific theme or concept in order to allow you to develop an argument concerning a key point in the reading. More specific instructions will be provided in class.

**Classroom Participation:** These points will be based on the quality of your contributions to discussions in the classroom. Learning is a “student-centered” activity that requires your thoughtful participation and analysis of ideas presented during class. You will be graded on the quality of your contributions to the class and your ability to analyze and discuss course concepts.

**Blackboard Discussions:** Students will participate weekly in blackboard discussion. Questions will be posted, and students will post responses to the questions as well as responses to student postings. Student responses should be **at least one complete paragraph of no less than 150 words**. The discussion grade will be based upon four factors: (1) evidence used to support your response, (2) level of analysis (3) length/completeness of the response, and (4) writing style/proofreading. Discussion Boards will open on Thursday at 2:00 pm each week and close on Tuesday at 8:00 pm, there is no excuse not to participate. Makeups will not be allowed unless a student can prove through written documentation that he or she has been sick for an entire week. (Click on the discussion tab in blackboard to find the weekly discussion.)

**Final Paper:** The final exam for the course will consist of final paper (3,000-3,500 words) that will address a critical course theme and will require the student to synthesize and evaluate theoretical and historical concepts from across the curriculum in an *integrated and comprehensive* essay. Your instructor will provide more specific details for the assignment.

## LESSON OVERVIEW

<u>LESSON</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>ASSIGNED READING</u>
1 (21 Jan)	Course Administration/Course Themes	<i>Why Study Military History?</i>
2 (28 Jan)	War & Society in the Pre-modern Era	<i>War Before Civilization</i>
3 (4 Feb)	Sun Tzu-Chinese Military Philosopher	<i>The Book of War (73-194)</i>
4 (11 Feb)	Clausewitz and the Art of War	<i>The Book of War (257-325)</i>
5 (18 Feb)	A Western Theory for War	<i>The Book of War (328-388)</i>
6 (25 Feb)	Strategic Cultures & Warfare <b>(In class essay)</b>	<i>Thinking About Strategic Culture</i>
7 (4 Mar)	The Napoleonic Paradigm and the Civil War	<i>Jefferson Davis and the Confederacy's Offensive-Defensive</i>
8 (11 Mar)	Total War? World War I	<i>Battle of the Somme and British Strategy</i>
9 (18 Mar)	World War II: War & Annihilation <b>(Essay 1 due)</b>	<i>Blossoms in the Wind</i>
10 (25 Mar)	The Age of Airpower?	<i>Douhet and Mitchell Excerpts</i>
11 (1 Apr)	Mao: A Theory of Guerrilla Warfare	<i>Six Essays on Military Affairs</i>
12 (8 Apr)	Che Guevara & Revolutionary Warfare	<i>"The Essence of Guerrilla Struggle"</i>
13 (15 Apr)	Ethics and Counterinsurgency Warfare <b>(Essay 2 due)</b>	<i>Battle of the Casbah</i>
14 (22 Apr)	Afghanistan & Modern War <b>(Book Quiz)</b>	<i>Not a Good Day to Die</i>
15 (29 Apr)	Cyberwarfare	<i>Cyberwar: A New Absolute Weapon?</i>

**\*\*\*\*Final Paper Due 10 May @ 2:00pm\*\*\*\***

## **COVID 19**

The university will be issuing specific instructions related to student responsibilities in conjunction with health precautions related to the COVID 19 virus. Additional information will be posted separately concerning procedures related to in-classroom meetings.

## **Attendance Policy**

Regular attendance is required. I take attendance at the beginning of class and we conduct community building at the start of class so being on time is important to your learning experience. Early departures from class should be cleared with the instructor before the start of class. As much of the course work happens in class, missing 25% of the classes or more will result in a minimum of a letter grade deduction from the final grade. This includes both excused and unexcused absences. This does not include university-sanctioned absences for which I receive notification from the University. All students (whether present or absent) are responsible for all announcements made in class and all assignments given in class because it is sometimes necessary to make changes to the syllabus.

## **Cell Phone Policy**

Cellular phones and other electronic devices should be turned off during lectures. Laptop computers may be used to take notes during the class.

## **Make-up Exam Policy**

Based on instructor discretion, students may be allowed to take a make-up exam in the event of extraordinary circumstances that prevent the student from taking the exam at the scheduled time. In any event, if a student misses an exam, he/she should notify the instructor within 24 hours of the reason for the absence.

## **Late Assignments**

An assignment is considered to be late if it is not turned in at the start of the class period during which the assignment is due. Late assignments will be recorded as a zero.

## **Academic Dishonesty**

Students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Academic Dishonesty for which a student is subject to penalty includes cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, multiple submissions, misrepresentation of academic records, facilitating academic dishonesty, unfair advantage, and ethical misconduct. This includes holding other students to same standards and reporting any incidents of alleged violation of the honesty policy to the instructor involved or, if necessary, to the appropriate academic department head. All students are responsible for being familiar with the Academic Dishonesty Policy which may be found in the Texas A&M University-San Antonio Student Handbook.

## **Academic Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities**

The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) of 2008 and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are federal anti-discrimination statutes that provide comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Title II of the ADAAA and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act require that students with disabilities be guaranteed equal access to the

learning environment through the provision of reasonable and appropriate accommodation of their disability. If you have a diagnosed disability that may require an accommodation, please contact Disability Support Services (DSS) for the coordination of services. The phone number for DSS is (210) 784-1335 and email is [dss@tamusa.edu](mailto:dss@tamusa.edu).

### **Academic Learning Center**

All currently enrolled students at Texas A&M University-San Antonio can utilize the Academic Learning Center for subject-area tutoring. The Academic Learning Center is an appointment-based center where appointments are made through the Navigate platform. Students access Navigate through Jagwire in the Student Services tab. The Center is active on campus outreaching to students to highlight services offered. You can contact the Academic Learning Center by emailing [tutoring@tamusa.edu](mailto:tutoring@tamusa.edu) or calling (210)-784-1332. Appointments can also be made through JagWire under the services tab.

### **Student Academic Success Center (SASC)**

The SASC takes a developmental approach to help students complete their academic goals from orientation through graduation. The Center offers academic and skills workshops, one-on-one appointments, and online resources to help retention efforts at Texas A&M University-San Antonio. The goal of the Center is to help students discover, self-reflect, and become independent learners. Student Academic Success is located in Modular C. Their services are currently offered virtually or by phone. To contact the Center, please call **210-784-1307** or email at [Student.Success@tamusa.edu](mailto:Student.Success@tamusa.edu).

### **Writing Center**

The Jaguar Writing Center provides writing support to graduate and undergraduate students in all three colleges. Writing tutors work with students to develop reading skills, prepare oral presentations, and plan, draft, and revise their written assignments. The Writing Center is currently holding all appointments digitally. Students can schedule appointments with the Writing Center in JagWire under the student services tab. Students wanting to work in realtime with a tutor can schedule an “Online Appointment.” Students wishing to receive asynchronous, written feedback from a tutor can schedule an “eTutoring” appointment. More information about what services we offer, how to make an appointment, and how to access your appointment can be found on our website at [www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center](http://www.tamusa.edu/Writing-Center). The Writing Center can also be reached by emailing [writingcenter@tamusa.edu](mailto:writingcenter@tamusa.edu).

### **Counseling Resources**

As a college student, there may be times when personal stressors interfere with your academic performance and/or negatively impact your daily functioning. If you or someone you know is experiencing life stressors, emotional difficulties, or mental health concerns at Texas A&M University – San Antonio, please contact the Office of Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) located in Modular C, Room 166 (Rear entrance) or call [210-784-1331](tel:210-784-1331) between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM. All mental health services provided by SC&WS are free, confidential (as the law allows), and are not part of a student’s academic or university record.

SC&WS provides brief individual, couples, and group therapy, crisis intervention, consultation, case management, and prevention services. For more information, please visit [www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling](http://www.tamusa.edu/studentcounseling)

In a crisis situation, please walk-in to the Student Counseling & Wellness Services (SC&WS) office any time between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM to be seen by a licensed clinician. After hours, please contact UPD at 911 or text “HOME” to 741-741 24/7/365 to connect with a trained crisis counselor. The National Suicide Prevention hotline also offers a 24/7/365 hotline at 1-800-273-8255.

### **May Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement**

The Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement (Mays Center) provides enhanced learning opportunities and access to resources and relationships in order to develop students into career-ready and community-minded graduates. Programs and services provided by the Mays Center include: Career Services, Career Clothes Closet, Civic Engagement, Community Service, Experience Transcript, Externships, the General’s Store, Internships and more. *Science and Technology Building, First Floor | (210)784-1356 | [mays@tamusa.edu](mailto:mays@tamusa.edu) | <http://www.tamusa.edu/mays>*

### **Meeting Basic Needs**

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students (DOS@tamusa.edu) for support. Furthermore, please notify the professor if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources they may possess.

### **Military Affairs**

Veterans and active-duty military personnel are welcomed and encouraged to communicate, in advance if possible, and special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployment, drill requirements, disability accommodations). You are also encouraged to visit the Patriots’ Casa in-person room 202, or to contact the Office of Military Affairs with any questions at [military@tamusa.edu](mailto:military@tamusa.edu) or (210)784-1397.

### **Religious Observances**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio recognizes the diversity of faiths represented among the campus community and protects the rights of students, faculty, and staff to observe religious holidays according to their tradition. Under the policy, students are provided an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirements that may be missed due to a religious observance provided they notify their instructors before the end of the second week of classes for regular session classes.

### **Statement of Harassment and Discrimination**

Texas A&M University-San Antonio is committed to the fundamental principles of academic freedom, equality of opportunity and human dignity. To fulfill its multiple missions as an institution of higher learning, A&M-San Antonio encourages a climate that values and nurtures collegiality, diversity, pluralism and the uniqueness of the individual within our state, nation, and

world. All decisions and actions involving students and employees should be based on applicable law and individual merit. Texas A&M University-San Antonio, in accordance with applicable federal and state law, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Individuals who believe they have experienced harassment or discrimination prohibited by this statement are encouraged to contact the appropriate offices within their respective units.

Texas A&M University-San Antonio faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students and for the university as a whole. If you have experienced any form of sex- or gender-based discrimination or harassment, including sexual assault, sexual harassment, domestic or dating violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available. A&M-San Antonio has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, and more. The university strongly encourages all students to report any such incidents to the university. Please be aware that all A&M-San Antonio employees (other than those designated as confidential resources such as counselors and other healthcare providers are required to report information about such discrimination and harassment to the university. This means that if you tell a faculty member about a situation of sexual harassment or sexual violence, or other related misconduct, the faculty member must share that information with the university's Title IX Coordinator. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact the Student Counseling Center at (210) 784-1331, Modular C.