SPRING 2010  
HISTORY 234: WAR AND EUROPEAN SOCIETY, 1450-2000

Class Meeting Time: MWF 1:50-2:40  
Meeting Place: HECC 105

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Course Description and Overview  
This course will provide a survey of the relationship between war and social change in Europe from the end of the Middle Ages through the end of the twentieth century. The outline of lectures is based on the premise that the ways in which a society makes war reflect structures within that society. We can only understand war by looking at the societies that engage in them just as we can only understand those societies by examining how they prepare for and make war.

This is not just a class about armed conflict, although that will feature prominently in what we discuss. We will also deal with the impact of war on groups that have not traditionally taken part in organized violence. The role of women, children, and other non-combatants has changed over the centuries. If we want to understand the unprecedented levels of violence in Europe during the first half of the twentieth century, we have to study the evolving relationships between the front line and the home front. We will also use the study of war to better understand the development of the modern European state system, which has in many ways been a product of the shifting military fortunes of dynasties, states, and nations over the past several centuries.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Core Objectives for Language, Philosophy and Culture Foundational Component Area

Critical Thinking (to include creative thinking, innovation, inquiry, analysis, evaluation and synthesis of information)

Communication (to include effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral and visual communication)
Social Responsibility (to include intercultural competence, knowledge of civic responsibility, and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national and global communities)

Personal Responsibility (to include the ability to connect choices, actions and consequences to ethical decision-making)

**Student Learning Outcomes:**
Through this course, students will be able to:

1) evaluate and synthesize primary and secondary historical writings related to war and European society from 1450-2000.

2) express their own ideas effectively in written and oral form.

3) identify historical and social contexts that created diversity of experience in European societies shaped by war in the past and the present.

4) apply knowledge about the human condition—in the past and present—to their personal lives and studies.

**Required Book List**
The following paperback books will be used in the course. Each is available for purchase from a variety of vendors and each is also available on reserve at Evans Library:

Heinrich Boll, *A Soldier's Legacy*
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Art of War* (be sure to buy the Christopher Lynch translation from University of Chicago Press)
JM Roberts, *The Penguin History of Europe*
Jakob Walter, *The Diary of a Napoleonic Foot Soldier*
Rand McNally Historical Atlas of the World (Map terms for the midterm and final exams will be drawn from this text)

**Film**
Students in this course will be responsible for watching the film *Stalingrad*. Screenings will be scheduled in the Media Center in Evans Library Annex. Questions from the film will appear on the Final Exam. You also can view this film at any time at http://mediamatrix.tamu.edu (you will need Real Player to stream the film).

**Grading**
**Please Note:** I will handle all absences and work related to them in accordance with TAMU Student Rules: Attendance (http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07)

There will be a number of graded assignments for this course.
First, there will be **three** quizzes, one for each of the assigned readings. These quizzes, the dates for which are indicated below, are multiple-choice and are designed to encourage careful reading of the texts. Each is worth 5% of the total grade.

Second, students will be required to write **one 500-750 word (2-3 pages) reaction paper** on either *The Art of War*. *The Napoleonic Foot Soldier* or *Soldier's Legacy*. I will provide questions for each of the texts ahead of time to guide students in their written essays. Students may choose to which reading they wish to respond and papers are due on the day of the discussion for the book. This reaction paper is worth 15% of the total grade.

Any student who submits a paper on one of the first two assigned books (*The Art of War* or *The Napoleonic Foot Soldier*) will have the opportunity to submit a second paper on one of the remaining books. The AVERAGE of the two paper grades will be used. Please note that this may result in a higher or lower grade. All papers are to be submitted through www.turnitin.com. Students who have not already registered for this service will need to do so. The enrollment password for this class is: wareursoclO. Because we will discuss the books during class on those days, NO LATE PAPERS will be accepted without a university-approved excuse.

Grades for the paper will be awarded based on the following criteria for argument development:

A (90-100 %): Evidence of a high level of engagement with the text. Clear, well-reasoned argument well supported by textual evidence.

B (80-89 %): Good understanding of the text and course materials. Argument may be unclear or only partly supported by cited evidence.

C (70-79 %): Scant or no argument present. Limited use of evidence and/or limited engagement with and understanding of the text.

Please be aware that any paper that fails to meet acceptable standards of grammar, spelling, or general editing, will have ten percentage points deducted from the grade.

Finally, there will be **three exams**: two midterms and one final examination. These will consist of maps, multiple choice, and short answer questions and will be based on material from lecture, the assigned readings, the film, and our discussion of all of them.

Final grades will be determined as follows:

- **Quizzes:** 3@5% = 15%
- **Reaction Paper:** 15%
- **Midterm Examinations:** 2@20% = 40%
- **Final Examination:** 30%

**Total = 100%**

**Grading Scale**
All graded components will be evaluated on a standard percentage scale

90-100% = A  
80-89% = B  
70-79% = C  
60-69% = D  
Below 60% = F

Attendance
There is no formal attendance requirement for this class. Students missing class on days indicated for quizzes/discussions will not be able to make up those assignments unless they have a university-excused absence. For more information about university attendance policies, please see TAMU Student Rules: Attendance (http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07)

ADA- Students with Disabilities:
The Americans with Disabilities Act is a federal anti-discrimination law that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, they should contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Cain Hall (campus phone 845-1637). For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu

Academic Integrity:

Schedule

Week 1
20-Jan Introduction
22-Jan War and European Society in 1450 (Roberts [R], 183-204)

Week 2
25-Jan Burgundy and Italy (R 250-271)
27-Jan Europe's Reformations
29-Jan Spain and the Crisis of Empire (R 272-290)

Week 3
1-Feb The Challenge of Islam
3-Feb **Quiz and Discussion on - ART OF WAR**
5-Feb Wars and States in Reformation Europe

Week 4
8-Feb Wars and States in Reformation Europe II
10-Feb  The Age of Limited War (R 291-315)
12-Feb  Europe and the World, 1650-1800

Week 5
15-Feb  War and British Society (R 316-342)
17-Feb  **EXAM #1**
19-Feb  The Royal Navy and British Society

Week 6
22-Feb  Ancien Regime France
24-Feb  Prussia
26-Feb  Age of Revolutions I (R 343-364)

Week 7
1-Mar  Age of Revolutions II
3-Mar  Napoleonic Warfare
5-Mar  War in the Industrial Age (R 394-418)

Week 8
8-Mar  **Quiz and Discussion on -NAPOLEONIC FOOT SOLDIER**
10-Mar  The End of the Long Peace
12-Mar  Wars of Unification

15-Mar  **SPRING BREAK**
17-Mar  **SPRING BREAK**
19-Mar  **SPRING BREAK**

Week 9
22-Mar  War and Empire, 1850-1914
24-Mar  **EXAM #2**
26-Mar  The Coming of WWI (R 471-511), Part 1

Week 10
29-Mar  The Coming of WWI (R 471-511), Part 2
31-Mar  WWI: The Marne to the Somme
2-Apr  **NO CLASS, READING DAY**

Week 11
5-Apr  Russia in Revolution
7-Apr  WWI: Ending War and Making Peace
9-Apr  Interwar Europe (R 551-578)

Week 12
12-Apr  The Coming of WWII
14-Apr  World War II: From Poland to Stalingrad
16-Apr  World War II: Occupation, Holocaust, Collapse
Week 13
19-Apr  From World War to Cold War (R 579-598)
21-Apr  Cold War Europe; War and the End of Empire (R 599-626)
23-Apr  VIEW: STALINGRAD, EVANS ANNEX ROOM 410,

Week 14
26-Apr  Discussion of STALINGRAD
28-Apr  Quiz and Discussion on - SOLDIER'S LEGACY
30-Apr  The End of the Cold War (R 627-643)

Reassigned Days:
3-May The Collapse of Yugoslavia
4-May War and Peace in Contemporary Europe (R 644-662)

11-May  FINAL EXAMINATION, 3:30-5:30