

History 2980: The History of Human Conflict

Senior Course (6 Credits)

Grande Prairie Regional College

Fall 1993-Winter-1994

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D. Office: C-216

Phone: 539-2828

Room: E311

Home: 539-7764

Introduction:

This course introduces students to the history of humanity's least attractive but one of its most persistent and consequential activities. Through lectures and media presentations, the class will trace the conduct of war from early days to the present. Interwoven with these topics will be special studies of the effects of war on the societies involved, the rise of revolutionary warfare, and the growth of terrorism and low-intensity conflict as a way of life at the end of the twentieth century. Students will write two brief critical essays and the Christmas test, a research paper in the winter term and the final examination.

Texts:

Dyer, Gwynne. War. Stoddart, 1992.

Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism. Annual Editions, 1993.

Howard, Michael. War in European History. Oxford, 1988.

O'Connell, Robert. Of Arms and Men. Oxford, 1990.

Paret, Peter (ed.). Makers of Modern Strategy. Princeton U. Press, 1986.

Parker, Geoffrey. The Military Revolution. Cambridge U. Press, 1990.

R.A.C. Parker, Struggle for Survival, Oxford, 1990.

Stossinger, J. Why Nations Go To War.

Optional:

Jones, Archer. The Art of War in the Western World. Oxford, 1989.

Term One Outline:

Week One, September 14, 1993: -- Getting Started:

-Aggression and Violence

-Tactics and Strategy

-War and Societies

READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3.

Week Two, September 21: -- The Classical and Medieval Heritage

-Greco-Roman traditions

-Knight and Infantry

READ: Howard, Chapter 1; O'Connell, Chapters 4-6.

- Week Three, September 28: -- War in Early Modern Europe
 - Mercenaries and Militia
 - War and Society
 READ: Paret, Chapter 1; Howard, Chapter 2; O'Connell, Chapters 7-8.
- Week Four, October 5: -- The Military Revolution
 - Strategy, Society and Government
 READ: Paret, Chapter 2 and 3, and G. Parker, The Military Revolution, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Week Five, October 12: -- The Eighteenth Century
 - Absolutism and Dynastic Warfare
 - New Developments
 READ: Paret, Chapter 4 and G. Parker, Chapters 4 and 5; also Howard, Chapter 4 and O'Connell, Chapter 9.
- Week Six, October 19: -- Revolutionary War
 -The Nation in Arms
 -The Napoleonic Revolution
 READ: Paret, Chapter 5; Howard, Chapter 5; O'Connell, Chapter 10.
- Week Seven, October 26: -- Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail
 -Technologies and Techniques
 -Administration and Efficiency
 READ: G. Parker, Chapter 3; Howard, Chapter 3.
- Week Eight, November 2: -- Revolutionary Legacies
 -Strategic Thought: Clausewitz and Jomini
 -The Guerilla Tradition
 READ: Paret, Chapters 6-7.
- Week Nine, November 9: -- North American Developments
 - Guerillas or Grenadiers
 - The Civil War
 READ: Paret, Chapter 15, and Martin Nicolai, "A Different Kind of Courage" Canadian Historical Review, March, 1989 (PERIODICALS- also xerox on RESERVE
- Week Ten, November 16: -- European Experiments
 - Organizing War Genius
 - War and Policy: Prussia and France
 READ: Paret, Chapters 10, 11; Howard, Chapter 6; O'Connell, Chapter 11.

Week Eleven, November 23: -- Colonial Wars and Their Legacies
-The French and British Colonial Wars
READ: Paret, Chapter 14

NBB: 1st Review Essay (Gwynne Dyer, War) Due!!

Week Twelve, November 30: -- Deadly Spirals
-Imaginary War and Military Theory
- Militarism, Democracy and Nationalism
READ: Paret, Chapter 18, also O'Connell, Chapter 13.

Week Thirteen, December 7: -- The Naval Arms Race
-The New Strategists
-New Dreadnought and Her Admirers
READ: Paret, Chapter 16; O'Connell, Chapter 12.

Christmas Exam - TBA

Term Two Outline:

Week One, January 4, 1994: -- World Power or Decline?
-International Crisis: 1914
-War Aims and War Guilt
READ: Koch, Origins of the First World War, Chapters 1, 6, 8 (RESERVE), Stoessinger, Chapter 1.

Week Two, January 11: -- The Great War: At the Front
-Bloodbaths
-Breakthroughs
READ: O'Connell, Chapter 14.

Week Three, January 18: - The Great War: Politicians and Generals
-The Allies
-Germans and Austrians
READ: Paret, Chapter 17, pp. 481-491 and Chapter 19, pp. 527-554.

Week Four, January 25: -- The Great War: Home Fronts
- Stress and Strain
- Collapse and Revolution
READ: Marwick, War and Social Change in the Twentieth Century, Chapters 1-3 (RESERVE)

- Week Five, February 1: -- The Bitter Armistice
- The end of the War
- Seeds of the Next
READ: Paret, Chapter 19, pp. 554-572; R.A.C. Parker, Chapter 1;
- Week Six, February 8: -- New Technologies - New Theories
- Victory Through Air Power
- Armour
READ: Paret, Chapters 20-21; Howard, Chapter 7.
- Week Seven, February 15: -- The Second World War: Strategy
- Hitler's War
- Blitzkrieg
READ: R.A.C. Parker, Chapters 2,3,4, and Paret, Chapter 17, pp. 491-497 and Chapter 19, pp. 572-597; Stoessinger, Chapter 2.
- Week Eight Winter Break
- Week Nine, March 1: -- The Second World War: Land and Sea
- Co-ordinating Allied Strategy
- Sea Power and Combined Operations
READ: Paret, Chapters 17, pp. 497-509 and Chapters 23 and 24, R.A.C. Parker, Chapters 5-8, 12-13.
- Week Ten, March 8: Special Class: Terror From the Air
READ: R.A.C. Parker, Chapter 10; O'Connell, Chapter 15.
- Week Eleven, March 15: -- The Ordeal of Total War
- War to the Knife
READ: Marwick, Chapters 4 and 6 (RESERVE) and R.A.C. Parker, Chapters 9, 11, 17-18.
- Week Twelve, March 22: -- Nuclear Strategy and The Cold War
- Using the Bomb: Theory and Speculation
- Armed Peace and its Discontents
READ: R.A.C. Parker, Chapters 14-16; Bond, Chapter 7, Paret, Chapters 25 and 26; Howard, Epilogue; O'Connell, Chapter 16.
- Week Thirteen, March 29: -- Empire and Revolution
- Guerilla Warfare in China and Latin America
- The Vietnamese Experience
READ: Paret, Chapter 27; Stoessinger, Chapter 4.

Week Fourteen, April 5: -- Low-Intensity Conflict

- Terrorism
- Ethnic Resistance

READ: Violence and Terrorism. Chapters 1, 5-7, 11-12, 16, 17, 28-29, 35, 37-38, 41, 43-44, 47, 52-54,

Week Fifteen, April 12: Conflict at Century's End

READ: Paret, Chapter 28; Stoessinger, Chapters 6-8.

Final Exam: To Be Instructor Marked

Course Format and Philosophy: The course consists of one lecture-discussion each week. The lectures will identify and discuss the most significant events and issues of the week and also serve as guides to the text readings. Discussions with the class will cover the approaches taken by historians to the topics, as well as the issues raised by the events covered in each class session. The Christmas test will be short answer in nature, while the examination will include both short answer and essay-type questions. An attendance and participation mark will be given, which measures class appearance and contribution to discussions. ALL essay topics must be approved by me before final submission. Late assignments will be penalized 10% each day they are overdue. UNLESS special permission is secured from me in advance. Any students having difficulty with their assignments or with the course in general are encouraged to see me as soon as possible -- after class, by contacting me in the office or calling me at home (between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. please!) at 539-7764. I am always willing to help in any way I can.

Marking Scheme:

Critical Essay	(eight pages)	15
Christmas Test	(in class)	20
Research Essay	(fifteen pages)	25
Attendance and Participation		10
Examination		30