

History 2980: The History of Human Conflict  
Senior Course (6 Credits)  
Grande Prairie Regional College  
Fall 1994 Winter-1995

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D. Office: C-216  
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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.  
O'Connell, Robert. Of Arms and Men. Oxford, 1990.  
Paret, Peter (ed.). Makers of Modern Strategy. Princeton, 1986.  
R.A.C. Parker. Struggle for Survival, Oxford, 1990.  
Stossinger, J. Why Nations Go To War. 1993.

Optional:

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

Term One Outline:

Week One -- Getting Started:

September 6 -Aggression and Violence  
-Tactics and Strategy

Sept 8 -War and Societies

READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3

Week Two -- The Classical and Medieval Heritage

Sept 13 Greco-Roman traditions

READ: O'Connell, Chapters 4-5

Sept 15: Knight and Infantry

READ: Howard, Chapter 1; O'Connell, Chapter 6

- Week Three -- War in Early Modern Europe  
 Sept 20 - Mercenaries and Militia  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 7  
 Sept 22 - War and Society  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 1; O'Connell, Chapter 8
- Week Four -- The Military Revolution  
 Sept 27 - Strategy  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 2  
 Sept 29 - Society and Government  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 3
- Week Five -- The Eighteenth Century  
 Oct 4 - Dynastic Warfare  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 9  
 Oct 6 - Strategic Developments  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 4
- Week Six -- Revolutionary War  
 Oct 11 -The Nation in Arms  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 10  
 Oct 13 -The Napoleonic Revolution  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 5
- Week Seven -- Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail  
 Oct 18 -Technologies and Techniques  
 Oct 20 -Administration and Efficiency  
 READ:
- Week Eight -- Revolutionary Legacies  
 Oct 25 -Strategic Thought: Jomini  
 READ: Paret, Chapters 6  
 Oct 27 -Clauswitz  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 7
- Week Nine -- North American Developments  
 Nov 1 - Guerillas or Grenadiers  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 15, parts I-II and Martin Nicolai, "A Different Kind of Courage" in Canadian Historical Review, March, 1989  
 (PERIODICALS -also xerox on RESERVE)  
 Nov 3 - The Civil War  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 15, parts III-V, O'Connell, Chapter 11 up to page 202
- Week Ten -- European Experiments  
 Nov 8 - Organizing War Genius  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 10  
 Nov 10 - War Plans: Prussia and France  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 11; O'Connell, Chapter 11, pp. 203-211.

Week Eleven -- Colonial Wars and Their Legacies  
Nov 15 - The French Colonial Wars  
READ: Paret, Chapter 14  
Nov 17 - British Small Wars

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

Week Twelve -- Deadly Spirals  
Nov 23 - Imaginary War and Military Theory  
READ: Paret, Chapter 18  
Nov 25 - Militarism, Democracy and Nationalism  
READ: O'Connell, Chapter 13

Week Thirteen -- The Naval Arms Race  
Nov 30 - The New Strategists  
READ: Paret, Chapter 16  
Dec 2 - Dreadnoughts Mania  
READ: O'Connell, Chapter 12

Week Fourteen, December 6, 8: Computer Assisted Instruction Labs

Christmas Exam - TBA

Term Two Outline:

Week One, 1995 -- World Power or Decline?  
Jan 3 - International Crisis: 1914  
READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 1  
Jan 5 - War Aims and War Guilt  
READ: Koch, Origins of the First World War, Chapters 1,  
6, 8 (RESERVE)

Week Two -- The Great War: At the Front  
Jan 10 - Bloodbaths and Breakthroughs  
Jan 12 - Technologies  
READ: O'Connell, Chapter 14.

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

- Week Four -- The Great War: Home Fronts  
 Jan 24 - Stress and Strain  
 READ: Marwick, War and Social Change in the Twentieth Century, Chapters 1-3 (RESERVE)  
 Jan 26 - Collapse and Revolution
- Week Five -- The Bitter Armistice  
 Jan 31 - The end of the War  
 Feb 2 - Seeds of the Next  
 READ: Parker, Chapter 1
- Week Six -- New Technologies - New Theories  
 Feb 7 - Armour  
 READ: Paret, Chapters 20  
 Feb 9 - Victory Through Air Power  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 21
- Week Seven -- The Second World War: Strategy  
 Feb 14 - Hitler's War  
 READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 2, and Paret, Chapter 17, pp. 491-497  
 Feb 16 - Blitzkrieg  
 READ: Parker, Chapters 2,3,4
- February 17-March 5 -- Winter Break and Canada Games
- Week Eight -- The Second World War: Land and Sea  
 March 8 - Co-ordinating Allied Strategy  
 READ: Paret, Chapters 17, pp. 497-509  
 March 10 - Sea Power and Combined Operations  
 READ: Paret Chapters 23 and 24, Parker, Chapters 5-8, 12-13
- Week Nine -- Special Classes: Terror From the Air  
 March 15  
 READ: Parker, Chapter 10-11; O'Connell, Chapter 15.  
 March 17
- Week Ten -- The Ordeal of Total War  
 March 21 - War to the Knife  
 March 23 - Under Occupation  
 READ: Marwick, Chapters 4 and 6 (RESERVE) and Parker, Chapters 9, 17-18.
- Week Eleven -- Nuclear Strategy and The Cold War  
 March 28 - Using the Bomb: Theory and Speculation  
 READ: Parker, Chapters 14-16; Paret, Chapter 25 also O'Connell, Chapter 16  
 March 30 - Armed Peace and its Discontents  
 READ: Paret, Chapter 26

## Week Twelve -- Empire and Revolution

April 4 - Revolutionary Warfare

READ: Paret, Chapter 27

April 6 - The Vietnamese Experience

READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 4.

## Week Thirteen -- Low-Intensity Conflict

April 11 - Terrorism and Ethnic Resistance

READ: Violence and Terrorism, Chapters 1, 5-7, 11-12, 16-17, 28-29

April 13 - Counter-Terrorism

READ: Violence, Chaps. 35, 37-38, 41, 43-44, 47, 52-54, 56-58

## Week Fourteen -- Conflict at Century's End

April 18 - Future Strategy

READ: Paret, Chapter 28

April 20 - Retrospects and Assessment

READ: 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 20% 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