

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts, Commerce and Education
HI2980/HIS398: Human Conflict

Credits: (6) 3 hrs. per week. Lecture/Discussion

Fall 2003/Winter 2004

Pre- and Co-requisites: none

Room: A211

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Office hours: Thursdays 1-3, Fridays 1:30-3 and by

appointment.

Introduction: This course introduces students to one of humanity's least attractive but 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 military culture, the effects of war on societies, the rise of revolutionary warfare, and the growth of terrorism and low-intensity conflict at the end of the twentieth and early years of this century. Students will write one brief research essay in the fall term, a Christmas test, and in winter another brief research paper and an essay-form final examination. A feature of this course is its structure of broad topics and intensive studies in three areas of human conflict: war and society, technology and operations, and strategic thought. Students thus can focus selectively on fields, eras and topics that they already have an interest in.

Core Texts:

Brian Bond. **Pursuit of Victory**. Oxford, 1996.

Gwynne Dyer. **Ignorant Armies**, McClelland and Stewart, 2003

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

John Stoessinger. **Why Nations Go to War**. St. Martin's, 2001. 8th Ed.

Don Snow. **September 11, 2001: The New Face of War?** Pearson, 2002.

Brian Bond. **War and Society in Europe, 1870-1970**. 2nd Ed.

Paul Rogers, **Losing Control**. 2nd Edition. Pluto Press, 2003

Highly Recommended:

Robert Cowley and others. **The Reader's Companion to Military History**.

William Peters, **Club Dues?: The Relevance of Canadian Army Expeditionary Forces**. Irwin, 2001.

M.S. Anderson, **War and Society in Europe in the Old Regime**. McGill-Queen's, 1998.

Outline:

4 September: Getting Started - Aggression, Tactics, Strategy and Society

READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3.

11 September: The Fourth Generation?

READ: Snow, **September 11**(entire); Rogers, Chapters 1 and 8; John Stoessinger, **Why Nations Go to War**, Chapter 8.

18 September: Greece, Macedon and the Western Way of War.

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 4.

25 September: The Roman and Imperial Way

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 5.

2 October: Horse Warriors

READ: O'Connell, 6.

9 October: Gunpowder: Pike and Shot

READ: O'Connell, 7-8. (Optional: M.S. Anderson, **War and Society in the Old Regime**, Introduction and Parts 1-2)

16 October: Eighteenth Century: Age of the Aristocrats

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 9 (Optional: Anderson, Part Three)

23 October: Revolutionary War and its Legacy

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 10; Bond, **Victory**, Chapters 2-3.

30 October: Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail (This class will be held in the Library)

NB: Essay Topics Due!

6 November: North America - Guerillas or Grenadiers?

READ: Stacey, "War of 1812 in Canadian History"; and Nicolai, A Different Kind of Courage" (RESERVE Xerox)

13 November: Industrial War: America, Prussia and France

READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 4; O'Connell, 11; Bond, **War and Society in Europe**, Chapter 1.

NBB: First ESSAY DUE, IN CLASS!!

20 November: Imperialist Wars and Their Lessons

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 13.

27 November: Deadly Spirals

READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 5; Bond, **War and Society**, Chapters 2-3 (Optional: Travers, "Technology, Tactics and Morale" Xerox RESERVE).

6 December November: The Naval Race

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 12; and RESERVE: Donald M. Schurman, "Civilian Historian: Julian Corbett" and "The American: Admiral Alfred Mahan" (Xerox RESERVE)

TBA: Christmas mid-year Test

Term Two

8 January, 2002: The Great War - At the Front

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 14;

15 January: World Power or Decline? - Germany and the Origins of the War

READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 1; Koch, **Origins of the First World War**, Chapter 1,
(Book on RESERVE)

22 January: The Great War: Politicians and Generals

READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 6.

29 January: The Great War: Home Fronts

READ: Bond, **War**, Chapter 4.

February: Bitter Armistice – and New Strategies

READ: Bond, **War**, Chapter 5; O'Connell, Chapter 15, part 1.

NBB: Essay Topics DUE!

February: The Second World War: Axis Strategy

READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 2; Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 7 to page 145.

February: Reading Week (**Write that Essay!**)

March: The Second World War: Allied Strategy On Land and Sea

READ: Bond, **Victory**, completion of Chapter 7.

March: The Ordeal of Total War

READ: O'Connell, Completion of Chapter 15; Bond, **War**, Chapter 6, and Kirwin,
"Allied Bombing and Nazi Domestic Propaganda" (Xerox RESERVE).

March: Cold War: Strategy and the Bomb

READ: O'Connell; Chapter 16; Stoessinger, Chapter 3; Bond, **War**, Chapter 7.
Rogers, Chapters 2-3.

NBB: ESSAY DUE!!

March: Modern Revolutionary War: The Guerilla Phenomenon.

READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 4;

April: The New Conventional Wars: Dark Passions and Portents

READ: Stoessinger, Chapters 5-7; Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 8, conclusion.

April: Into the Looking Glass – or Through it? Canada's Place?

READ: Rogers, Chapters 4-5; Dyer, **Ignorant Armies**, Stoessinger, Chapter 9.
(Optional: Peters, **Club Dues?**)

Final Exam: TBA

Course Format and Philosophy: The course consists of two lectures/discussions each night, preceded by an audio-visual hour (which is open to the general community to attend) with films, slides, games and other media being used to illustrate the major themes of the course. The two lectures that follow (for those students studying the course for credit) will identify and interpret the text readings. Discussions will cover the approaches and key ideas of the historians you will be reading as well as the issues, events, and personalities that have existed in the past. ***Therefore, you must come prepared. You cannot do well in this course if you do not have the reading done before each class, at least 75% of the time.*** The Christmas test will be short answer in nature, while the final examination in April will include essay type questions. An attendance and participation mark will be given, which measures class appearances and preparedness. Fair warning: the occasional pop-quiz will appear from time to time, to test yourself on how well you are keeping up!

Essays: You have a research essay due in each term: these are your special opportunities to become a specialist in an area of your own interest. *You pick the topic, but all essays must be approved by me before you begin writing, so that I can lend my expertise to help you locate sources and avoid pitfalls.* Late assignments will be penalized 20% each day they are overdue, unless you have previously made arrangements with me! I do not like surprises. Any students having difficulty with their assignments or with the course in general are encouraged to call or see *me as soon as possible.*

Your essays should be about twelve pages in length, with a clearly-identifiable thesis, using at least six sources, **NONE are to be from the Internet.** If you detect any bias in your sources or conflicting interpretations with others, *analyze it - try to understand it rather than omit or avoid it.* Please discuss your interests at any time with me so I can help you with the wide variety of sources and approaches in this fast-moving field. Canadian content essays are especially welcome, too!

Course Options: The history of human conflict has often been taught as a drum-and-trumpet parade of great leaders and decisive battles. This course tries to do more: to adopt a wider approach which sees it as "total history" - a process which can be understood by using techniques from film studies to anthropology. This course will introduce you to some of these approaches, and encourage you to experiment with them yourself. Therefore, each student has some choices to make: especially on which aspects of the subject -- strategic thought, war and society or operational studies -- they would like to focus. Students with a social sciences or arts interest may wish to concentrate on war and society, while war buffs may choose operational studies, and the philosophically-inclined might be interested in pursuing strategic thought and intellectual history. Develop some appreciation for the big picture before you choose your specialties. Try to read outside your own pre-existing interests, too.

First Essay	20
Christmas Test	20
Second Essay	20
Attendance and Pop-Quizzes	10
Examination	30

Total	100