

Grande Prairie Regional College

Department of Arts/Education

HI2980/HIS398: Human Conflict: The Path to Total War and Beyond

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

Fall 2005-Winter 2006

Pre- and Co-requisites: none

Room: D308

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Office hours: Mon. 10-12; Tue.2:30-3:30, Wed.

10:30-11:30

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 ancient times to the beginning of the 21st Century. Interwoven with these topics will be special studies of military culture, the effects of war on societies, the rise of revolutionary warfare and industrialized warfare in the colonial era. The second term will focus on the violent 20th century and the new (and old) modes of conflict now emerging in the early years of the 21st. Students will write two brief research essays, a mid-term test each term, and a final examination in April. 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. In addition, we are pioneering a new interactive simulation module, called **PaxWarrior**, developed in Canada and Scotland, and now being used by secondary and post-secondary institutions in the Western World. Each student can learn the complexities of peacekeeping and peacemaking from a uniquely Canadian perspective, based on the 1994 Rwandan incident. The textbook is interactive and internet based, and can be accessed by students on their own time from the PaxWarrior site. Students will keep a journal for this assignment, and will pay a small resource fee of 20\$, which the instructor will collect in the first week of class.

Core Texts:

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

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

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

Gwynne Dyer. **War**. (Second Edition, Randomhouse, 2004)

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

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

*One copy of each is on reserve at the Library.

Highly Recommended:

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

Noam Chomsky, **9-11**, New York: Seven Stories Press, 2002

Stephen Crane, **The Red Badge of Courage**

NOTE: You do not have to buy all these books right away, and some you may not need to buy at all. Remember the IVCF Used Book Sale on Campus (sales begin 9 Sept.), and also refer to my instructions in first class. Reserve Books and Articles will also be available in the Library, as are copies of many of these books.

Outline:

- 8 September: Getting Started - Aggression, Tactics, Strategy and Society
 READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3.
- 15 September: The Fourth Generation?
 READ: Snow, **September 11 or** Chomsky, **9-11**; also Dyer, **War**, 1, 3-4.
- 22 September: Greece, Macedon and the Western Way of War.
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 4; Dyer, 5.
- 29 September: Roman and Other Imperial Ways of War
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 5.
- 6 October: Horse Warriors
 READ: O'Connell, 6.
- 13 October: Gunpowder: Pike and Shot
 READ: O'Connell, 7-8; Anderson, **War and Society in the Old Regime**,
 (Introduction and Parts 1-2)
- 20 October: Eighteenth Century: Age of the Aristocrats
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 9; Anderson (Part Three)
- 27 October: Revolutionary War and its Legacy
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 10; Bond, **Victory**, Chapters 2-3; Dyer, Chapter 6.
- 3 November: Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail
 NB: Essay Topics Due!
 NBB: short mid-term test!
- 10 November: No Class!
- 17 November: Industrial War: America, Prussia and France
 READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 4; O'Connell, 11; Bond, **War and Society in Europe**, Chapter 1.
 Guest Lecturer: TBA
- 24 November: Imperialist Wars and Their Lessons
 READ: C. P. Stacey, in **The Defended Border**, pp, 11-20, 331-338 (RESERVE);
 and Martin Nicolai, "Different Kind of Courage" in **Canadian Historical Review**, volume 70 (LXX) # 1, 1989, pp. 53-75, (Use **Blackboard link to Academic Search Elite database or find the issue in our periodicals section**),
 also O'Connell, Chapter 13. **First Essay due, in Class!!**

1 December: Deadly Spirals

READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 5; Bond, **War and Society**, Chapters 2-3
(Optional: T. Travers, "Technology, Tactics and Morale", in **Journal of Modern History**, Vol. 51, June 1979, pp. 264-286 (Use **Blackboard link to JSTOR database**)).

8 December: The Naval Race: A computer simulation event

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

TBA: Christmas Exam

Term Two

New Texts:

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

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

5 January, 2006: The Great War - At the Front

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 14

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

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

19 January: The Great War: Politicians and Generals

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

26 January: The Great War: Home Fronts

READ: Bond, **War and Society in Europe**, Chapter 4.

2 February: Bitter Armistice – and New Strategies

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

NBB: Essay Topics DUE!

9 February: The Second World War: Axis Strategy

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

NBBB: Mid-Term test!

16 February: The Second World War: Allied Strategy on Land and Sea

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

21-24 February: Reading Week (Write that Essay!)

2 March: The Ordeal of Total War

READ: O'Connell, Completion of Chapter 15; Bond, **War**, Chapter 6, and G. Kirwin, "Allied Bombing and Nazi Domestic Propaganda" (in **European History Quarterly**, vol. 15, July 1985, pp. 341-362 in Library periodicals area), also Dyer, **War**, 7.

9 March: Cold War: Strategy and the Bomb

READ: O'Connell; Chapter 16; Stoessinger, Chapter 3; Bond, **War**, Chapter 7; Dyer, **War**, 8; Rogers, Chapters 2-3.

16 March: **NBB: ESSAY DUE!!**

Modern Revolutionary War.

READ: Stoessinger, Chapter 4; Dyer, Chapters 9-10.

23 March: The New Conventional Wars: Bloody Passions and Portents

READ: Stoessinger, Chapters 5-7; Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 8, conclusion. Dyer, **War**, Chapter 11.

30 March: The Heart of Darkness: Rwanda, 1995

Lecture: Class introduction to Rwanda tragedy.

Text: *PaxWarrior* simulation

6 April: Into the Looking Glass – or Through it?

READ: Rogers, Chapters 4-5 (RESERVE); Dyer, **Ignorant Armies** (RESERVE), Stoessinger, Chapter 9; (review Snow, **Sept. 11, 2001: New Face of War or** Chomsky, **911**).

13 April: Wrap-up and *Paxwarrior* Summary journals due.

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 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 mid-term will be short answer in nature, while a final examination in April will consist of essay 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 essays due: these are your 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, evaluate 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.

Q: But, What I need to do to get an “A”?

A: Get good marks on the following...

Essays (2)	30
Mid-term Tests (2)	20
Attendance and Pop-Quizzes	20
Christmas (Quiz-type) Exam.	10
Final Examination	20

Total	100