

**Grande Prairie Regional College**  
**Department of Arts, Commerce and Education**  
**HI2981/HIS398: Human Conflict: The Path to Total War 3 (3-0-0)**  
**Credits: (3) 3 hrs. per week. Lecture/Discussion**  
**Pre- and Co-requisites: none**  
**Instructor: Duff W. Crerar, Ph.D.**  
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**Phone: 539-2828**  
**Office hours:**  
**Fall 2006**  
**Room: E306A**

**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 end of the 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Students will write one brief research essay, a mid-term test, and a final examination in December. 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:**

M.S. Anderson, **War and Society in Europe in the Old Regime**. McGill-Queen's, 1998  
Gwynne Dyer. **War**. (Second Edition, Random House, 2004)  
Robert O'Connell. **Of Arms and Men**. Oxford, 1990  
Shaara, Michael. **The Killer Angels**.  
\*Brian Bond. **Pursuit of Victory**. Oxford, 1996

**Highly Recommended:**

Robert Cowley and others. **The Reader's Companion to Military History**.  
\* **Bond book is recommended for this term, but is required reading for HI2982.**

**Outline:**

- 7 September: Getting Started - Aggression, Tactics, Strategy and Society  
    READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3
- 14 September: The Fourth Generation?  
    READ: Dyer, **War**, 1, 3-4
- 21 September: Greece, Macedon and the Western Way of War.  
    READ: O'Connell, Chapter 4, Dyer, 5
- 28 September: The Roman Way  
    READ: O'Connell, Chapter 5

5 October: Horse Warriors  
 READ: O'Connell, 6  
**NBB: Quiz!**

12 October: ***Special Class*** – Gunpowder, Mercenaries and the Rise of the Nation-State  
 READ: O'Connell, 7-8; Anderson, **War and Society in the Old Regime**, Introduction and Parts 1-2)

19 October: Eighteenth Century: Age of the Aristocrats  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 9; Anderson, Part Three

26 October: Revolutionary War and its Legacy  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 10; Bond, **Victory**, Chapters 2-3; Dyer, Chapter 6

2 November: North America - Guerillas or Grenadiers?  
 READ: Stacey, "War of 1812 in Canadian History"; and Martin Nicolai, A Different Kind of Courage" (RESERVE Xerox)

9 November: Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail (This class will be held in the Library)  
**NB: Essay Topics Due!**  
**NBB: Quiz**

16 November: ***Special Class!*** - Industrial War: America, Prussia and France  
 READ: Bond, **Victory**, Chapter 4; O'Connell, 11; Bond, **War and Society in Europe**, Chapter 1

**NBBB! 1 Shaara, Killer Angels Reflection Paper Due**

23 November: Imperialist Wars and Their Lessons  
 READ: O'Connell, Chapter 13

**ESSAY DUE IN CLASS!!**

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

7 December : 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: Final Exam**

**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 mid-term test will be short answer in nature, while the final examination 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!

**Quizzes:** These are written in-class, in short sentence answers, ***not*** multiple choice format.

**Essays:** You have a research essay 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 welcome.

**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.

Quizzes (2)	20
Reflection paper	10
Essay	30
Final	30
Attendance	10
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Total	100