

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Arts and Education

HI2981/HIS398: Human Conflict: The Path to Total War 3 (3-0-0)

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

Fall 2007

Pre- and Co-requisites: none

Room: E306A

Instructor: Duff W. Crerar, Ph.D.

Office: C404

Phone: 539-2828

E-mail: dcrerar@gprc.ab.ca

Office hours:

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 19th Century. Interwoven with these topics there will be special studies of military culture, revolutions in politics, war and strategic thought, the effects of war on societies, the rise of gunpowder warfare and industrialized warfare in the colonial era. Students will write one brief reflection paper, one research essay, two quizzes, 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 have a strong interest in.

Core Texts:

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)

V.G. Kiernan, Colonial Empires and Armies, 1815-1960. (McGill-Queens, 1998)

Highly Recommended:

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

Outline:

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

READ: O'Connell, Chapters 1-3

13 September: The Old Firm

READ: Dyer, **War**, 1, 3-4

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

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 4, Dyer, 5

27 September: The Roman Way

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 5

4 October: Horse Warriors

READ: O'Connell, 6

NBB: Quiz!

11 October: **Special Class** – Gunpowder, Mercenaries and the Rise of the Nation-State

READ: O'Connell, 7-8;

18 October: Eighteenth Century: Age of the Aristocrats

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 9

25 October: Revolutionary War and its Legacy

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 10; Bond, **Victory**, Chapters 2-3; Dyer, Chapter 6

NB: Critical Essay Due!

1 November: North America - Guerillas or Grenadiers?

READ: Stacey, "War of 1812 in Canadian History"; and Martin Nicolai, A Different Kind of Courage" (RESERVE photocopy, or in Zoltvany, **The Defended Border** RESERVE)

8 November: Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail

NB: Essay Topics Due!

NBB: Quiz

15 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

NB: Shaara, Killer Angels Reflection Paper Due

22 November: Imperialist Wars and Their Lessons

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 13

ESSAY DUE IN CLASS!!

29 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: The Naval Race

READ: O'Connell, Chapter 12; and RESERVE: Ian Moffat, Corbett: A Man Before His Time", and Donald M. Schurman, "The American: Admiral Alfred Mahan" (Xerox RESERVE)

NB: Computer Simulation on Dreadnought Warfare!

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) with films, slides, games and other media being used to illustrate the major themes of the course. The second lecture (for those students studying the course for credit) will identify and interpret the readings that students have prepared in advance (***hint: come to class with the readings for that night DONE and notes made***). Discussions will cover the key ideas of historians you will be reading as well as the issues, events, and personalities and systems of war and security 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 different historians. **Not ONE SOURCE IS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE WEB!** On the other hand, University-level databases either on-line or in our Library do provide acceptable articles from Historical journals. If you detect any bias in your sources or conflicting interpretations with other historians, *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 methods and insights 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

 Total 100

Key Dates for you to keep track of!

19 Sept. Last Day to change course registrations without financial penalty

28 September: Last Day to pay fall fees

10 October: **Essay Proposals Due!**

24 October: **MID TERM TEST**

26 October: **Research Papers Due!**

2 November: Last Day to drop a course or switch to audit without receiving an F in December.

21 November: **Critical Essays Due!**