

Registrar
1991-92

Grande Prairie Regional College
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

History 398: The History of Human Conflict

Instructor: Duff Crerar, Ph.D. Office: Portable C-2
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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:

- Paret, Peter (ed.). Makers of Modern Strategy. Princeton U. Press, 1986.
Bond, B. War and Society in Europe, 1870-1970. Fontana, 1984.
Parker, Geoffrey. The Military Revolution. Cambridge U. Press, 1990.
R. Malcolmson. Nuclear Fallacies. McGill-Queen's, 1986.

Term One Outline:

Week One: September 10 -- Getting Started:
-Aggression and Violence
-Tactics and Strategy
-War and Societies

Week Two: September 17 -- The Classical and Medieval Heritage
-Greco-Roman traditions
-Knight and Infantry
READ: Preston and Wise, Men in Arms, pp. 15-97 OR L. Addington, Patterns of War Through the 18th Century, pp. 1-73 (RESERVE)

Week Three: September 24 -- War in Early Modern Europe
- Mercenaries and Militia
- War and Society
READ: Paret, Chapter 1 and R. J. Hale, War and Society in Renaissance Europe, Chapters 1, 6-7 (RESERVE)

- Week Four: October 1 -- The Military Revolution 2
- Strategy, Society and Government
READ: Paret, Chapter 2 and 3, and Parker, The Military Revolution, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Week Five: October 8 -- The Eighteenth Century
- Absolutism and Dynastic Warfare
- New Developments
READ: Paret, Chapter 4 and Parker, Chapters 4 and 5.
- Week Six: October 15 -- Revolutionary War
-The Nation in Arms
-The Napoleonic Revolution
READ: Paret, Chapter 5
- Week Seven: October 22 -- Naval Warfare in the Age of Sail
-Technologies and Techniques
-Administration and Efficiency
READ: Parker, chapter 3, also Duffy, Military Revolution, pp. 49-85 (RESERVE)
- Week Eight: October 29 -- Revolutionary Legacies
-Strategic Thought: Clausewitz and Jomini
-The Guerilla Tradition
READ: Paret, Chapters 6-7
- Week Nine: November 5 -- North American Developments
- Guerillas or Grenadiers
- The Civil War
READ: Paret, Chapter 15 and Martin Nicolai, "A Different Kind of Courage" Canadian Historical Review, March, 1989 (PERIODICALS-- also copy of article on RESERVE)
- Week Ten: November 12 -- European Experiments
- Organizing War Genius
- War and Policy: Prussia and France
READ: Bond, Chapter 1 and Paret, Chapter 10
- Week Eleven: November 19 -- Colonial Wars and Their Legacies
-The French and British Colonial Wars
READ: Paret, Chapter 14
- NBB: 1st Review Essay (Gwynne Dyer, War) Due!!
- Week Twelve: November 26 -- Deadly Spirals
-Imaginary War and Military Theory
- Militarism, Democracy and Nationalism
READ: Bond, Chapter 2 and Paret, Chapters 11 and 18.

Week Thirteen: December 4 -- The Naval Arms Race

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-The New Strategists

-New Dreadnought and Her Admirers

READ: Paret, Chapter 16; also D.M. Schurman, Education of a Navy, Chapters 4 and 7 (RESERVE)

Christmas Exam December 10, 1991 - brief and in-class.

Term Two Outline:

Week One: January 7 -- World Power or Decline?

-International Crisis: 1914

-War Aims and War Guilt

READ: Bond, Chapter 3 and Koch, Origins of the First World War, Chapters 1, 6, 8 (RESERVE)

Week Two: January 14 -- The Great War: At the Front

-Bloodbaths

-Breakthroughs

READ: Bond, Chapter 4

Week Three: January 21 -- The Great War: Politicians and Generals

-The Allies

-Germans and Austrians

READ: Paret, Chapter 17, pp. 481-491 and Chapter 19, pp. 527-554.

Week Four: January 28 -- The Great War: Home Fronts

- Stress and Strain

- Collapse and Revolution

READ: Marwick, War and Social Change in the Twentieth Century, Chapters 1-3 (RESERVE)

Week Five: February 4 -- The Bitter Armistice

- The end of the War

- Seeds of the Next

READ: Bond, Chapter 5 and Paret, Chapter 19, pp. 554-572

Week Six: February 12 -- New Technologies - New Theories

- Victory Through Air Power

- Armour

READ: Paret, Chapters 20 and Chapter 21.

Week Seven: February 19 -- The Second World War: Strategy

- Hitler's War

- Blitzkrieg

READ: Bond, Chapter 6 and Paret, Chapter 17, pp. 491-497 and Chapter 19, pp. 572-597.

Week Eight Winter Break

Week Nine: March 3 -- The Second World War: Land and Sea 4
- Co-ordinating Allied Strategy
- Sea Power and Combined Operations
READ: Paret, Chapters 17, pp. 497-509 and Chapters 23
and 24.

Week Ten: March 10: Special Class: Terror From the Air
READ: G. Wright, Ordeal of Total War, Chapter 8
and Parker,
(RESERVE)

Week Eleven: March 17 -- The Ordeal of Total War
- - War to the Knife
READ: Marwick, Chapters 4 and 6 (RESERVE) and Wright,
Ordeal of Total War, Chapter 7.

Week Twelve: March 24 -- Nuclear Strategy and The Cold War
- Using the Bomb: Theory and Speculation
- Armed Peace and its Discontents
READ: Bond, Chapter 7, Paret, Chapters 25 and 26.

NBB: Malcolmson Review Essay Due!!

Week Thirteen: March 31 -- Empire and Revolution
- Guerilla Warfare in China and Latin America
- The Vietnamese Experience
READ: Wolf, Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century,
Chapters 3, 4 and Conclusion (RESERVE) and Paret,
Chapter 27. Also George C. Herring, America's
Longest War, Chapters 5-6 (RESERVE).

Week Fourteen: April 7 -- Low-Intensity Conflict
- Terrorism
- Ethnic Resistance
READ: Wolf, Chapter 5

Week Fifteen: April 14: Conflict at Century's End
READ: Paret, Chapter 28.

Final Exam: To Be Announced

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 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 10% 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 10 p.m. please!) at 539-7764. I am always willing to help in any way I can.

Marking Scheme:

Critical Essays	(eight pages)	20
Christmas Test	(in class)	20
Research Essay	(fifteen pages)	20
Attendance and Participation		10
Examination		30

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