

HISTORY 382-001  
War, Military Technology and Society 1500-1914

Spring 2012  
Office Hours: Mon., Wed., 12-1pm  
Thurs., 4-6 pm  
Or by appointment

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This course will examine important themes in the inter-relationship between warfare, politics, technology, and society from the beginnings of modern warfare until World War I. Primary emphasis will be on the historical connections between violent conflict, the technical means by which this is carried out, the socio-political environment within which war takes place, and the diplomatic context and consequences of armed conflict. It will demonstrate that societies determine the nature of warfare, and war likewise affects the evolution of society. The course also explains the technological developments in arms, a by product of scientific progress, chronicling their use in warfare and how they shaped tactical doctrines. Other themes to be explored include the military variables determining national power, ideological justifications for power and territorial expansion, the impact of power transitions as well as the rise of a global market sustained by naval power.

Outline:

Introduction: Medieval Warfare: An Overview.

- 1) The Advent of Modern War: Technology, Diplomacy and the Origins of the Great Power System and Shifts in Global Power Pattern.
- 2) The Military Revolution, 1560-1660: Evidence pro and con.
- 3) Advances in the Art of War, 1600-1789.
  - a) Organization, logistics, tactics and the changing political contexts of armed conflict.
  - b) Relationship between military innovations and state-building.
  - c) The new siege warfare and its implications.
- 4) The Neo-Classical Warfare: Constraints on Military Change: 1660-1789: Technological, Fiscal, Social, Ideological, Diplomatic.
- 5) Warfare at Sea, 1450-1815.
- 6) Military Change and European Society: 1760-1815: The Progress Towards Total War.
  - a) The Anglo American Military Tradition.
  - b) Problems of Imperial Defense.
  - c) Conflicts on the Periphery.
- 7) Warfare in the Age of Napoleon and the French Revolution.

8) War, Society and the Industrial Revolution: 1815-1900.

9) The Prelude to World War I: Warfare of the Technologists.

Texts: M. Howard, *War in European History* (1976).

W. H. McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power* (1984).

G. E. Rothenberg, *The Art of Warfare in the Age of Napoleon* (1980).

J. Black, *European Warfare, 1815-2000* (McMillan, 2002).

Recommended Reading:

R. O'Connell, *Soul of the Sword* (NY, 2002).

L. Holmes *et al.* (eds), *Weapon: A Visual History of Arms and Armor* (2006).

John Keegan, *Mask of Command* (1989).

J. Black, *European Warfare 1494-1660* (Exeter, 2002).

G. Parker, *The Military Revolution* (Cambridge, 1996).

M. Duffy, *The Military Revolution and the State 1500-1800* (1980).

D. E. Showalter, *The Wars of Frederick the Great* (1996).

Kelly de Vries (ed.), *Medieval Warfare 1300-1450* (2010).

Steven T. Ross, *From Flintlock to Rifle: Infantry Tactics 1740-1866* (London, 1996).

K.W. Schweizer, M Schumann, *The Seven Years War: An International History* (2010).

T. Ropp, *War in the Modern World* (1976).

John Roberts, *The Jacobite Wars* (2002).

C. Duffy, *The Military Experience—The Age of Reason* (1987).

Karl W. Schweizer, ed., *Warfare and Tactics in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* (1984).

## Assignments

	<u>Mark</u>
Book Review	20 (due date, March 1).
Essay	40 (due date, April 19).
Class Participation	10
Final Exam	30

## Course Requirements:

Hist 382 requires one book review (approximately 5- 6 pages) based on a book relating to themes of the course, chosen by the student (with Professor's approval) but not one of the course texts. This is due on **Thursday, March 1** and will count for 20 percent of the final grade. Book review guidelines will be provided. Novels, autobiographies, memoirs are **not acceptable**. The review has to be handed in at the beginning of class—hard copy, not email. Moreover, students are required to prepare a properly documented and researched paper of 15-20 pages on a topic relevant to the course, which they select (with Professor's approval). This is worth 40 percent of the final grade. (Note: Internet sources for this paper must be kept to a minimum. No more than two per paper. Otherwise marks will be deducted.) The essay must be submitted at the beginning of class, **Thursday, April 19**. A term paper guideline will be provided. The final exam will be held on April 26 and is worth 30 percent of the overall grade.

## Policies:

- This is an **intellectually demanding course** and all students will be expected to do all the readings listed in the syllabus and start work on their written assignments before the submission date, (ideally three weeks after start of course).
- Assignments **MUST** be submitted on time. **The research paper will be due one week before the last day of class.** Excuses for work submitted late will **not** be accepted (medical reasons, death in family apart). There are **no** exceptions (except as noted below). Late submissions will have grades deducted (one grade per day of lateness) unless a valid reason given (i.e. illness, supported by a doctor's note). This point **must** be clearly understood before students **agree** to take this class. Last minute pleas based on undocumented reasons **will** be rejected.
- It is the **student's** responsibility to ascertain that all assignments have been duly submitted and all required term work completed **prior** to termination of the semester. By signing the attendance sheets students explicitly **acknowledge** their understanding and **acceptance** of this condition.

- Assignments submitted **must** conform to the specific category stated in this syllabus i.e. an essay is an essay, not a book review. Essay topics are chosen by the student, subject to Professor's approval.
- Plagiarism in any written assignment will result in an automatic failure and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Book reviews should be 4-5 pages in length (title must be approved by instructor) and research papers between 15-20 pages, excluding bibliography. Web sources for the essay must be kept to a minimum (no more than **two**).
- Students **must not** put assignments under the professor's office door. They should be submitted on the due date at the beginning of the class or taken to the History office where the secretary will date stamp them.
- When submitting the final paper, students must also hand in the first/second draft plus a copy of the notes used for the construction of the essay.
- There will be no "make-up" exam. If you miss the final exam for any reasons other than those applying to written assignments listed above, you will receive an F.
- All submitted work must contain the following signed statement: **I have fully complied with the NJIT Honor Code. Signed: Your Name.**