

HISTORY 404-001
Capstone
War, Technology and Power Politics

Summer 2013
Office hours: by appointment
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Class meeting times: Mon., Wed., Thurs., 1-4 pm
Office hours: Mon. and Wed. 12 noon – 1 pm

This course will examine the origin and development of the Great Power System from 1500 until the present. Emphasis is placed on the changing nature of great power status, how it is acquired, expanded, and frequently lost. It will be shown how the most powerful states have affected world systems' dynamics by determining the structure, major processes and general evolution of global interactions.

Among the themes to be explored are the nature and role of technical change, the relationship between military and political developments (via strategy), ideological justifications of power and territorial expansion, the impact of power transitions as well as the rise of a world market economy sustained for long by maritime capability. Conceptually, the course seeks to integrate the disciplines of history and political science by presenting various theories of international relations and war, while testing these against the historical evidence.

Course Requirements:

HSS 404 requires one book review (6 pages minimum in length) based on a book relating to the themes of the course, chosen by the student (with Professor's approval) but not one of the course texts. This 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. An essay guideline will be provided. There will also be a final exam worth 30 percent of the final grade (date to be decided).

Assignments and Marks:

Book Review	20% (due June 13)
Research Essay	40% (due June 24)
Class Participation	10%
Final Exam	30% (given on June 27)

Class texts:

William McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power* (1984).

Martin van Crefeld, *Technology and War* (1988).

John Stone, *Military Strategy: The Politics and Technique of War* (London, 2011).

Gordon A. Craig & Alexander George, *Force and Statecraft* (Oxford, 1997).

Outline:

I. Introduction

II. The Advent of Modern War: Technology, Diplomacy and Emergent Capitalism.

Readings: McNeill, pp. 79-116.

Van Crefeld, ch. I.

Craig & George, ch. I.

Modelski, "Wars and the Great Power System" (to be supplied).

III. Advances in the Art of War, 1600-1789: Aspects of Science, Technology, State Building and Power Expansion.

Readings: McNeill, pp. 118-143.

Crefeld, chs. II, III.

Jack Levy, "World System Analysis: A Great Power Framework," (to be supplied).

K.W. Schweizer, "The Seven Years War: A System Perspective," (to be supplied).

IV. Technology and Naval War.

Readings: McNeill, ch. V.

V. Warfare and Diplomacy in the Age of Napoleon.

Readings: Stone, ch. I.

Crefeld, ch. IV.

Craig & George, ch. II.

VI. War, Society, and the Industrial Revolution.

Readings: McNeill, ch. VI.

Craig & George, ch. III.

Stone, ch. II.

VII. The Age of Total War.

Readings: Stone, ch. III.

Craig & George, ch. III, ch. IV.

McNeill, ch. IX.

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.
- Assignments **MUST** be submitted on time. Excuses for work submitted late will **not** be accepted (medical reasons, death in family apart) and there will be **no** exceptions. 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.
- 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**. For the book review, autobiographies or works of fiction are not acceptable.
- It is the **student's** responsibility to ascertain that all assignments have been duly submitted and all required term work completed **prior** to the end of the semester. By signing the attendance sheets students explicitly **acknowledge** their understanding and **acceptance** of this condition.
- Students **must not** put assignments under the professor's office door. Hard copy must 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. Again, no papers under any doors!
- Plagiarism in any written assignment will result in an automatic failure and will be reported to the Dean of Students. Book reviews should be 5-6 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**).
- 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 "re-writing" of assignments (book review and/or essay). Students having problems with written English must consult the Humanities Dept. Writing Center (Cullimore, 4th floor) prior to handing in assignments.
- 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.**