

# TOPICS IN MILITARY HISTORY



HIST 397 – Fall 2020

Prof. David Campion  
Department of History

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Tel: 503.768.7435

Class hours:  
W 6:00-7:30 Miller 210  
W 7:30-9:00 Miller 208

Office hours:  
MW 12:00-2:00  
F 10:20-12:20  
(or by appointment)  
Miller 409

Course website: <http://webhost.lclark.edu/campion/hist397/index.pdf>  
Course listserv: [20fa-hist-397-01@lclark.edu](mailto:20fa-hist-397-01@lclark.edu)

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*You may not be interested in war, but war is interested in you.*

—Leo Tolstoy

*All wars are fought twice, the first time on the battlefield and the second time in memory.*

—Viet Thanh Nguyen

*The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance.*

—Herman Wouk

## *Course description*

This course is designed to introduce students to a broad survey of topics in military history. It spans from antiquity to the present day, with special emphasis on American history and the twentieth century. The course emphasizes the evolution of strategy and tactics through focus on specific battles, the development of military leadership through the ages, and the interaction between the military establishment and civil society, especially in democracies. The course aims to achieve historical depth through an examination of the military systems and values in Classical Greece and Rome, Medieval Europe, Revolutionary France, and the British Empire. The US focus includes coverage of the colonial era, the American Revolution, the Civil War and westward expansion, the Spanish-American War and Latin America, the two world wars, the Cold War, Korea, and Vietnam. Themes include technological and tactical innovation, the professionalization of soldiering, the relationship between military and civilian authority, the perspectives of the soldier on the ground, integration with other branches of the armed services and with military forces of allied nations, training for combat and reintegration of veterans into society, and the ideals of citizenship and military service.

## *Course requirements*

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION:** The study of military history can be a fascinating exercise, but for this to happen it will require some effort. This means regular and punctual attendance, either in person or remotely, at weekly class meetings and consistent adherence to the schedule of assigned readings to keep up with the pace of the syllabus and discussions. If you must miss a class meeting, please notify the instructor in advance. Any unexcused absence will reduce your final course grade by one third of a letter grade. Two late arrivals count as one absence. Being unprepared for class discussion will also count as an unexcused absence. Preparation for each class requires completion of a 500-800 word response to the week's reading.

and questions for discussion posted to the course listserv before that class meeting. Students are always encouraged to ask questions in class and during office hours, and to go beyond the minimum course requirements as their imagination and intellect lead them. Your preparation and active participation are vital to the success of this course.

### *Classroom etiquette*

Students are expected to arrive on time prepared to spend the class period focused on the class activity, free from other distractions. Laptop computers may be used only during discussions to access course readings but these and all other electronic devices must be turned off and put away at other times during class (unless you have an exemption from Student Support Services). Water bottles and thermoses are allowed but there is absolutely no eating in class. We will have a mid-class break to shift rooms but otherwise students may not leave the room while class is in session except for an emergency; if you absolutely must leave, please excuse yourself with as little disruption to the class as possible. All class practices and individual conduct must conform to Lewis & Clark COVID-19 health and safety precautions [see addendum] and are subject to revision as circumstances may change during the semester.

**RESEARCH PROJECT:** Each student will complete a 12-15 page research essay on a topic of his or her choice making significant use of primary sources and academic scholarship.

**EXAMINATIONS:** There will be a midterm and final examination comprised of short essays. The final examination is cumulative.

- *Assignments must be submitted on time. Unless there are extenuating circumstances and an extension is obtained in advance, assignments will be reduced by one third of a letter grade for each day they are late. After five days, an assignment will not be accepted.*
- *The Lewis & Clark College [Policy on Academic Integrity](#) is applicable to all assignments and examinations in this course. **Any** instances of cheating or plagiarism, however slight, on **any** assignment or examination will result automatically in a failing grade for the course and referral to the College Honor Board for further disciplinary action.*

NOTE: If you have a disability that may affect your academic performance, you may request accommodations by submitting documentation to the Student Support Services Office (x7191) and that office will notify me of the accommodation for which you are eligible.

### *Method of evaluation*

- Participation and listserv postings (30%)
- Midterm examination (15%)
- Research project (35%)
- Final examination (20%)

### *Required texts*

- Max Boot, *Savage Wars of Peace: Small Wars and the Rise of American Power*
- Philip Caputo, *A Rumor of War*
- Max Hastings, *The Korean War*
- John Keegan, *The Face of Battle: A Study of Agincourt, Waterloo and the Somme*
- John Keegan, *The Mask of Command*
- David Kennedy, *The American People in World War II*
- J. E. Lendon, *Soldiers and Ghosts: A History of Battle in Classical Antiquity*

### Online texts

- [American Military History](#), US Army Center of Military History, Washington DC
- [American National Biography Online](#), Oxford University Press

### Schedule of classes

#### Week I: Introduction to Military History

Introduction to the readings and topics of the course • *Methods and themes in military history* • *The profession of arms* • *The evolution of warfare* • *Ethics, morality and law in warfare* • *The relationship between the military and civil society*

- Reading:
- Keegan, *Face of Battle*, Ch. 1
  - Keegan, *Mask of Command*, Introduction, Ch. 1

#### Week II: The Classical Origins of the Western Military Tradition: The Greeks

Topics • *The heroic ideal and the Greek military tradition* • *The wars of Athens and Sparta* • *Military authority in early democratic governments* • *The development and discipline of a professional army* • *Leadership case study #1: Alexander of Macedon*

- Reading:
- Lendon, *Soldiers and Ghosts*, Prologue, Introduction and Part I
- Documents:
- Herodotus, [“The Carthaginian attack on Sicily”](#) in *The Persian Wars* (c.480 BCE)
  - Xenophon, [“The Spartan War Machine”](#) in *Lacedaemonion Politeia* (c.375 BCE)
  - Justin, [“The Beginning of Philip of Macedon’s Reign”](#) in *The History* (c.352 BCE)
  - Arrian, [“Speech of Alexander”](#) in *The Campaigns of Alexander* (c.90 CE)
  - Plutarch, [The Life of Alexander](#) [excerpts] (c.110 CE)

#### Week III: The Classical Origins of the Western Military Tradition: The Romans

Topics • *The evolution of the army from republic to empire* • *An imperial military machine: tactics, manpower, organization and support* • *The Praetorian Guard: the army as guardians of civil order* • *Military leadership case study #2: Caesar and Cincinnatus: professional warrior vs. citizen soldier*

- Reading:
- Lendon, *Soldiers and Ghosts*, Part II
- Documents:
- Livy, [“The Roman Way of Declaring War”](#) in *History of Rome* (c.10 BCE)
  - Valerius Maximus and Livy, [On Roman Soldiers](#) (c.10 CE)
  - Josephus, [“The Roman Army in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century CE”](#) in *The Jewish War* (93 CE)
  - Josephus, [“An Imperial Triumph, 71 CE”](#) in *The Jewish War* (93 CE)
  - Anonymous, [“Letters from Roman soldiers”](#) (2<sup>nd</sup> cent. CE)

## Week IV: The Medieval Legacy: Nobility, Knighthood, and Soldiering

Topics • *The function of the military in feudal society* • *Creating a warrior elite: chivalry, honor and the concept of knighthood* • *Faith and arms: the soldier as crusader* • *Battle case study #1: Agincourt (1415)*

- Reading:
- Keegan, *Face of Battle*, Ch. 2
  - Lawrence James, *Warrior Race*, Part II, [chapters 2-3](#)
  - Georges Duby, [“The Origins of Knighthood”](#) Ch. 11 in *The Chivalrous Society*
  - [“Nasty, Brutish and not that Short”](#) in *The Economist*, Dec 2010

- Documents:
- St. Bernard of Clairvaux, [“In Praise of the New Knighthood”](#) (early 12<sup>th</sup> cent.)
  - William of Tyre, [“The Foundation of the Knights Templar”](#) (1118)
  - Guy (a knight), [“Letter from the Sixth Crusade”](#) in *Chron. Maj.* VI (1249)

Suggested film: [Henry V](#) (1989)

## Week V: Military Leadership enters the Modern Age

Topics • *The professionalization of modern armies: technology, tactics, and training* • *Napoleon and the triumph of meritocracy in the army of Revolutionary France* • *Wellington and the preservation of the aristocratic ideal in British military leadership* • *A glimpse of the future: bureaucratization, conscription and mobilization* • *Battle case study #2: Waterloo (1815)* • *Leadership case study #2: Duke of Wellington*

- Reading:
- Keegan, *Face of Battle*, Ch. 3
  - Keegan, *Mask of Command*, Ch. 2

- Documents:
- Charles O'Malley, [“Wellington’s crossing of the Douro”](#) (1809)
  - Napoleon Bonaparte, [“Farewell to the Old Guard”](#) (1814)
  - Madame de Rémusat, [“Remembrances of Napoleon”](#) in *Memoirs* (1880)
  - Carl von Clausewitz, [“War as an Instrument of Policy”](#) in *On War* (1832)

Suggested film: [Waterloo](#) (1970)

RESEARCH ESSAY PROPOSAL DUE

## Week VI: The Foundations of the American Military Tradition

Topics • *The French and Indian War and the colonial roots of the American military tradition* • *The American Revolution and the War of 1812* • *The US Civil War: tactics, strategy and lessons* • *Military leadership case study #3: Ulysses S. Grant*

- Reading:
- Max Boot, *Savage Wars*, Part I
  - Keegan, *Mask of Command*, Ch. 3
  - *American Military History*, Chs. [3-4](#)

- Documents:
- James Wolfe, [“To the Citizens of Québec”](#) (1759)
  - George Washington, [Farewell Orders to the Continental Army](#) (1783)
  - Abraham Lincoln, [Speeches to the Ohio Regiments](#) (1864)
  - Robert E. Lee, [Farewell Address to the Army of Northern Virginia](#) (1865)

## Week VII: The First Superpower: The Evolution of Military Power in the British Empire

Topics • *The Industrial Revolution and the arming of an empire* • *The military and the media: Crimea and the birth of the war correspondent* • *The Roman model redux: the British military and the projection of imperial power* • *The Victorian legend: military heroism and national pride* • *Culture shock: cooperation and conflict within colonized societies* • *The Boer War as an omen of 20<sup>th</sup>-century warfare*

- Reading:
- James, *Warrior Race*, [Part IV](#)
  - Kaushik Roy, "Race and Recruitment in the Indian Army" in *Modern Asian Studies*, 47:4 (2013) [[JSTOR](#)]

Suggested film: [Breaker Morant](#) (1980)

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

## Week VIII: The US Military and the Rise of American Global Power

Topics • *The US Army and westward expansion* • *The Spanish-American War and overseas deployments* • *The Boxer Rebellion* • *The Mexican expeditions* • *Confronting an insurgency: the conquest of the Philippines* • *US forces in China and Latin America: the military as "policeman"*

- Reading:
- Boot, *Savage Wars*, Part II (omit Chs. 9 and 10)
  - *American National Biography (ANB)*, "George S. Custer," "Smedley Butler"

- Documents:
- Chief Red Cloud, [Speech after the massacre at Wounded Knee](#) (1890)
  - Smedley Butler, [War is a Racket](#) [excerpt] (1935)

Suggested film: [The Sand Pebbles](#) (1966)

MIDTERM EXAMINATION

## Week IX: The First World War

Topics • *The world's first industrial war* • *The advent of military aviation* • *Order and discipline in the trenches* • *Developments in military medicine* • *"Shell shock" and the readjustment of combat veterans* • *America and her allies: making a multi-national fighting force* • *Battle case study #3: The Somme (1916)*

- Reading:
- Keegan, *Face of Battle*, Ch. 4
  - *American Military History*, Ch. [18](#)
  - Daniel J. Hughes, "Schlichting, Schlieffen, and the Prussian Theory of War in 1914," *Journal of Military History*, 59:2 (1995) [[JSTOR](#)]
  - *ANB*, "John Pershing," "Billy Mitchell"

- Documents:
- Donald Fraser, ["My Daily Journal, Sept. 1915"](#) from *The Journal of Pvt. Donald Fraser, Canadian Expeditionary Force, 1914-18*
  - Wilfred Owen, ["Dulce et Decorum Est"](#) and ["Parable of the Old Man and the Young"](#) (1917)

Suggested film: [Paths of Glory](#) (1957)

## Week X: The Second World War, Part I

Topics • *The Wehrmacht and German military organization, tactics and strategy* • *US neutrality and the road to war* • *Mobilization, conscription, and the wartime economy* • *The war in the Pacific begins* • *A nation under arms: building a joint services command structure* • *North Africa and Italy*

- Reading:
- Kennedy, *American People in World War II*, Chs. 1-4
  - David Reynolds, "The Churchill Government and Black American Troops in Britain in World War II," *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society*, 5<sup>th</sup> Series, v.35 (1985) [[JSTOR](#)]
  - ANB, "George S. Patton," "Omar Bradley"
- Documents:
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, "[On Sacrifice](#)" Fireside Chat radio address (1942)
  - UK Ministry of Information and US War Dept., "[A Welcome to Britain](#)" (1943)
- Suggested films: [Twelve O'Clock High](#) (1949), [The War](#) (2007)
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## Week XI: The Second World War, Part II

Topics • *Perspectives of the American G.I.* • *The home front* • *Prisoners of war* • *Europe from Normandy to Berlin* • *The Pacific from the Solomons to Tokyo Bay* • *The US military as government: the occupation of Germany and Japan* • *Demobilization: from soldier to civilian* • *Global power and global commitments*

- Reading:
- Kennedy, *American People in World War II*, Chs. 5-9, epilogue
  - ANB, "Dwight Eisenhower," "Douglas MacArthur," "George C. Marshall"
- Document:
- Dwight Eisenhower, [Draft of speech on failure of Operation Overlord](#) (1944)
- Suggested films: [The Best Years of Our Lives](#) (1946), [The Bridge on the River Kwai](#) (1957)
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## Week XII: The Cold War and Korea

Topics • *US military and the origins of the Cold War* • *Transforming joint-services organization: the Department of Defense, the House and Senate Armed Services committees, and the creation of the US Air Force* • *Race and desegregation* • *Strategy and policy in the atomic age* • *The British model redux: the US military and the projection of global power* • *Korea: the forgotten war*

- Reading:
- Hastings, *The Korean War*, Chs. 1-10, 18
  - ANB, "Curtis E. LeMay," "Matthew B. Ridgway"
- Documents:
- Dwight Eisenhower, "[The Military-Industrial Complex](#)" (1961) [[video of the speech](#)]
  - Douglas MacArthur, [Farewell speech to the West Point Corps of Cadets](#) (1962) [[audio of the speech](#)]
- Suggested film: [Dr. Strangelove](#) (1964)

### Week XIII: Vietnam: Lessons and Legacies

Topics • *Containing communism in Southeast Asia* • *Điện Biên Phủ and the capitulation of French forces* • *Escalation* • *Tet, Khe Sanh, and Huế: the tide turns* • *Military strategy in a political quagmire* • *Military-civilian relations in an unpopular war* • *The draft and its impact* • *The military and the media: challenges of a televised war* • *Extraction and negotiation* • *The fall of Saigon* • *The reintegration of veterans into civilian life* • *The “Vietnam syndrome” and the burden of history*

- Reading:
- Caputo, *A Rumor of War*
  - Boot, *Savage Wars*, Ch. 13
  - ANB, “William Westmoreland,” “Creighton Abrams”
- Documents:
- Giáp Võ Nguyên, [Interview with French media](#) (mid 1960s)
  - William Westmoreland, [Speech to the US Congress](#) (1967)
  - John Kerry, [“Veterans Against the War”](#) testimony to the US Senate (1971) [[video of the hearing](#)]
  - Richard Nixon, [“Peace with Honor”](#) speech on ending the war in Vietnam (1973)
- Suggested films: [Vietnam: A Television History](#) (1983), [The Fog of War](#) (2004) [Last Days in Vietnam](#) (2014), [The Vietnam War](#) (2017)
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### Week XIV: Conclusion: Today’s Military

Topics • *The Reagan regeneration* • *The end of the Cold War and the reappraisal of mission* • *Desert Storm and Somalia* • *Iraq and Afghanistan* • *Expanding roles for women* • *Technological innovation and professionalism in a volunteer army* • *Evaluating the place of the military in the American national identity* • *Qualities of military leadership through the ages* • *Final thoughts on the lessons of military history*

- Reading:
- Boot, *Savage Wars*, Chs. 12, 14-15
  - Keegan, *Face of Battle*, “The Abolition of Battle,” 331-343
- Documents:
- Matt Richtel, [“Please Don’t Thank Me for My Service”](#) *New York Times* (2015)
  - *Washington Post* forum, [“Fetishizing the Military”](#) (2019)
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FINAL EXAMINATION: SUNDAY, DEC 13, 9:30-11:30am

RESEARCH ESSAY DUE: MONDAY DEC 14