

War in the Modern World I
History 240 – Fall 2009 - CRN 12961
MWF 12-12:50; Lawrence 177

Professor Dracobly
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Fall term office hours (when I am guaranteed to be in my office, door open, happy to talk): Thurs. 2-3:30 and Fridays 1:15-2:30, or by appointment. I am often there outside of office hours. Knock on the door (or call ahead) to find out.

GTFs (Graduate Teaching Fellows) – here for your use and consultation (and to help grade) – office hours will be posted on Blackboard

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Course description

This course is a survey of military history from fifteenth century to 1945. The scope is global, at least in theory. The focus is on major developments in the nature and conduct of warfare within the broader context of social, political, and technological change. The course also serves as an introduction to some of the key issues and questions shaping the field of military history today.

No prior knowledge of history, military or otherwise, is assumed. We will be covering a tremendous range of time and territory - do not worry if you feel a little bit lost at times (though an atlas often comes in handy when studying military history: if you do not know where something is, **look it up**). Try to focus on the big themes and big developments and remember that with history, as with everything else, it is necessary to start somewhere.

Grades and assignments

Class attendance and fulfillment of the assignments are expected. I do not check attendance but those who fail to attend do so at their own risk. Please note that most of what we'll be doing this quarter did not recently appear on the History Channel.

On the other hand, if you think have the flu, please stay home lest you put the rest of us at risk – all assignments are done on-line and you can always catch up.

Grades will be based on fulfillment of the assignments, three on-line “quiz exercises,” and final exam.

Participation in this class requires regular access to a computer. If this is not going to be to your liking, you might consider dropping the class.

Papers (15 points each for 30 total)

Please submit on Blackboard site (see Course Documents for link). Be sure to retain a backup copy for your records.

Oct. 10 – Early modern European warfare

Nov. 24 – Soldiers’ experiences in WWI

Quizzes (15 points for first and third quizzes, 10 points for Borodino, for a total of 40)

The quizzes (I prefer to think of them as “exercises”) are open book and will be done on the class Blackboard site. The quizzes will open shortly after class ends (at 1:00 on given day). The **second** and **third** quizzes will remain open for **forty-six hours** (thus on Nov. 9 and 18, both Wednesdays, the site will close one hour before our class meeting). The **first** quiz will remain open for **sixty hours**. Anyone who does not think that they can complete the first quiz over the weekend should do it on Friday afternoon.

Once you open your quiz you may reenter it as many times as you like. However, you must submit it for it to count and you can only submit once. Please note that each quiz is randomly generated from a larger body of questions – no two quizzes will be identical.

You are advised to cut and paste all essay answers into the box: **you should save a copy of all essays answers for your own records.**

Oct. 23-25 – through Zunghar material

Nov. 9-11 – on Borodino materials

Nov. 16-18 – from “Age of Sail” to “Naval Warfare, 1750-1914)” minus Borodino (but including Napoleonic operations)

Final exam (30 points total): Dec. 9 (Wed.): 10:15 in LA 177 – bring blue/green book

Grading policies

Grades are compiled on the basis of a one-hundred point system. There are one hundred possible points for the quarter. I add up your scores at the end of the term and translate the number into a grade using a standard grading scale (>93 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 83-86.9 = B; etc.). This course is not graded on a bell curve (that is, I do not worry about distribution). Depending on overall class performance and my determination of the difficulty of the assignments and grading I sometimes “curve up” (give the class a percentage increase of their final score) but I will not know until the end of the term.

Important: you **must** pass the final (defined as 20/30 – a solid D) to pass the course.

The grading of individual assignments has several components. The quizzes and final will contain factual sections but written work moves in a more interpretative direction. In all written work we are looking for not only basic competence regarding the factual basis of the material, but also an understanding and comprehension of the larger interpretative issues as well as quality of presentation and argument. The idea is not just to learn something about the military history of the last five centuries. We will also be employing that that history to engage in wider questions regarding the nature of historical argument and evidence. Grading will thus reflect the expectation that you demonstrate some mastery of and engagement with both of these aspects of the course.

Schedule of topics, assignments, and readings

The readings listed under each date are for that class day. You will find it easier to follow the class discussion if you have done the readings **prior** to class.

We will be using a single book this term: Stephen Morillo, Jeremy Black, and Paul Lococo, War in World History: Society, Technology, and War from Ancient Times to the Present, vol. 2, Since 1500 (McGraw-Hill, 2009), which may be purchased at the UO bookstore.

All other readings can be found on the class Blackboard site.

Sept. 28: No class

Sept. 30: Introduction to class and topic: basic concepts and terms

Reading: War in World History, preface.

Part I: Early-Modern Warfare

Oct. 2: The European transformation: the organization of war in 16th century Europe

Reading: War in World History, ch. 16, pages 304-311 and “Foraging” box on page 312

Oct. 5: Waging war in 16th and early 17th-century Europe

Reading: War in World History, ch. 16, pages 311-323 – we’ll start with the Battle of Killikrankie, described in the box on page 322

Oct. 7: A gunpowder revolution? A revolution in military affairs? And what is the difference?

Reading: Geoffrey Parker, “The ‘Military Revolution, 1560-1660’ – A Myth?” as reprinted in Parker, Spain and The Netherlands, 1559-1659 (Short Hills, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 1979) 85-103.

Oct. 9: Eurasian expansion: gunpowder empires?

Reading: War in World History, ch. 17 (we’ll be focusing on the Ottomans but you should have name familiarity with the others)

Paper due: submit paper by tomorrow night at midnight (Oct. 10)

Oct. 12: An example of an early-modern military campaign: the 1638 siege of Baghdad

Reading: Rhoads Murphey, Ottoman Warfare 1500-1700 (New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1999) 107-129; Stephen Hemsley Longrigg, Four Centuries of Modern Iraq (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1925) 58-74.

Oct. 14: Europeans abroad 1500-1700 – the range and limits of European military power in 16th and 17th centuries

Reading: War in World History, ch. 18

Oct. 16: Spanish conquest of Mexico

Reading: Ross Hassig, “War, Politics, and the Conquest of Mexico,” from Jeremy Black, ed., War in the Early Modern World 1450-1815 (Westview Press, 1999) 207-235.

Oct. 19: Japan

Reading: War in World History, ch. 19, pages 362-371 (Japan)

Oct. 21: Qing China

Reading: War in World History, ch. 19, pages 371-380 (China)

Oct. 23: Chinese defeat of Zunghar Empire

Reading: Peter Perdue, China Marches West, 152-161, 180-190, 270-289

First quiz: Oct. 23, 1:00 – Oct. 26, 1:00 am

Oct. 26: Age of Sail

Reading: War in World History, ch. 20

Oct. 28: Conclusion to first half of quarter: the changing balance of power in the world

Reading: War in World History, commentary to part 4

Part II: Warfare in an age of revolution, industry, and empire

Oct. 30: 18th-Century European warfare: Bullion and bayonets

Reading: War in World History, ch. 21, pages 404-416

Nov. 2: The American Revolution from the perspective of global military history

Reading: War in World History, ch. 21, pages 416-422

Nov. 4: The French Revolution, the *levée en masse*

Reading: War in World History, ch. 22, pages 423-433

Nov. 6: Napoleonic warfare

Reading: War in World History, ch. 22, pages 433-441 (esp. Austerlitz box, 434-5; and box on 437); you might also want to start readings for Monday

Nov. 9: Napoleon's downfall: the 1812 invasion of Russia and the battle of Borodino

Reading: selections from Tolstoy, War and Peace, book 10 (battle of Borodino); and Antony Brett-James, 1812: Eyewitness Accounts of Napoleon's Defeat in Russia, pages 114-143.

Second quiz (Napoleon and Borodino only): Nov. 9 1:00 – Nov. 11 11:00 am.

Nov. 11: Rifles and Railroads: War in the Age of Industry

Reading: War in World History, ch. 23

Nov. 13: European imperialism from the perspective of military history

Reading: War in World History, ch. 24

Nov. 16: Naval warfare, 1750-1914

Reading: War in World History, ch. 25 and commentary to part 5

Third quiz: Nov. 16 1:00 – Nov. 18 11:00 am

Part III: Global conflict in the first half of the twentieth century

Nov. 18: World War I

Reading: War in World History, ch. 26

Nov. 20: World War I

Reading: Stéphane Audoin-Rouzeau and Annette Becker, 14-18: Understanding the Great War, trans. Catherine Temerson (New York: Hill and Wang, 2003) 15-44.

Nov. 23: Interwar developments: tanks and “tasking”

Reading: War in World History, ch. 27

Second paper due: 12 midnight, Nov. 24 (submit on-line)

Nov. 25: World War II

Reading: War in World History, ch. 28

Nov. 30: World War II – the air campaigns

Reading: Richard Overy, Why the Allies Won (New York: Norton, 1995) 101-133

Dec. 2: World War II as a moral contest

Reading: Richard Overy, Why the Allies Won (New York: Norton, 1995) 282-313

Dec. 4: Conclusions and epilogue

Reading (optional): War in World History, commentary to part 6 (and chs. 29 and 30 if you want to finish the book).

Final exam: 10:15, Wed. Dec. 9 (in LA 177, please bring a blue or green book)