HISTORY 3379: U.S. Military History

Spring 2021
TH 12:30 – 1:45
Academic Building 227

Dr. Bradley Cesario
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Office: Academic Building 210H
Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 TWH (in person)
MWF via appointment (Zoom)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides an overview of U.S. military history, from its colonial beginnings to the recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Although this will include traditional ‘flags and battles’ aspects, the course is also intended to ask broader thematic questions and provide a more complete picture of U.S. military history. Why does the U.S. go to war? What are the political, technological, and cultural backgrounds to these decisions? How does the U.S. fight a war – and has that changed over time? How have ‘lessons learned’ from past conflicts shaped U.S. military policy? Is there a unique ‘American Way of War’ – and if so, has it been successful?

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Over the course of the semester, students will learn:

- the basic historical narrative of U.S. military history from colonial times to the present
- the role of individuals in U.S. military history, and how their roles tie into the larger narrative
- how to analyze and interpret primary source evidence, including examining official documents for perspectives and bias
- how to effectively compare primary and secondary source evidence in an academic context
- how to effectively judge and analyze evidence in an online context
- how to improve critical writing skills

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The textbook for this course is Allan Millett, Peter Maslowski, and William Feis, eds., For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States from 1607 to 2012 (ISBN:
It can be purchased at the bookstore or online (if purchasing online, please make sure to get the 2012 edition).

ATTENDANCE

As everyone is aware, this semester is happening under some very unique circumstances. With that in mind, I do not plan on making attendance required in this course (with one very important exception: all students must either attend class in person or log on to the course Blackboard page at least once during the first two weeks of class so that I can certify attendance). All lecture materials and PowerPoint slides will be posted online; they will be posted the day of the scheduled lecture and will remain available throughout the semester.

DUE TO REDUCED CLASSROOM ATTENDANCE LIMITS STEMMING FROM COVID-19, THIS CLASS WILL BE MEETING ON A GROUP 1 / GROUP 2 SCHEDULE. If your last name begins with A – K, you are Group 1. If your last name begins with L – Z, you are Group 2. Group 1 meets in person on Tuesdays, and Group 2 meets in-person on Thursdays. If your group is not meeting in class / in person on that day, you are still responsible for the lecture material (it will all be posted on Blackboard). ALL ASSIGNMENTS IN THIS COURSE WILL BE TAKEN ON BLACKBOARD. If you are unable to take an assignment because of a university excused absence, you must notify me via email BEFORE the assignment date to communicate that you have a university excused absence and to make arrangements to make-up the assignment (for more information on what constitutes a university excused absence, including observation of religious holy days, please click here). All assignments missed due to a university excused absence must be made up within 30 days (the sooner the better). If a sudden extreme illness or emergency makes prior communication infeasible, you have two days after the due date to notify me of your situation.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

There will be FOUR types of graded assignments during this course, for FIVE total grades: a midterm, a final, and three writing assignments. All assignments will be submitted via Blackboard, and all assignments will be take-home. Further information on all assignments will be provided during the course.

MIDTERM and FINAL: Both the midterm and final exams will consist of answering a combination of short answer and longer essay questions (with an element of choice). The midterm will be due on TUESDAY, MARCH 16. The final will be due on THURSDAY, MAY 13.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR PAPER: Students will read two chapters from Wayne Lee’s book Barbarians and Brothers, on Colonial warfare against the British and Colonial warfare against Native Americans (the chapters will be posted on Blackboard). They will then compare and contrast those styles of warfare in a 3-4 page double-spaced paper that will be due on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9.
CIVIL WAR PAPER: Students will read selections from Union and Confederate reports on the same battle in the *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (available online; details on access will be provided). They will then compare and contrast the reports on the same battle, with an eye towards historical reliability, in a 4-5 page double-spaced paper that will be due on **TUESDAY, MARCH 23**.

ORAL HISTORY PAPER PROJECT: For a final project, students will examine an oral history of their choice from either World War II or the Vietnam War (available online through the National Museum of the Pacific War and the Vietnam Center and Archive at Texas Tech, respectively; details on access will be provided). They will read their chosen oral history and then compare / contrast the author’s depiction of their service with what they have learned from secondary sources (both in and out of class) in a 7-8 page double-spaced paper that will be due on **THURSDAY, MAY 6**. Was the author’s experience unique? Standard? Somewhere in between?

Makeup assignments will be given **ONLY** with a university-excused absence. Further details on all assignments will be provided as the course progresses.

The overall grade in the course will be calculated as follows:

- Revolutionary War paper – 10%
- Civil War paper – 20%
- Midterm exam – 20%
- Oral History paper project – 20%
- Final exam – 30%

All assignments must be completed in some form to pass the course.

**GRADING SCALE:**

- A = 90 – 100%
- B = 80 – 89%
- C = 70 – 79%
- D = 60 – 69%
- F = 0 – 59%

**SPECIAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES RE: COVID-19**

All students are also able to take this class *entirely* online, using the provided material on Blackboard – if you choose this option, please let me know via email. If you feel sick, please stay home!

A seating chart will be required for those attending class in-person. This is so that contact tracing can be done if necessary.
As a member of the Texas Tech University System, Angelo State University has adopted the mandatory Facial Covering Policy to ensure a safe and healthy classroom experience. Current research on the COVID-19 virus suggests there is a significant reduction in the potential for transmission of the virus from person to person by wearing a mask/facial covering that covers the nose and mouth areas. Therefore, in compliance with the university policy students in this class are required to wear a mask/facial covering before, during, and after class. Faculty members may also ask you to display your daily screening badge as a prerequisite to enter the classroom. You are also asked to maintain safe distancing practices to the best of your ability. For the safety of everyone, any student not appropriately wearing a mask/facial covering will be asked to leave the classroom immediately. The student will be responsible for making up any missed class content or work. Continued non-compliance with the Texas Tech University System Policy may result in disciplinary action through the Office of Student Conduct.

Students must fill out the wellness check daily. It is available on RamPort or the ASU App. Please take a photo of your daily app, as you’ll be asked to display it to enter the buildings.

Depending on the situation, Angelo State may be required to move all courses online. The instructor may modify class requirements or format as necessary should this occur.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

All materials generated for and/or used in this course are copyrighted, which include but are not limited to the syllabus, exams, lectures, and presentations. Because these materials are copyrighted, you do not have the right to reproduce them in any way, unless I grant permission directly to you. *Also, do not record the lectures or take notes for any outside note-taking company without my permission.*

**ELECTRONIC ETIQUETTE POLICY**

Please make sure that you turn off/silence all cell phones, iPods, iPads, and other similar devices.

**ADA: STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. Persons with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112 University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to their implementation. You are encouraged to make this request early in the semester so that appropriate arrangements can be made.
COMMUNICATION

Please feel free to contact me if you have a problem. It is always better to see me early in the semester rather than the last week. Please note my posted office hours given at the top of the syllabus. If this is inconvenient, make an appointment for another time. Email (also listed at the top) is by far the best way to contact me outside of class, and I will respond to emails by the next business day. Please put the course number in the title of your email. Additionally (and very importantly), be sure that the question you’re asking cannot be easily answered by reading the syllabus. The syllabus might be amended. The current version of the syllabus will always be available on Blackboard.

ADDITIONAL USEFUL LINKS & INFORMATION

Advising: https://www.angelo.edu/dept/advising/

Counseling Services: https://www.angelo.edu/services/counseling/index.php

Student Handbook: https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/

Tutoring Center: https://www.angelo.edu/dept/freshman-college/academic-tutoring.php

Title IX at Angelo State University:

The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance.

Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Title IX Coordinator at:

Michelle Miller, J.D.
Title IX Coordinator
Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022
michelle.miller@angelo.edu

You may also file a report online 24/7 at www.angelo.edu/incident-form.
PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU’s Academic Integrity policy in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is utilizing someone else’s writings, ideas, or works without providing due credit or proper citation. Plagiarism is literary theft. Quotation marks and, if instructed by me or in the assignment criteria, footnote/endnote citations should be utilized in order to note the source of a work or idea. If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question or visit this helpful website to avoid common plagiarism pitfalls. There is no excuse for plagiarism. It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism. Be intentional about submitting original work, complete with proper citations.

Academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. Academic dishonesty might also include copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work as your own, failing to cite sources, or signing another student into class. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of “unauthorized collaboration” as a form of academic misconduct.

The History Department’s policy is that violations of the academic honor code will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses. In-class forms of plagiarism, such as signing in for another student, will be considered on a case by case basis, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation in egregious cases of misconduct. All academic integrity violations will be referred to the Executive Director of Student Affairs, who may impose additional sanctions if warranted as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct. Once a student has been notified of an academic integrity allegation, the student may not drop the course until the academic integrity processes are complete.

READING AND EXAM SCHEDULE

KEY: Group - Which group is meeting in class today? (G1 = Group 1, G2 = Group 2)

Week 1

(G1) 1/26: Course Introduction

(G2) 1/28: Colonial Warfare

Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 2

Week 2

(G1) 2/2: American Revolution (I)

Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 3
Week 3

2/9: **Assignment 1 due:** *Barbarians & Brothers*

(G2) 2/11: Military Policy & Developments, 1783-1812

**Reading:** *For the Common Defense* Chapter 4

Week 4

(G1) 2/16: The War of 1812

**Reading:** same as previous

2/18: no class

Week 5

(G1) 2/23: Military Policy & Developments, 1815-1860

**Reading:** *For the Common Defense* Chapter 5

(G2) 2/25: The Mexican-American War

**Reading:** same as previous

Week 6

(G1) 3/2: Civil War (I)

**Reading:** *For the Common Defense* Chapter 6

(G2) 3/4: Civil War (II)

**Reading:** *For the Common Defense* Chapter 7

Week 7

(G1) 3/9: Civil War (III)

**Reading:** same as previous
(G2) 3/11: Reconstruction & its Aftermath, 1865-1898
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 8

Week 8

3/16: MIDTERM EXAM

(G2) 3/18: Spanish-American War & Philippine War, 1898-1902
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 9

Week 9

(G1) 3/23: Military Policy & Developments, 1899 - WWI
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 10
  Assignment 2 due: Official Records

(G2) 3/25: WWI (I)
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 11

Week 10

(G1) 3/30: WWI (II)
  Reading: same as previous

(G2) 4/1: Military Policy & Developments between the World Wars
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapter 12

Week 11

(G1) 4/6: WWII in the Pacific
  Reading: For the Common Defense Chapters 13, 14
Week 12

(G1) 4/13: The Korean War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 15

(G2) 4/15: The Early Cold War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 16

Week 13

(G1) 4/20: The Threat of Nuclear War

Reading: same as previous

(G2) 4/22: The Vietnam War (I)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 17

Week 14

*Last day for all students to drop courses 4/30*

(G1) 4/27: The Vietnam War (II)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 18

(G2) 4/29: Military Developments through the End of the Cold War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 19
Week 15

(G1) 5/4: Afghanistan & Iraq  
**Reading:** *For the Common Defense* Chapter 21

5/6: Assignment 3 due: oral history project

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**FINAL EXAM:**

Thursday, May 12, 10:30 – 12:30

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**USE THIS HANDY CHART TO REMEMBER WHEN ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE!**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What day?</th>
<th>What assignment?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Feb 9</td>
<td>Revolutionary War Writing Assignment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Mar 23</td>
<td>Civil War Writing Assignment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, Mar 16</td>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 6</td>
<td>Oral History Paper Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, May 12</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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