

HISTORY 3379: U.S. Military History

Spring 2022
TH 12:30 – 1:45
Academic Building 233

Dr. Bradley Cesario
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Office Hours: 2:00 – 3:00 Tues, 12:00 – 1:00 Wed, 11:30 – 12:30 Thurs, or by appointment

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: 9781451623536). It can be purchased at the bookstore or online (if purchasing online, please make sure to get the 2012 edition).

ATTENDANCE

There will be daily attendance taken and a seating chart will be established, but attendance is not a course requirement (of course, you will probably get a better grade if you show up!). The daily lecture material will be posted on Blackboard by the time class begins, so you can follow along on your laptop if you prefer to take notes that way. I am not currently planning to post recordings of the material, but this is subject to change based on local conditions as they evolve. Please send me an email or speak with me if you have public health concerns related to class attendance.

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. All assignments missed due to a university excused absence must be made up within 30 days (the sooner the better, and you cannot make up any non-final assignment after the final has been taken). 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.

Students must fill out the wellness check daily. It is available on RamPort or the ASU App. Depending on the situation, Angelo State may be required to move courses to an online or hybrid format – further details and instructions will be sent via email if this should occur. Be safe out there!

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. The midterm and final will be taken in class (assuming circumstances permit); the writing assignments will be submitted online via Blackboard. 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 on **TUESDAY, MARCH 8**. The final will be due on **THURSDAY, MAY 12 from 10:30 – 12:30**. Although these exams will be taken in person, the topics covered will be posted as a study guide prior to the date.

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 **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3**.

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 **THURSDAY, MARCH 10**.

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 5**. 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%

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 and other similar devices. Laptops / tablets / etc. are allowed for note-taking purposes.

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.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at <https://www.angelo.edu/current-students/disability-services/>. For further details, please contact:

Dallas A. Swafford
Director of Student Disability Services
Houston Harte University Center, Room 112
325-942-2047
dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

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.***

HISTORY DEPT. STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM & 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.

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.

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: <https://www.angelo.edu/services/title-ix/> The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

www.angelo.edu/incident-form

Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
325-942-2022 michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about

an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325- 942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942- 2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State’s policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.

READING AND EXAM SCHEDULE

Week 1

1/18: Course Introduction

1/20: Colonial Warfare

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 2

Week 2

1/25: American Revolution (I)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 3

1/27: American Revolution (II)

Reading: same as previous

Week 3

2/1: Military Policy & Developments, 1783-1812

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 4

2/3: The War of 1812

Reading: same as previous

Assignment 1 due: *Barbarians & Brothers*

Week 4

2/8: Military Policy & Developments, 1815-1860

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 5

2/10: The Mexican-American War

Reading: same as previous

Week 5

2/15: Civil War (I)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 6

2/17: Civil War (II)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 7

Week 6

2/22: Civil War (III)

Reading: same as previous

2/24: Reconstruction & its Aftermath, 1865-1898

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 8

Week 7

3/1: Spanish-American War & Philippine War, 1898-1902

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 9

3/3: Military Policy & Developments, 1899 - WWI

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 10

Week 8

3/8: MIDTERM EXAM

3/10: Assignment 2 due: *Official Records*

Week 9

3/22: WWI (I)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 11

3/24: WWI (II)

Reading: same as previous

Week 10

3/29: Military Policy & Developments between the World Wars

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 12

3/31: WWII in the Pacific

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapters 13, 14

Week 11

4/5: WWII in Europe

Reading: same as previous

4/7: The Early Cold War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 16

Week 12

4/12: The Korean War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 15

4/14: The Threat of Nuclear War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 16

Week 13

4/19: The Vietnam War (I)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 17

4/21: The Vietnam War (II)

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 18

Week 14

Last day for all students to drop courses 4/28

4/26: Military Developments through the End of the Cold War

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 19

4/28: **NO CLASS**

Week 15

5/3: Afghanistan & Iraq

Reading: *For the Common Defense* Chapter 21

5/5: Assignment 3 due: oral history project

FINAL EXAM:

Thursday, May 12, 10:30 – 12:30

USE THIS HANDY CHART TO REMEMBER WHEN ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE!

What day?	What assignment?
Thursday, Feb 3	Revolutionary War Writing Assignment
Tuesday, Mar 8	Midterm Exam
Thursday, Mar 10	Civil War Writing Assignment
Thursday, May 5	Oral History Paper Project
Thursday, May 12	Final Exam