

# American Military History

| HIS 174 - CRN 79953 | Fall 2017 | Mon-Wed 1815-1930 | Gavett 202 |

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## Required Coursework and Grading

- **Three scheduled quizzes** will be given as noted on the syllabus. Each quiz counts 15 points and is based on material in the class lectures, plus a general knowledge of American history (biography, geography and chronology). Each of the three quizzes covers the specific period noted. Missed quizzes may not be made up unless you informed me ahead of time that you would be missing class.
- **Papers** – Must be handed in or e-mailed by the end of class on the date due – be aware that late papers will lose points. Papers should be double-spaced with a minimum 10-point font and 1-inch margin. Papers may be e-mailed in PDF format (preferred) or Word, or printed out and handed in at class. Double-sided printing is preferred. You are encouraged to include maps, photographs, etc. that are relevant to the topic.
- **Paper #1: Guns, Germs & Steel – Did Jared Diamond get it right? (15 points)** – Due 4 October – Write a 2–3 page paper giving your opinion about Diamond’s thesis that environmental determinism was the major factor in the rise of European technological superiority. Provide specifics about what you think he got right or wrong. Several articles supportive and critical of Diamond will be posted on Blackboard and covered in class lectures.
- **Paper #2: Veteran Interview (20 points)** – Due at the last class meeting on 13 December. Track down a relative, friend or anyone else who has either served in the U.S. Military (ROTC service alone does not count) or another country’s military service (there are a few around town). It is not necessary that they served during wartime. Interview them about their military career and submit a 5-page summary of their experience along with your reaction based on what you have read and learned in this course. The subject’s name or other specific details need not be identified if anonymity is requested. A narrative is preferred rather than a list of questions and answers. Provide some background on the subject’s unit and location at the time they served, including pictures, maps, and other information. If you can’t find a veteran let me know and I’ll get you in touch with one.
- **Final Project (20 points)** – Pick one of four options for the final project due at noon on Friday, 22 December 2017:
  - **Research paper** – Prepare and write a ten-page research paper on any military topic that is of interest to you (not limited to American military history). The military has had enormous impact on American society, culture, politics, technology, consumer goods, transportation, medicine, etc. In addition, wars and the military have left many lasting impacts ranging from veteran health care, education and pensions to environmental issues such as toxic wastes and land mines.
  - **Book review** – Select two (or more) books on the same or similar subject and e-mail me for confirmation that they are suitable. Write a ten-page paper comparing and contrasting the books and what you learned from them.
  - **Visit a battlefield** and write a ten-page paper describing the battle, who was involved, why it happened when and where it did, and what the current battlefield site has to offer tourists and historians. Nearby battlefields include Ganondagan, Lundy’s Lane, Newtown, Saratoga, Bennington, Oriskany, Ticonderoga, Bunker Hill, Gettysburg & Antietam.
  - **Visit a military museum** and write a ten-page paper describing the museum, who runs it, what exhibits they have, and your impression of what it offers tourists and historians. Examples include the Intrepid Sea Air Space Museum in New York City, the USS *Constitution* Museum in Boston (which is very close to the Bunker Hill battlefield and monument), the National Warplane Museum in Geneseo, Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park in Buffalo, New York State Military Museum in Latham, and the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum in Albany.
- **Grades** will be posted for each assignment on the course web page on Blackboard. Course grade will be determined on the total number of points earned in the course, with letter grades assigned according to the following scale:

94-100	A	83-84	B-	73-74	D+
91-93	A-	80-82	C+	70-72	D
88-90	B+	78-79	C	67-69	D-
85-87	B	75-77	C-	64-66	E

- **Movies/videos** – Documentary videos and movies related to the course will be shown.
- **Reading** – There are no required books, but a variety of primary source material, articles, and other material will be posted will be posted on Blackboard. If you don’t have a good background in history, a good reference source is *American Military History* published by the U. S. Army Center for Military History and available at: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/030/30-21/index.html> and <http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/030/30-22/index.html>. These are also available in print from Amazon and others: *American Military History, Volume I: The United States Army and the Forging of a Nation, 1775-1917* (2005, 425 pages) and *American Military History, Volume II: The United States Army in a Global Era, 1917-2010* (2010, 572 pages). Older editions are available at lower cost.

- **Other books** – There are literally thousands of books and journals about various aspects of American Military History, including many in the College Town book store. The following are recommended for those interested in a general history of the subject:
  - *American Military History* (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition) by William T. Allison, Jeffrey G. Grey & Janet G. Valentine. Pearson (2012) paperback
  - *For the Common Defense* (Revised Edition) by Allen R. Millett & Peter Maslowski. Free Press (2012) paperback 7
  - *Atlas of American Military History* (New edition) by Stuart A. P. Murray. Facts on File (2005) paperback
  - *A Sailor’s History of the U. S. Navy* by Thomas J. Cutler. Naval Institute Press (2004) hardcover
  - *U. S. Navy: A Complete History* by M. Hill Goodspeed. Hugh Lauter Levin Associates 92003) hardcover.
  - *The Marines* by Edward Simmons. Universe (1998) hardcover
  - *Dereliction of Duty* by Herbert Raymond "H. R." McMaster (Current National Security Advisor), Harper (1997)
  - *The Oxford Companion to American Military History*, 1st Edition, by John Whiteclay Chambers II (Editor)
  - *The American Way of War: A History of United States Military Strategy and Policy*, by Russell F. Weigley, Indiana University Press (paperback) (1977)
  - *Reconsidering the American Way of War: US Military Practice from the Revolution to Afghanistan*, by Antulio J. Echevarria II, Georgetown University Press (2014)\_
  - *The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War*, by Fred Kaplan, Simon & Schuster (2013)
- **Other resources** – Class powerpoint slides will be posted on Blackboard, along with links to relevant videos, and other relevant material. Feel free to suggest additional materials that should be included.

## Section I - Conquest, Settlement, and Independence - 1607-1820

1	<b>30 August</b> Introduction and Historical Background	Discussion of course objectives and grading. What is military history, and why is it important? Sources of military history. How did we get all the cargo?
	<b>4 September</b>	Labor Day – No class
2	<b>6 September</b> Background	Ancient Empires <b>Video <i>Guns, Germs &amp; Steel</i> – Part 1, Out of Eden</b>
3	<b>11 September</b> Background	The Crusades <b>Video <i>Guns, Germs &amp; Steel</i> – Part 2, Conquest</b>
4	<b>13 September</b> Wars of Religion	“Kill them all. God will know His own” Arnaud-Arnaury, the Abbot of Citeaux, 1209. "The discovery of America was due to the failure of the crusade against the Turks," <i>The Catholic Encyclopedia</i>
5	<b>18 September</b> Background	<b>Video <i>Guns, Germs &amp; Steel</i> – Part 3, Into the Tropics</b>
6	<b>20 September</b> Colonial Wars	“Discipline is the soul of an army. It makes small numbers formidable; procures success to the weak, and esteem to all." George Washington, 1759
7	<b>25 September</b> Colonial Wars	<b>Video - <i>When the Forest Ran Red</i></b> . How George Washington started the French and Indian War.
8	<b>27 September</b> The Revolutionary War	“Don’t one of you fire until you see the whites of their eyes.” Prescott at Bunker Hill
9	<b>2 October</b> The Revolutionary War and the War of 1812	<i>Status quo ante bellum</i> , Treaty of Ghent, December 24, 1814 <b>Quiz 1 - Covers 1607-1820</b>

## Section II - Building a New Nation - 1821-1930

10	<b>4 October</b> Indian Removal, Manifest Destiny and War with Mexico	“I know [the battle] is lost, but the volunteers don’t know it. Let them alone, we’ll see what they do.” Taylor at Buena Vista. <b>Paper 1 Due – Did Jared Diamond Get it Right?</b>
	<b>9 October</b>	Fall Break – no class
11	<b>11 October</b> Road to The Civil War	“If you like your slaves, you can keep them.”
12	<b>16 October</b> The Civil War 1861-1862	“Those not skinning can hold a leg." Lincoln

13	<b>18 October</b> The Civil War 1862-1863	"That on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State or designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free." Lincoln
14	<b>23 October</b> The Civil War and Reconstruction- 1863-1877	"The government of the United States has in North Alabama any and all rights which they choose to enforce in war, to take their lives, their houses, their land, their everything, because they cannot deny that war exists there, and war is simply power unconstrained by constitution or compact." Sherman
15	<b>25 October</b> Steam, Oil and Steel	"The supreme ships of the Navy, on which our life depended, were fed by oil and could only be fed by oil. The decision to drive the smaller craft followed naturally upon this. The camel once swallowed, the gnats went down easily enough." Churchill, 1923.
16	<b>30 October</b> The Frontier and the Empire	"Naval power can reach no further ashore. For tenure of the land you must have a man with a rifle." Admiral George Dewey, 1898.
17	<b>1 November</b> The Great War and the Bad Peace	"Good lord! You're not going to send soldiers over there, are you?" U.S. Senator Thomas S. Martin, April 6, 1917. <b>Quiz #2 covers 1821 - 1930</b>

### Section III - America as a World Power - 1930-?

18	<b>6 November</b> The Road to World War II	"The war isn't over. The hate and evil is greater now than ever. Very soon war will break out again and overwhelm you ... the Germans will soon rise again." D. H. Lawrence, November 11, 1918
19	<b>8 November</b> World War II – Poland, France, and American Rearmament	"I have said this before, but I shall say it again and again and again; your boys are not going to be sent into any foreign wars." FDR campaign address in Boston, October 30, 1940
20	<b>13 November</b> World War II – Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal and North Africa	"As for the Japanese, they will be ground to powder," Winston Churchill, December 7, 1941
21	<b>15 November</b> World War II - Sicily, Normandy, Pacific Island Hopping, and Submarines	"You will enter the continent of Europe and, in conjunction with the other United Nations, undertake operations aimed at the heart of Germany and the destruction of her armed forces." Directive to Supreme Commander, Allied Expeditionary Force, February 12, 1944.
22	<b>20 November</b> The War in Europe – D-Day to Berlin	"Nuts!" General Anthony McAuliffe's response to German surrender demand at Bastogne, December 22, 1944.
	<b>22 November</b>	Thanksgiving – no class
23	<b>27 November</b> The War in the Pacific	"Thank God for the Atomic Bomb," Paul Fussell
24	<b>29 November</b> The Cold War: Korea, Cuba, Berlin, and Mutual Assured Destruction	"I am beginning to think that what we need is a type of staff officers with at least three heads-one political, one economic, and one military," Gen. George Arthur Lincoln, 1945. "An iron curtain has descended across the Continent," Winston Churchill, March 5, 1946
25	<b>4 December</b> Vietnam and the Race to the Moon	"We shan't have to leave our fortress, now, when we want to blow up civilization." Mark Twain <b>Quiz #3 - 1930 - 1975</b>
26	<b>6 December</b> The Cold War Won	"It is beneath our dignity to retaliate against the terrorists who blew up the Marine barracks," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Gen. John W. Vessey, 1983 "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall!" Ronald Reagan, June 12, 1987
27	<b>11 December</b> Iraq, Afghanistan, and The Limits of Military Power	"We Will, In Fact, Be Greeted As Liberators," Vice- President Dick Cheney, 2003 "The American people are weary of war without victory," President Donald Trump, 2017
28	<b>13 December</b> Getting ready to fight the next war.	"I have seen much war in my lifetime and I hate it profoundly. But there are worse things than war; and all of them come with defeat." Ernest Hemingway <b>Veteran Interview paper due.</b>
	<b>22 December (Friday)</b>	<b>Final project due at noon</b>