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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This web seminar will study the historical development of the military institutions and military theory from ancient times to the 5th Century. Readings in the course will include important secondary works as well as primary sources. This course will also address the interaction between society and military institutions, technology and techniques. It will study the interrelationships of warfare, technology and society in history. Rather than being concerned only with individual wars, types of weaponry, tactics or individual leaders, the seminar will focus on such questions as how changing "styles" of warfare, the composition of the military establishment (i.e. "citizen armies," paid professionals, mercenaries), and advancements--or regressions--in military technology have impacted upon armed forces, states and societies. Conversely, it will also investigate how political and societal changes have influenced the nature of warfare in the ancient world.

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### **PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE**

- 1) To give students an understanding of the history of military institutions and theory from earliest times to the end of the ancient era.
- 2) To sharpen the students' skills in: (a) historical interpretation; (b) research; and (c) writing

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### **CLASS SCHEDULE AND PROCEDURE:**

- 1) The class schedule will consist of one assignment each week. The format of each assignment will consist of: (a) reading of general book-length studies of the history of war in its context; (b) the reading of web secondary and primary web sources on specific problems and issues related to the week's topics; and (c) the writing of two short "reaction essays" on some of the major issues and topics.
- 2) At the end of reading each major study (usually every three or four weeks), the seminar will meet in a chat room to evaluate that study.
- 3) Lists of readings, discussion questions, and other supplementary materials will be posted for students on Blackboard.

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### **STUDENT REQUIREMENTS AND THE EVALUATION OF STUDENT WORK:**

- 1) **Reading assignments:** Students are expected to read text assignments and enough web assignments to participate in discussion forums effectively. Readings from the text and supplementary sources are given on a weekly basis. Each student is expected to read general assignments (Ferrill, Nicolle) and specific assignments of primary and secondary on a particular topic. The students are expected to discuss assigned text readings in the discussion forums.
- 2) **Discussion Forums:** Students are expected to participate in a discussion forum each week. On a weekly basis, the instructor will present two or more questions based upon the web and text readings. Within the first three days of the week, students are to address these questions in the discussion forum. Students should respond to the questions in one or more paragraphs per question. They should substantiate their answers and opinions with material culled from the web and text readings. In the subsequent four days, the instructor will comment on the response in the forum. In addition, students will react to one another's responses to the questions. They can also make comments and pose questions regarding other issues brought up in the forum. At the end of each week the instructor will close and archive the previous week's discussion forum and introduce the next week's forum. If all members of the seminar agree, a week's forum can be extended. Each student's participation will be evaluated in the following manner. A student can earn up to ten points for their answers to the week's questions and ten points for their other comments, questions, and reactions in the forum. (20 points per week; 200 points total for the semester).
- 3) **Three book reviews (1500 to 2500 words each).** Each student will write one book review on each of the three hardcover books assigned for this course. They are called upon to analyze the author's views regarding their topic in ancient military history. Each essay will be worth 100 points for a total of 300 points.
- 4) **Problem specialty:** Each student will specialize in two particular issues or problems of the ancient military history during the course and will conduct further readings into the historical investigation of those problems. The student is expected to relate discussion forum topics to the experience and issues of their special problems. The student can choose to specialize on any of

the problems listed in the course outline.

- 5) Essay in Historiography. Each student is required to write an essay on one of the problems or issues of their specialty. The essay will cover the historiography of a particular problem of ancient military history. Each historiographical essay will include a 3000 to 5000 word text together with a bibliography. Copies of the text will be given to the other members of the seminar on Blackboard.
  - 6) Course evaluation and grades. Evaluation of student performance will be based upon the following criteria:
    - a) Discussion Forums (200 points or about 30 percent of the course grade)
    - b) Three book reviews. (300 points or over 40 percent of the course grade)
    - c) Essay. (200 points or about 30 percent of the course grade)
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## REQUIRED READINGS

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War : From the Stone Age to Alexander the Great\* \(History & Westview Press, 1997. ISBN: 0813333024.](#)

[Victor Davis Hanson. \*Wars of the Ancient Greeks\* \(Smithsonian History of Warfare\) \(Smithsonian History of Warfare\). Collins, 2006.](#)

[Adrian Goldsworthy. \*Roman Warfare\*. \(Smithsonian History of Warfare\). Collins, 2005.](#)

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## Schedule of Web Assignments

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### Web Assignment 1: The Origins of War.

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

Supplementary Web Assignments:

[A Babylonian Account of Creation](#)

[The Revolt of Heaven](#)

[The Theogony of Hesiod](#)

[Genesis](#)

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### Web Assignment 2: War and Warfare in Ancient Near East

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

Excerpts from Egyptian Sources:

[Excerpts from an account of the Battle of Kadesh](#)

[Treaty of Peace Between Rameses II and the Hittites](#)

[The Invasion of the Sea Peoples](#)

Excerpts from the Old Testament:

[The Israelite Conquest of Canaan](#)

[The Exploits of Gideon](#)

[A Chaldaean Campaign against Judah](#)

Excerpts from Assyrian Documents:

[The Annals of Sargon](#)

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### Web Assignment 3: The Military in Ancient China and India

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

Excerpts from Chinese Sources:

[On the Art of War by Sun-Tzu](#)

Excerpts from Indian Sources:

[The Laws of Manu](#)

[A Greek Description of India](#)

[Kautilya: From The Arthashastra](#)

REVIEW OF FERRILL DUE.

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### Web Assignment 4: War and Warfare in Ancient Persia

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

Excerpts from Persian Documents:

[Funeral inscription of Darius](#)

[Inscription of Xerxes at Persepolis](#)

Excerpts from the *Cyropaedia* of Xenophon:

[Xenophon's Description of young Cyrus and Persian Education](#)

Excerpts from the *Histories* of Herodotus:

[Herodotus on Persia and the Persia](#)

[Xerxes' Plan to Invade Greece, the Bridging of the Hellespont and the Persian Order of Battle](#)

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### Web Assignment 5: War and Warfare in the Greek World

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

[Victor Davis Hanson. \*Wars of the Ancient Greeks\*](#)

Excerpts from the *Iliad* of Homer:

[The Expedition against Troy in the \*Iliad\*](#)

[The Duel Between Achilles and Hector in the \*Iliad\*](#)

Excerpts from the *Histories* of Herodotus:

[Herodotus on the Pelasgians and the Early Greeks](#)

[The Battle of Thermopylae according to Herodotus](#)

[The Battle of Salamis according to Herodotus](#)

Excerpts from the *Histories* of Thucydides:

[Thucydides on Early Greece](#)

[The Origin of the Peloponnesian War](#)

Excerpts from the works of Xenophon:

[Xenophon on the Constitution of the Lacedaimonians](#)

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### Web Assignment 6: The Macedonian and Hellenistic Military

Main Text Readings:

[Arther Ferrill. \*The Origins of War\*](#)

[Victor Davis Hanson. \*Wars of the Ancient Greeks\*](#)

Secondary Sources:

[A Summary of Books II through VII of the \*Xenophon's Anabasis\*](#)

[The Struggle of the \*Diadochoi\*, the Successors of Alexander the Great for Control of His Empire](#)

Excerpts from the *Anabasis* of Xenophon:

[The Persian Employment of Greek Mercenaries in a Civil War as Described by Xenophon](#)

Excerpts from the *Parallel Lives* of Plutarch:

[Plutarch on Alexander the Great](#)

[Plutarch on Demetrius Poliorcetes](#)

Excerpts from the *Anabasis of Alexander* of Arrian

[Arrian on Alexander the Great](#)

[Arrian on Alexander's Campaigns](#)

REVIEW OF HANSON DUE.

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**Web Assignment 7:** The Roman Military under the Republic

Main Text Readings:

[Adrian Goldsworthy. \*Roman Warfare\*](#)

Excerpts from the *Histories* of Polybius:

[Polybius compares Rome and Carthage](#)

[Polybius on the Roman Army](#)

[Phalanx Versus Legion](#)

Excerpts from the *Histories* of Livy:

[Livy describes the Early Roman Army](#)

[Alexander the Great Versus the Romans](#)

Excerpts from the *Parallel Lives* of Plutarch:

[Plutarch on Julius Caesar](#)

[Plutarch on Gnaeus Pompey](#)

[The Career of Marcus Crassus](#)

Excerpts from the *Gallie War* of Julius Caesar:

[Caesar on the Gauls and Germans](#)

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**Web Assignment 8:** The Roman Military under the Empire

Main Text Readings:

[Adrian Goldsworthy. \*Roman Warfare\*](#)

Excerpts from the *Res Gestae* of Augustus Caesar:

[The Deeds of Augustus](#)

Excerpts from Josephus:

[Roman Imperial armies and camps, as described by Josephus](#)

[A Roman Imperial Army on the March, as described by Josephus](#)

[The German Guards' Response to the Death of Caligula, ca. 41 A.D.](#)

Excerpts from Tacitus:

[A Description of Germany and the Germans by Tacitus](#)

Excerpts from Paterculus:

[The Battle of Teutoburg Forest, described by Paterculus](#)

REVIEW OF GOLDSWORTHY DUE.

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**Web Assignment 9:** The Roman Military and the Movement of Peoples.

Main Text Readings:

[Adrian Goldsworthy. \*Roman Warfare\*](#)

Excerpts from Josephus:

[The German Guards' Response to the Death of Caligula, ca. 41 A.D.](#)

Excerpts from Tacitus:

**A Description of Germany and the Germans by Tacitus**

**Excerpts from Paterculus:**

**The Battle of Teutoburg Forest, described by Paterculus**

**Excerpts from Ammianus Marcellinus:**

**A Fourth-Century Description of the Huns**

**The Battle of Adrianople, 9 August 378, described by Ammianus Marcellinus**

**Excerpts from Vegetius:**

**The Military Institutions of the Romans (De Re Militari)**

**Excerpts from Priscus:**

**A Fifth-Century Embassy to the Huns**

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**Week 10: WRITING TIME**  
**HISTORIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY DUE**

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