

HIS 386: The Military and War in America

CID# 7593

Credit: 3 hours Summer Semester I 2008

Classroom: LDB, Rm. 209 Class Time: Monday - Friday, 10:00 - 11:50 AM

Instructor: Dr. Robert B. Bruce

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Office Hours: AB IV Rm. 451, by appointment

Introduction:

Welcome to HIS 386: The Military and War in America. This course is designed to provide you with indepth coverage of American Military History from the First World War through the Vietnam War. The course explores the growth, and expansion of the United States as a military power and how that was integrally linked to the growth of the nation itself. Students will learn how the United States became the dominant nation in the western hemisphere, and how it transformed into a global super power whose military influence spans the globe. Students will also study European and Asian history in order to understand the wars America has fought on those continents as well as how and why certain nations became our enemies while others became allies. Students will learn about military leadership in America and study the battles and campaigns of America's best commanders as well as those of the enemies they faced on the battlefield.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop an understanding of and appreciation for the military history of the United States
- Students will learn how the United States grew as a military power
- Students will learn how the United States military evolved over time and its place in American society
- Students will learn about the political origins of America's different wars
- Students will study the conduct of the different wars in American history and understand their similarities as well as differences
- Students will learn about the great, and not great, military and political leaders who led the United States in time of war
- Students will study weaponry and battlefield tactics to understand how wars have been fought and the role of technology in shaping the battlefield
- Students will learn about the pivotal battles in American history that determined the fate of the nation

Required Textbooks:

Robert B. Bruce, *A Fraternity of Arms: America & France in the Great War*

Peter S. Kindsvatter, *American Soldiers*

Attendance Policy:

Attendance is taken at every class meeting. It is your responsibility to attend class and keep up with your assigned readings. Consequently you will need to make an extra effort to not miss class and maintain a strict reading schedule or else you will rather quickly fall behind. You are expected to attend every class but attendance is your responsibility. Therefore you are responsible for all material presented in the classroom whether you were in attendance or not. If you cannot be present for an examination, you must inform me within 24 hours of the scheduled time for the exam that you will not be present AND be able to produce a written excuse from an acceptable outside authority indicating the reasons for your absence. In the event that the excuse is acceptable, then a make-up examination will be scheduled and administered on the assigned day. The final decision on whether or not a make-up exam will be allowed is at the discretion of the professor.

Communication:

When I need to make a general announcement regarding a change in schedule, exam date, topic change, etc., I will send an e-mail to your SHSU e-mail account. It is your responsibility to monitor your e-mail account for any such communications from me.

Course Requirements:

There will be a total of three examinations administered by the instructor based upon material covered in classroom lectures, assigned readings in the required textbooks, and audio-visual materials viewed in the classroom. These exams will consist of objective questions, short essay questions and map questions.

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| <u>Grading</u> | <u>Grade Scale:</u> |
| Exam #1 100 pts. | A: 100 - 90% 300 - 270 pts. |
| Exam #2 100 pts. | B: 89 - 80% 269 - 240 pts. |
| Exam #3 100 pts. | C: 79 - 70% 239 - 210 pts. |
| Total Points Possible: 300 pts. | D: 69 - 60% 209 - 180 pts. |
| THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT IN THIS COURSE | F: 59% or less. 179 or less pts. |

Course Schedule & Topical Outline

NOTE: This is a tentative outline and dates for assignments & topics may change at the discretion of the professor.

Any such changes will be announced via e-mail and/or in class at the appropriate time.

| CLASS WEEK | GENERAL TOPICS | EXAM and READING ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|
| Week 1 June 3 - 6 | World War I | <i>Fraternity of Arms</i> |
| Week 2 June 9 - 13 | World War I | <i>Fraternity of Arms</i> Exam #1: June 13th |
| Week 3 June 16 - 20 | World War II | <i>American Soldiers</i> Exam #2: June 20th |
| Week 4 June 23 - 27 | Korean War | <i>American Soldiers</i> |
| Week 5 June 30 - July 1 | Vietnam War | <i>American Soldiers</i> Final Exam: July 1 |

COURSE POLICIES

(Your enrollment in this course confirms that you have read these policies and have agreed to abide by them).

Attendance

You are expected to attend every class session, arrive on time for class, and only leave when the class is concluded. I understand that on occasion emergencies will arise, however repeated tardiness, leaving class early, or failure to attend will be considered disruptive behavior and will be dealt with accordingly. If you miss class, you are still responsible for all of the material covered in class that day.

University Policy on Student Conduct:

Students will refrain from behavior in the classroom that intentionally or unintentionally disrupts the learning process and, thus, impedes the mission of the university. No food of any kind is allowed in the classroom. Cellular telephones must be turned off before class begins, and phones, I-Pods, headphones, and other electronic devices put away before class begins. Students are prohibited from sleeping, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, talking at inappropriate times, wearing inappropriate clothing, using tobacco products, or engaging in any other form of distraction. Inappropriate behavior in the classroom shall result in a directive to

leave class. Students who are especially disruptive also may be reported to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with university policy and be permanently removed from the course.

Also See: <https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Recording of Lectures

It is the policy of this instructor that students may **NOT** record lectures given in class, nor any multi-media material presented in class, in any way, shape or form. Students are welcome to take notes on their personal computer, provided that in doing so they do not disturb other students or the instructor.

Plagiarism & Cheating

Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and may be punished by failure on the exam, paper, or project; failure in the course; and/or expulsion from the university. The SHSU Student Guidelines academic honesty policy states:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

SHSU Policy on Academic Dishonesty:

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

ADA Accommodations

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired. SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register

with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. **NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.**

Classroom Visitors:

Unannounced visitors to class must present a current, official SHSU identification card to be permitted in the classroom. They must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. If the visitor is not a registered student, it is at the instructor's discretion whether or not the visitor will be allowed to enter and remain in the classroom.

Religious Holiday Policy:

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. "Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.
