

History 4510  
3 Credits  
Dr. Ping  
TR 1-2:20  
Electronic Learning Center 106

Fall, 2009

## WORLD MILITARY HISTORY

*“A true war story is never moral. It does not instruct, nor encourage virtue, nor suggest models of proper human behavior, nor restrain men from doing the things men have always done. If a story seems moral, do not believe it. If at the end of a war story you feel uplifted, or if you feel that some small bit of rectitude has been salvaged from the larger waste, then you have been made the victim of a very old and terrible lie. There is no rectitude whatsoever. There is no virtue. As a first rule of thumb, therefore, you can tell a true war story by its absolute and uncompromising allegiance to obscenity and evil. You can tell a true war story if it embarrasses you. If you don't care for obscenity, you don't care for the truth; if you don't care for the truth, watch how you vote.”*

*“The character of battle, like its name, is slaughter.”*

*“In war everything is uncertain.”* **Carl von Clausewitz**, *On War*.

**Carl von Clausewitz**, *On War*

**Tim O'Brien**, *The Things They Carried*. Vietnam vet and National Book Award winning author, 1998.

History 4510 is an upper division lecture course in the military history of the world since 1855. We will begin with the American Civil War and dwell extensively on the First and Second World Wars. The study of military history requires no justification! Any form of social activity that has taken the lives of approximately one hundred million people in the twentieth century alone, is an activity that truly deserves study.

### **Required Reading:**

Theodore Ropp: *War in the Modern World*.

Paul Fussell: *The Boy's Crusade*.

All reading assignments for History 4510 will be drawn from these required texts.

### **Course Outcome/Objectives:**

Students will be asked to demonstrate an understanding of the methodologies, concepts, and subject matter of the historical discipline—in this case, military history.

### **ADA Disclaimer:**

**Students with medical, psychological, learning or other disabilities desiring academic adjustments, accommodations or auxiliary aids will need to contact the Southern Utah University Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (SDD), in Room 206F of the Sharwan Smith Center or phone (435) 865-8022. SDD determines eligibility for and authorizes the provision of services.**

### **Academic Integrity:**

**Scholastic dishonesty will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent. You are expected to have read and understood the current issue of the student handbook (published by Student Services) regarding student responsibilities and rights, and the intellectual property policy, for information about procedures and about what constitutes acceptable on-campus behavior.**

**Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grading, late assignments, makeup work, and attendance policies may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.**

### **Office Hours:**

MWF 10:00am-12:00pm  
225K CENTRUM  
X5457

### **Class Policies:**

History 4510 will be structured according to the lecture model. Your responsibilities therefore will include attending lecture and taking notes, completing the reading assignments, and taking the exams. Your questions are an important part of this course. Since the essay examinations in this class will be drawn largely from material presented in lecture, your regular attendance will improve your chances of doing well in History 4510.

### **Class Videos and DVDS:**

We will show numerous short videos or portions of Hollywood films in class to illustrate military developments in the last two centuries. You will be responsible for all video materials on your exams.

### **Grading:**

Your grade in History 4510 will reflect your performance on one midterm assignment, one in-class midterm exam, and a final examination. All three exams will be structured on the essay model and will require you to respond to essay and/or identification questions. The exams are scheduled as follows:

First Midterm Take-home assignment due: Thursday October 15.

Second Midterm: Thursday November 19.

Final Examination: Thursday, December 10 @ 3:00pm.

Each exam will count for approximately 30% of your grade. Approximately 10% of your final grade will reflect your attendance and class participation. You will be responsible for all reading assignments and material presented in class (including videos) upon the exams. You will find review materials for these exams on this syllabus.

### **Class Schedule, Lecture Topics, and Reading Assignments:**

**Week 1: (August 24-28)** Introduction to the course. **Video:** "The Road to Total War."

**Week 2: (August 31-September 4)** Lessons of the Vietnam War. Industrial Revolution and War, the Crimean War.

**Week 3: (September 7-11)** Rifle, Telegraph and Railroad. *Ropp*, Chapter 6.

**Week 4: (September 14-18)** The American Civil War. *Ropp*, Chapter 6. Video: Ken Burns: The Civil War. *Ropp*, Chapter 6.

**Week 5: (September 21-25) (September 14-18)** Prussia and the German Military Tradition. *Ropp*, Chapter 6.

**Week 6: (September 28-October 2)** Industrialization of War 2, Colonial Warfare. *Ropp*, Chapter 7.

**Week 7: (October 5-9) Reading:** *Ropp*, Chapter 8. Background to the First World War: Schlieffen and Foch. *Please Note: I will be out of town from Wednesday October 7 through Tuesday October 13 to attend and present a paper at the International German Studies Association Conference in Washington DC. Please see the midterm assignment.*

**Week 8: (October 12-16)** The Western Front. *Ropp*, Chapter 9. Video: "The Devil's Coaches." First Midterm Assignment due: Thursday October 15.

**Week 9: (October 19-23)** Airpower, Birth of armored warfare. *Ropp*, Chapter 10.

**Week 10: (October 26-30)** New Theories and New Weapons. Blitzkrieg: The Opening Moves of the Second World War. Begin Paul Fussell, *The Boy's Crusade*.

**Week 11: (November 2-6)** The Second World War: Total War: The Battle of Britain. *Ropp*, Chapter 10, Continue *Fussell*.

**Week 12: (November 9-13)** The Second World War: The Bomber Offensive, Normandy and the Second Front.

**Week 13: (November 16-20)** The Pacific War. Midterm II Thursday.

**Week 14: (November 23-27)** The Bomb and the End of the Second World War. Thanksgiving Recess Thursday.

**Week 15: (November 30-December 4)** Conclusion and Review.

**Final Examination:** Thursday, December 10 @ 3:00pm.

### Midterm Assignment I

Your first assignment for History 4510 will be to select one general question from below and respond in an essay not to exceed four pages. You are free to make use of lecture notes and course texts. *Please note: This is not a term paper, but rather an essay; therefore, formal citations are not necessary!*

1. How did Helmuth von Moltke and the Prussian army take advantage of the rifle, railroad and telegraph to defeat Austria in 1866?
2. Sir Basil Liddell-Hart has written that the only true "Napoleonic" commander to emerge from the American Civil War was Ulysses S. Grant. Do you agree or disagree?
3. Why did the United States lose the Vietnam War? In your response, please address the military and political strategy employed by the United States. How did North Vietnam—

that little “Piss ant country” as President Johnson famously described it—prevail in the conflict?

## **MILITARY HISTORY MIDTERM REVIEW II**

1. What technological factors made the First World War such a bloody and frustrating tactical stalemate? How did military planners eventually solve “the problem of the trenches?”
2. Compare and contrast the German theory of tactical airpower with the American theory of strategic airpower. What was the primary mission of the Luftwaffe? How did the United States Army Air Corps visualize its mission?
3. What was *BLITZKRIEG*? Can you discuss the particular combination of airpower, tanks, and infantry that characterized the stunning German victory against France in 1940?

### **Possible Identifications:**

The Schlieffen Plan  
The Somme, July 1, 1916  
J.F.C. Fuller  
Heinz Guderian  
Maginot Line  
Manfred von Richthofen  
P-51 Mustang

## **FINAL REVIEW**

Please be prepared to respond to the following essay questions.

1. How and why did the United State win the Pacific War against Japan? Why did President Truman decide to employ nuclear weapons against Japan?
2. How did the United States Army defeat the German army in 1944-45? How would you assess Dwight David Eisenhower as a commander?

### **Possible Identifications:**

Rolling Thunder  
Curtis LeMay  
Ia Drang  
Curtis Lemay  
Iwo Jima  
D-Day  
Midway

