

## History 230, American Military History, FALL 2009

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Themes: This is an overview of U.S. military history from the colonial period to the present. The themes that will be addressed are: Is there an American way of war? How has US military policy changed? How has the United States organized its armed forces? How have the US armed forces evolved and reformed? How have Americans tried to balance their need for security with civilian control?

### Learning Objectives

- 1) Students will learn critical thinking, essay writing, active listening and note taking from lectures, and reading comprehension.
- 2) Students will learn to identify significant historical events and trends and develop narrative, analytical, and interpretive writing skills.
- 3) Students will learn the narrative of US military history and the impact of events, technology, national policy, individuals, social trends, and other factors on US military affairs.

Course Requirements: There will be two semester examinations (150 points) and a final examination (200 points). All examinations will include a combination of multiple choice and short answer questions and will be based on material from the readings and the lectures. Students are responsible for the material in the readings whether or not discussed in class. Students must use appropriate examination materials (Scantron, Blue book and pen).

Veterans' Questionnaire: Students can receive 10 points for participating in a Veterans' Questionnaire project. Any veteran from any service can participate. Questionnaires will be distributed in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of class. Students may do two or more surveys, but they will only be counted on as 15 points maximum. The surveys are due on 3 December but may be turned in earlier. Do not mail the survey in yourself.

Grade Scale:; 1<sup>st</sup> Exam=150 points; 2<sup>nd</sup> Exam=150 points; Final Exam=200 points. Total=500 points. Distribution: A=450-500; B=400-449; C=350-399; D=300-349; F=below 300 points

### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

Joseph P. Martin, *Memoir of a Revolutionary Soldier*  
Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski, *For the Common Defense* (revised edition)  
Tom Ricks, *Fiasco*  
George Wilson, *If You Survive*

### **COURSE TOPICS and READINGS**

- 1 Sept.--Introduction to U.S. Military History. (*Common Defense*, Intro. and Ch. 1)
- 3 Sept.--Frontier Warfare (*Common Defense*, Chs. 1-2)
- 8 Sept.—War of Independence (*Common Defense*, Ch. 3; *Memoir of a Revolutionary Solider*)
- 10-15 Sept.--Military Policy, 1783-1860 (*Common Defense*, Chs. 4-5)
- 17 Sept.--Naval Policy, 1783-1865 (*Common Defense*, Chs. 4-5)
- 22-29 Sept.-- Civil War (*Common Defense*, Chs. 6-7)

**1 Oct.--FIRST EXAMINATION** (*Common Defense*, Chs. 1-7, *Memoir*)  
6 Oct.—Military and Naval Policy, 1865-1898 (*Common Defense*, Ch. 8)  
8-13 Oct.—Imperial Wars, 1898-1902 (*Common Defense*, Ch. 9)  
15 Oct.—Military Reform, 1898-1917 (*Common Defense*, Ch. 10)  
20 Oct.—World War I (*Common Defense*, Ch. 11)  
22-27 Oct.—Interwar, 1919-1941 (*Common Defense*, Ch. 12)  
29 Oct.-5 Nov.--World War II (*Common Defense*, Chs. 13-14, *If You Survive*)  
**10 Nov.--SECOND EXAMINATION** (*Common Defense*, Chs. 8-14, *If You Survive*)  
12 Nov.-- Cold War and Korea (*Common Defense*, Ch. 15-16)  
17 Nov.-- Nuclear Strategy (*Common Defense*, Ch. 16)  
19 Nov.— Movie “Doctor Strangelove”  
24 Nov.-1 Dec.—Vietnam Era, 1960-73 (*Common Defense*, Ch. 17;]  
3 Dec.—Military Renaissance (*Common Defense*, Ch. 18) SURVEYS DUE  
8 Dec.—War in Iraq (*Fiasco*, all)  
**FINAL: 16 December, 1-3 pm.**

**Makeup Examinations: All make up exams will consist of essay questions.** Please see <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule7.htm> for A&M’s policy on university-excused absences. For illness-or injury-related absences of fewer than three days, a note from a health care professional confirming date and time of visit will be required in order to count the absence as university-excused; for absences of three days or more, the note must also contain the medical professionals’ confirmation that absence from class was necessary (see Rule 7.1.6.1).

**Students with Disabilities:** “The Americans with Disabilities Act” (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this law requires that students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If a student believes that they have a disability requiring accommodation, they should contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 116B, Cain Hall (campus phone 845-1637). It is the student’s responsibility to discuss this matter with the professor.

**Office Hours:** Office hours are an opportunity for students meet with the instructor on an individual or small group basis to discuss the course material, assignments, and their progress. If a student cannot meet the instructor during office hours, an appointment can be made at a mutually convenient time. Students can also contact the instructor through e-mail.

**Attendance and Lecture Notes:** Examinations will be based on both readings and lectures. Students should read the appropriate sections of *Common Defense* before attending a specific lecture. Attendance is not mandatory, but it is recommended that students attend all lectures and take notes. Students who miss quizzes or examinations without a university excuse will not be allowed to take them on their return. Taking detailed notes from lectures is a learning objective in this course. This means more than copying the Powerpoint slides, it means following the lecture’s narrative, details, and argument. **The lecture outlines are available. The lecture Powerpoints will not be emailed to students.** Students who miss lectures should visit the instructor or GTA during office hours or by appointment.

**Honor Code: An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do**