



HISTORY 580.02

EUROPEAN MILITARY HISTORY, 1871 TO THE NEAR PRESENT

Instructor: Dr. Nick Steneck

Classroom: Hopkins Hall 162

Meeting Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-5:18pm

Office: 164 Dulles Hall, 230 W. 17th Avenue

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00pm

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Course Description. This course explores the military history of Europe and those portions of the world in which European military institutions and patterns of warfare dominated from the Franco-Prussian War through the devastating world wars of the twentieth century to the near present. The course traces the development of the tactical means and operational methods of organized, socially-sanctioned armed violence—that is war—and the development of strategies within which to apply them for political, economic, or social ends. Implicit to this orientation is a concern with the theory of war and its historical development. The course devotes particular attention to the relationships between changing technology, the manner in which warfare is conducted, the purposes for which wars are fought, and the impact of war on individuals and societies. The geographical focus of this course is on Europe, North America, and Asia. Developments in Africa and South America addressed only insofar as they influenced the theory and practice of war in the periods and regions described above. Although land warfare is the course's principal focus, air and naval matters will also be discussed.

Assigned Readings. The following books are required for the course and, with the exception of the Bess reading) are available at the SBX Bookstore. You are welcome to look for the books on-line but should make sure you purchase the correct edition. You are also responsible for any videos shown in class and class handouts. The books are listed in the order we shall discuss them.

- Hew Strachan, *The First World War* (Penguin, 2005).
- Paul Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory* (Oxford University Press, 2000).
- Belinda J. Davis, *Home Fires Burning: Food, Politics, and Everyday Life in World War I Berlin* (University of North Carolina Press, 2000).
- R.A.C. Parker, *The Second World War: A Short History* (Oxford University Press, 2002).
- Christopher Browning, *Ordinary Men: Reserve Police Battalion 101 and the Final Solution in Poland* (Harper Perennial, 1993).
- Hans Erich Nossack, *The End: Hamburg 1943* (University of Chicago Press, 2006).
- Michael Bess, "Bombing Civilian Populations," in *Choices Under Fire: Moral Dimensions of World War II* (Alfred A. Knopf, 2006). Electronic reading available at the course web site.
- Bernard B. Fall, *Street Without Joy: The French Debacle in Indochina* (Stackpole Books, 2005).

Graded Assignments. To receive full credit for this class you must complete all of the following assignments. Please note that I reserve the right to fail students, including graduating seniors, who do not complete all of the assignments.

- A take-home midterm exam, worth forty percent (40%) of the final grade;
- A take-home cumulative final exam, worth fifty percent (50%) of the final grade; and
- Class attendance and participation, worth ten percent (10%) of the final grade.

Both the midterm and final exams will take the form of argumentative essays written in response to a single question. You will receive the questions approximately two weeks in advance of the date the exams are due. The midterm exam will cover all of the assigned readings through the week of April 21, 2008. Regular attendance and active participation in class discussions are required. In general, if you miss more than two class meetings and make less than five meaningful contributions to class discussions, you are unlikely to receive an “A” for this part of your grade.

Grading Scale. I use the following grading scale when assigning grades in this course. Normal rounding rules apply. I DO NOT grade on a curve.

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	E
93+	92-90	89-88	87-83	82-80	79-78	77-73	72-70	69-68	67-60	59-

In the case of borderline final grades, I will take both improvement and the extent of your attendance and participation into account.

Assignment Make-Up Policy. If for any family, medical, or personal emergency you find it necessary to miss a scheduled examination or assignment (but not a quiz), you must contact your section leader as soon as possible (preferably via e-mail). If you are unable to contact your section leader, please contact me, either via e-mail or by leaving a message with the History Department. Medical excuses will require a note from a doctor stating clearly that the student was **medically unable** to attend class on the day of the scheduled examination or assignment. (A note merely confirming that you **visited** the health clinic or your personnel physician is not sufficient.) I understand that genuine cases of extenuating circumstances may arise during the quarter and will try to make reasonable accommodations if you contact me in a timely manner. **Please note that scheduling conflicts with other University activities—such as band, sports, and exams outside of regularly-scheduled class meetings, etc.—or outside work is generally not a valid excuse for missing a scheduled assignment.** Also, please remember that **you MAY NOT make up missed quizzes for any reason.**

Statement on Course Accessibility. If you feel that you may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability, you should contact me to discuss your specific needs. You may also contact the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307 in room 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations for documented disabilities.

Statement on Academic Misconduct. I expect all work that you turn is your own. Attempting to pass off someone else’s work as your own constitutes plagiarism. This as well as any other form of academic misconduct, such as cheating on exams or quizzes, will be dealt with through the procedures established by the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If you have not done so, I recommend you read Section 3335-23-04, “Prohibited Conduct,” of the *Code of Student Conduct*. You will find the *Code* and additional

details about academic misconduct at: http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/resource_csc.asp. For a useful discussion of how to avoid plagiarism in your own work, please see the handout "How Not to Plagiarize," available from the course website.

Department Enrollment Policy. All students must be officially enrolled in the course by the end of the second full week of the quarter. No requests to add the course will be approved by the History Department after that date. Enrolling officially and on time is solely the responsibility of each student.

Lecture Behavior. All instructors have pet peeves: behavior they consider really annoying, if not outright disruptive. Unlike many of my colleagues, I like to list my pet peeves upfront. While you are taking my class, please refrain from the following.

- First, please avoid arriving late to class. Doing so is disruptive and disturbs the learning process for other students. If you need to park and ride the bus to Central Campus, leave early. If you absolutely must come to class late, please be quiet when you enter.
- Second, please refrain from using your cellular telephone during the class, including sending and reading text messages. Frankly, I hate cellular telephones, especially when they ring in the middle of a class. If you have a cellular telephone, please turn it off before class begins. If you are expecting an urgent call, please switch your cellular telephone to vibrate rather than ring. As far as I know, all cellular telephones manufactured since the late-1990s are capable of operating silently.
- Third, please do not pack up early or leave before the class ends. Just about every instructor absolutely loathes the sound of textbooks slamming shut and papers rustling five minutes before the class officially ends. I will tell you when the class is finished and guarantee never (or almost never) to continue into the break. If you must leave class early, please let me know in advance.
- Fourth, please do not surreptitiously read the newspaper (or your cellular telephone), work on non-class related assignments, or engage in non-class-related conversations with other students. If you believe your time is better spent reading the *Lantern*, working on homework, text-messaging, or talking with your friends, that is fine, but please do so someplace other than this class. You have my full attention during the time we meet; it is only polite to reciprocate.
- Finally, please remember that instructors, including myself, have outside lives just as you do. I will respond to messages and requests for information as quickly as possible, but it may take me a day or so to do so. Including the course number in the subject line of your e-mail as well as a signature will generally result in a more timely response.

Policy Regarding Lecture Notes, Class Session Recording, and Computer Usage. It is my standard policy not to post lecture outlines to the course website. Nor do I post the class presentations or my lecture notes, so please do not ask. In other words, it is important you attend class regularly. **Sound, image, or video recording of any part of the class meetings is prohibited without my prior consent.** If you wish, you may use a laptop computer to take notes during lectures, but **not** to surf the web, watch movies, communicate with friends, or other purposes. You will be asked to put your computer away if I find it being used inappropriately. Inappropriate use will result in the loss of computer privileges.

Course Schedule. As is the case with most schedules, this one is subject to change. Please complete the readings before the Monday class meeting.

Week of March 24, 2008: War and History; Europe after the Franco-Prussian War

- No assigned readings

Week of March 31, 2008: From Fashoda to Sarajevo

- No assigned readings
- Recommended: begin reading Strachan's *The First World War* and Fussell's *The Great War*

Week of April 7, 2008: The Great War, 1914-1917

- Strachan, *The First World War* (through chapter seven)
- Fussell, *The Great War* (all)

Week of April 14, 2008: The Great War, 1917-1919

- Strachan, *The First World War* (chapter seven to the end)
- Davis, *Home Fires Burning* (all)

Week of April 21, 2008: The Interwar Years

- Parker, *The Second World War* (chapter one)
- **Midterm Exam Due on Wednesday, April 23rd, at the beginning of class.**

Week of April 28, 2008: Europe and the Experience of Total War—1939-1943

- Parker, *The Second World War* (chapters two through seven; seventeen)

Week of May 5, 2008: Europe and the Experience of Total War, 1939-1943 (cont'd)

- Parker, *The Second World War* (chapter seventeen)
- Browning, *Ordinary Men* (all)

Week of May 12, 2008: Europe and the Experience of Total War, 1944-1945

- Parker, *The Second World War* (chapter eight to the end)
- Nossack, *The End: Hamburg 1943* (all)
- Bess, "Bombing Civilian Populations" (all)

Week of May 19, 2008: The Wars of Decolonization

- Fall, *Street Without Joy* (all)

Week of May 26, 2008: War and Society in Europe, (No class on Monday, May 26th)

- No assigned readings

Week of June 2, 2008: Final Exam Week

- **Final exam due at Dulles 164 during the regularly-scheduled exam period (Thursday, June 5th, 3:30-5:18pm).**