

University of South Alabama
MS 494: Directed Studies
Seminar: The History of the American Military Experience
Spring 2010

Tuesdays 1200 – 1400 hrs
SRH 207

Faculty: Mr. Wayne Sirmon
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Course Website: www.usouthal.edu/history/faculty/sirmon

The preferred method of contacting the instructor between class meetings is by email. To meet outside of scheduled seminars, contact Mr. Sirmon by email or phone.

Course Description:

This seminar has as its goal the development of historically minded future officers capable of bringing historical perspective to contemporary military problems. This seminar is designed to fulfill the pre-commissioning Military History requirement established by TRADOC REG 350-13. Extracted from this regulation:

The goal of this seminar is to produce leaders who use critical thinking, grounded in military history, as the basis for decision making. Standards for history instruction in precommissioning are set by the training support products for TRADOC common core task 155-197-0020.

Based on common core requirements and prior to commissioning, Army ROTC cadets will complete a one-semester or equivalent college-level course in military history from an academic department in the host institution. If the host institution does not offer such a course, Professors of Military Science (PMS) will conduct 45 contact hours in military history taught by designated military history instructors who have attended the Military History Instructor Course conducted annually by CSI.

The required college-level military history course should develop students' awareness of the relationship of the military establishment to society, particularly in the United States. Further, the course should develop their interest in the evolution of war and the progression of military professionalism, give them an awareness of the history and purpose of joint operations, discuss the role of history in understanding their profession, and encourage the viewing of American military history from a joint perspective.

PMS will also offer either a staff ride or battlefield tour, discussing the strategic and operational context of the battle, but focusing on the tactical level.

Course Objectives:

Upon the completion of this course, it is expected that the student will have a greater knowledge of:

1. Army and Branch Heritage
2. History of the profession of arms
3. Introduction to Battle Analysis
4. Introduction to the Staff Ride

Required Text:*American Military History,**Volume I: The United States Army And The Forging Of A Nation, 1775-1917**Volume II: The United States Army In A Global Era, 1917-2003*

Richard W. Stewart, Army Historical Series. CMH Pub 30-21 & 22, 2005

Additional documents (or links to them) are found on the course website.

Assignments:

Assigned work includes, but is not limited to the following:

1. Complete all assigned reading assignments from the text before the class in which it will be discussed. Additional assignments or changes to the schedule may be made during the semester. Changes announced in class are the responsibility of the student.
2. On-line quizzes will be based on the readings assigned from *American Military History*. The deadlines for these quizzes are listed on the course calendar.
3. Journal Article/Podcast Reviews: 500 word review of an article related to the material covered during each of the testing periods. The article reviewed must be at least 12 pages in length and be **approved at least 1 week prior** to the due date. An approved podcast may be substituted for one journal article. Reviews may be submitted electronically if the file is readable by Word 2003 (DOC) or Adobe Reader (PDF). A third review may be submitted. The highest two reviews will count toward the course grade. Late reviews will be penalized 10 points/day the assignment is overdue.
4. Each student will be required to write a 750-1000 word review of a book selected from the U. S. Army Center for Military History reading lists. The book must be **approved by January 22**. Class presentations, utilizing PowerPoint, will be limited to 10 minutes (not including questions seminar participants). Dates for these presentations will be scheduled prior to the Mid-Term Exam.

Tests/Exams:The Mid-Term exam will cover topics in *American Military History* v. 1.The Final Exam will cover topics in *American Military History* v. 2

Each of these examinations will include multiple-choice and other objective questions and one or more short essays.

Evaluation:

Class participation	100	13.5%
On-line quizzes	140	18.9%
Journal/Podcast Reviews (50 points each)	100	13.5%
Book Review and Class Presentation	100	13.5%
Exams (150 points each)	300	40.6%
TOTAL	740	100.0%

Course letter grades will be assigned:

“A”	>= 90%	>= 666 points
“B”	>= 80%	>= 592
“C”	>= 70%	>= 518
“D”	>= 60%	>= 444
“F”	< 60%	< 444
“F*”	< 60% and a lack of participation measured by attendance of less than 60% and being absent for both the mid-term and final exams.	

Attendance:

You are expected to attend every class. You are also expected to be on time for class. Any student missing more than one-half of a class meeting will be considered as absent. Understandably, situations will arise that require you to be absent or tardy. These situations should not occur regularly. Roll will be taken at each class. Any absence or tardy will affect your participation grade. Each unexcused absence will result in the loss of 5 points from the Class Participation portion of the course evaluation.

Missed quizzes or classroom assignments cannot be made up unless the absence is due to a university-sponsored activity AND prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Unexcused absences from an examination or presentation will result in a grade of 0 for that assignment.

ADA Statement:

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with bona fide disabilities will be afforded reasonable accommodation. The Office of Special Student Services (OSSS) will certify a disability and advise faculty members of reasonable accommodations. If you have a specific disability that qualifies you for academic accommodations, please notify the instructor/professor and provide certification from Disability Services. (OSSS is located in Room 270 of the Student Center (460-7212)).

Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is expected of all students at USA. Your responsibilities as a student include being familiar with the honor code and plagiarism policy of the university with regard to exams, class assignments, and papers. Please discuss this with me if you have any questions.

The University of South Alabama is committed to the fundamental value of academic honesty. The student handbook, *The Lowdown*, defines plagiarism as one form of academic misconduct which is “subject to investigation and disciplinary action through appropriate university procedures.” As one resource for helping you avoid plagiarism, your written work in this class may be submitted to Turnitin.com, or a similar detection method, for an evaluation of the originality of your ideas and proper use and attribution of sources. Assignments submitted to Turnitin.com will be included as source documents in a restricted access database solely for the purpose of detecting possible plagiarism of such documents.

Electronic Devices:

Cell phones should be on silent and stored out of sight. No iPods, etc. are allowed in the classroom.

Class Schedule: Spring 2010

1/12/10	AMH I-1	Class Introduction
1/19/10	AMH I-2,	The American Military Heritage
1/26/10	AMH I-3, I-4, I-5	Principles of War
2/2/10	AMH I-6, I-7, I-8	Clausewitz and Jomini
2/9/10	AMH I-9, I-10, I-11	The Threads of Continuity (Dr. Houston)
2/16/10	<i>Mardi Gras Day – No Class</i>	
2/23/10	AMH I-12, AMH I-13	Battle Analysis
3/2/10	AMH I-14, I-15, I-16 Article Review #1 due	Weapons of War
3/9/10	MID-TERM EXAMINATION	
3.16/10	<i>USA Spring Break – No Class</i>	
3/23/10	AHM II-1, II-2 (CDT Murdock)	The Staff Ride
3/30/10	AMH II-3, II-4 (LTC McCulloch)	Book Review Presentations
4/6/10	AMH II-5, II-6 (LTC McCulloch)	Book Review Presentations
4/13/10	AMH II-7, II-8 (LTC McCulloch)	Book Review Presentations
4/20/10	AMH II-9, II-10, II-11 (LTC McCulloch) Article Review #2 due	Book Review Presentations
4/27/10	AMH II-12, II-13, II-14	
May 3-6	<u>Final Exam</u>	

Spring Semester Holidays: 2010

MLK Day – January 18

Mardi Gras – February 16

Spring Break – March 15-21

On-line Quiz Schedule: Spring 2010

Vol. / Chapter		NLT 2400 hr
I	1 & 2 Introduction, The Beginnings	Q2. Saturday 1/30/10
I	3 & 4 The American Revolution, Winning Independence	Q3. Saturday 2/6/10
I	5 & 6 The Formative Years, War of 1812	Q4. Tuesday 2/9/10
I	7 & 8 Toward A Professional Army, Mexican War	Q5. Saturday 2/13/10
I	9 & 10 The Civil War, 1861, 1862	
I	11 & 12 The Civil War, 1863, 1864-65	Q6. Saturday 2/27/10
I	13 & 14 Darkness and Light, Winning the West	Q7. Saturday 3/6/10
I	15 & 16 Emergence to World Power, Road to War	Q8. Tuesday 3/9/10
II	Prologue & 1 World War I, 1914 - 1918	Q9. Saturday 3/13/10
	<i>Spring Break</i>	
II	2 Between World Wars	
II	3 & 4 World War II: Defensive Phase, Grand Strategy	Q10 Saturday 3/27/10
II	5 & 6 WWII: Germany and Italy, Japan	Q11 Saturday 4/3/10
II	7 & 8 Peace Becomes Cold War / Korean War	Q12 Saturday 4/10/10
II	9 & 10 Army of the Cold War / Vietnam: 1950-1967	
II	11 Army in Vietnam: from Tet to Withdrawal	Q13 Saturday 4/17/10
II	12 Rebuilding the Army: Vietnam to Desert Storm	
II	13 & 14 Beyond the Wall: 1990-2001, GWOT	Q14 Saturday 4/24/10