

University of North Texas
Department of History
HIST 4642.01: War and American Society
Summer II 2026
Online

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: HIST 4642 focuses on the various ways in which the United States has dealt with war and the changes that have taken place in American society as a result of war. The course considers the following wars: the colonial wars of the 17th and 18th centuries, the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and the Vietnam War. As the course title implies, a major emphasis is placed on American society during these conflicts, addressing war and the American homefront.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Explain how the American experience of war has changed over time
- Describe how war impacts and shapes the attitudes and values of American society
- Identify wartime political, social, and economic trends in the U.S. during wartime
- Analyze the philosophical and moral issues raised by the American experience with war

GRADING:

- Discussions 100 pts. 5@ 5%. each (total is 25% of course grade)
- Journals 100 pts. 5@ 5% each (total is 25% of course grade)
- Quizzes 100 pts 5@ 5% each (total is 25% of course grade)
- Midterm Exam 100 points (total is 12.5% of course grade)
- Final Exam 100 points (total is 12.5% of course grade)
- Extra Credit Quiz (Confirmation Quiz) 20 pts. added to any quiz

For this course, you will read the assigned chapters and complete/submit the following:

- 5 discussions based on source readings.
- 5 lesson quizzes (each quiz is composed of multiple-choice questions based on readings)
- 5 journal assignments
- two exams (a midterm and a final)

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Module 1: Weeks 1

- Discussion 1, June 24
- Quiz 1, June 25

- Journal 1, June 26

Module 2: Week 2

- Discussion 2, July 02
- Quiz 2, July 02
- Journal 2, July 03

Module 3: Week 3

- Discussion 3, July 08
- Midterm Exam Date: July 09
- Quiz 3, July 10
- Journal 3, July 10

Module 4: Week 4

- Discussion 4, July 16
- Quiz 4, July 17
- Journal 4, July 17

Module 5: Week 5

- Discussion 5, July 22
- Quiz 5, July 23
- Journal 5, July 23
- Final Exam, July 24

GRADES: Generally speaking, a grade of 90.00% corresponds to a borderline A- & 89.99% to a B+; 80% is the line between a B- & a C+ and so on. **Grades will not be curved in this course. No extra credit will be accepted to substitute for an individual student's poor test grades or non-attendance with our online schedule.**

DISCUSSIONS (100 points each):

Students must read through 5 separate discussion assignments for this class. Each Discussion subject is different in scope but consists of the same outcome: students must answer the questions posed in a cogent reply of more than 150 words (minimum) based on their reading of a short account related to War and Society History. Discussions comprise 25% of overall grade.

JOURNALS (100 points each):

There are five journal assignments. Students must write 2 entries per assignment covering the assignment reading from our course textbook, *War and Empire: The American Way of War*. Students must identify and reflect on any subject or theme that they learned in their assigned reading. Journals comprise 25% of overall grade.

QUIZZES (100 points each):

A total of five quizzes will be administered during the course. They will be comprised of multiple choice and be based out of your course textbook. The quizzes comprise 15% of overall grade.

MIDTERM EXAM (100 points)

Students will complete a midterm exam covering the first three chapters (chapters 1-3) of the course textbook (Part I). (12.5% of overall grade)

FINAL EXAM (100 points):

Students will complete a final exam covering the last four chapters (chapters 4-7) of the course textbook (Part II). (12.5% of overall grade).

MAKEUP/LATE WORK POLICY:

All Canvas assessments, unless otherwise noted, are due at 11:59 p.m. on the date posted for each assignment. It is your responsibility to ensure that the assignment was submitted properly. Please double-check each submission.

Late assignments can be submitted for only TWO Days after the due date. The penalty is 10% each day after the due date (including weekends). Your professor does not consistently check email during the weekends. Please prepare your work accordingly.

No makeup assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes at UNT on July 24, 2026.

ATTENDANCE:

Students are required to interact with the course as soon as possible to avoid being dropped. That means you need to complete your student introduction or any assessment prior by the first week of class. Failure to do so risks you being dropped for non-attendance.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

The University of North Texas promotes the integrity of learning and embraces the core values of trust and honesty. Academic integrity is based on educational principles and procedures that protect the rights of all participants in the educational process and validate the legitimacy of degrees awarded by the University. In the investigation and resolution of allegations of student academic dishonesty, the University's actions are intended to be corrective, educationally sound, fundamentally fair, and based on reliable evidence.

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences. According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University. Plagiarism, cheating, and other academic integrity violations take many forms, including, but not limited to the use of another author's words without citation, cutting and pasting uncited materials from the internet, having someone else do your work and claiming it as your own, and copying from another student's paper or exam.

USE OF STUDENT WORK:

A student owns the copyright for all work (e.g. software, photos, reports, presentations, and discussion posts) he or she creates within a class and the University is not entitled to use any student work without the student's permission unless all of the following criteria are met:

- The work is only used once
- The work is not used in its entirety
- Use of the work does not affect potential profits from the work
- The student is not identified

ADA POLICY:

The University of North Texas (UNT or University) does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission, treatment, or access to its programs or activities, nor in employment in its programs or activities. The University is committed to providing equal educational access for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 as Amended, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. In addition, the University is committed to making all programs and activities sponsored by UNT accessible, as required by the Texas Accessibility Standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines. To this end, all academic units are willing to make reasonable and appropriate adjustments to the classroom environment and the teaching, testing, or learning methodologies in order to facilitate equality of educational access for persons with disabilities. The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at Student Affairs . You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

USE OF CANVAS:

The instructor will use UNT's Canvas platform to distribute information throughout the semester. Lecture outlines, exam reviews, and announcements will all be found on the course Canvas page. Students must learn the process of accessing course information and quiz materials on specific dates. The burden of responsibility lies with the students. Canvas may not compute your class averages accurately. Please keep track of your own grades.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS:**Minimum Technology Requirements:**

- Computer
- Reliable internet access
- Speakers
- Microphone

- Plug-ins
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Canvas Technical Requirements

Computer Skills & Digital Literacy

- Using Canvas
- Using email with attachments
- Downloading and installing software
- Using spreadsheet programs
- Using presentation and graphics programs

Rules of Communication:

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors and teaching assistants online. Here are some general guidelines:

- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in email or any other communication.
- Always use your professors' proper title: Dr. or Prof., or if in doubt use Mr. or Ms.
- Unless specifically invited, don't refer to your instructor by first name.
- Use clear and concise language.
- Remember that all college level communication should have correct spelling and grammar (this includes discussion boards).
- Avoid slang terms such as "wassup?" and texting abbreviations such as "u" instead of "you." Also, do not simply write "hey" to address your professor or TA
- Use standard fonts such as Ariel or Times new Roman and use a size 10 or 12 point font
- Avoid using the caps lock feature AS IT CAN BE INTERPRETED AS YELLING.
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm as tone is sometimes lost in an email or discussion post and your message might be taken seriously or sound offensive.
- Be careful with personal information (both yours and other's).
- Do not send confidential information via e-mail

Success in an Online Course:

While the online classroom shares many similarities with the face-to-face classroom, success in online education requires certain skills and expectations that you may be unaware of. Please keep in mind that this course has deadlines and that you are welcome to ask questions.

Technical Assistance:

Part of working in the online environment involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues.

UNT Help Desk: Help Desk site

Email: helpdesk@unt.edu

Phone: 940-565-2324

In Person: Sage Hall, Room 130

Walk-In Availability: 8am-9pm

Telephone Availability:

- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

Laptop Checkout: 8am-7pm

For additional support, visit Canvas Technical Support

Student Support Services:

UNT provides mental health resources to students to help ensure there are numerous outlets to turn to that wholeheartedly care for and are there for students in need, regardless of the nature of an issue or its severity. Listed below are several resources on campus that can support your academic success and mental well-being:

- Student Health and Wellness Center
- Counseling and Testing Services
- UNT CARE Team

Academic Support Services

- Academic Online Resource Center
- Academic Success Center
- UNT Libraries
- Writing Lab

Additional Info:

What I Expect From You:

1. Keep up with the readings. If you fall behind, you will be lost in class and have difficulty catching up in time for exams.
2. Take all exams/quizzes on the scheduled dates.

What to Expect from Me:

1. I will remain accessible this semester.
2. I will see that your papers and exams are graded as promptly and accurately as possible.

POLICY STATEMENT:

This syllabus is subject to change at the professor's discretion. All changes will be provided via an announcement to the class.