

University of North Texas
Department of History
Dr. Alex Mendoza
HIST 4641.001: 20th Century United States Military History
Spring 2021

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COURSE DESCRIPTION: This is an overview of United States military history from the onset of the 20th century to the late 1990s, emphasizing the concepts of the American military experience. This course focuses on the influence and concepts of the American military institution and the interrelationship between foreign and military policy. Students will achieve an understanding of the main developments in American military history, the ways in which these developments reflected or shaped developments in general American history, and how political and societal changes have influenced the nature of American military conflicts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: To obtain a better understanding of the events, people, and ideas that helped shape the military affairs of the United States during the twentieth century. More specifically:

- Students will understand the broad narrative of American military history and appreciate how the nation's military experience has shaped both its past and present.
- Students will recognize the changes in tactics, strategy, and national policy in the 20th century.
- Students will examine how and why Americans became involved in wars, why those wars were fought the way they were, why they turned out the way they did.
- Students will learn to analyze, synthesize, and interpret historical process and events.

TEXTS:

- Allan R. Millett, Peter Maslowski, and William Feis, *For the Common Defense*, 3rd edition, (2012)

COURSE GRADE:

Component	Possible Points
Exams (3 total)	300 points (100 pts. each)
Discussions (3 total)	150 points (50 pts. each)
Reading Quizzes (3 total)	150 points (50 pts. each)
Journals (3 total)	150 points (50 pts. each)
Short Research Paper (2-page)	100 points
Total	850

Grade	A	B	C	D	F
Points	765-850 pts	680-764 pts	595-679 pts	510-594 pts	0-509 pts

GENERAL INFORMATION: You will use your UNT account to login to the course from the UNT Canvas page. To see a list of technical requirements needed go to UNT's Canvas Tutorials which cover a variety of topics, including information on Browsers, Plugins & Operating Systems for Canvas

EXAMS:

A total of three exams—two midterms and a final—will be administered during the semester. Exams will be comprised of multiple choice and 1 essay. Specific review guides will be forthcoming approximately one week before each test window. The final exam is not comprehensive.

DISCUSSIONS:

Students must read through 3 separate discussion assignments this semester. 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). The specifics for each assignment are found in their respective Modules. Due dates are the Monday before each exam. These are: **February 08; March 15; and April 19**, respectively.

READING QUIZZES:

Throughout the semester students will be asked to submit answers to 3 reading quizzes (professor provides PDF files online so they can read 7-10 pages of outside material). The dates for these assignments are provided in windows of **February 01-08; March 07-15; and April 12-19**. The format for each quiz is multiple choice on the Canvas platform.

JOURNALS:

There are three journal assignments to correspond to our modules and the assigned reading contained in each. They have due dates of and **February 14; March 21; and April 25**. Each assignment requires the student to read the assigned chapters for each module and to provide a reading journal of the material which they learned in a document outlining their diary/journal of material. Additional descriptions for these journals are in their respective Modules.

RESEARCH PAPER:

Students will write a 2-page paper examining a U.S. military historical figure from the 20th century. The final due date is **April 16** and the additional details are found in the assignment description in Module 3.

POWERPOINT OVERVIEWS:

PowerPoint Overviews are provided for each Module and cover the general material in the course textbook. They offer additional points as well as more visual cues to supplement the course.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATION:

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 www.unt.edu/oda. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323.

USE OF CANVAS:

The instructor will use the University of North Texas' 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 materials on specific dates. The burden of responsibility lies with the students.

- **Lectures:** I will upload a video mini-lecture or two each week. I will set a link in the ANNOUNCEMENT section of our course. Students can view those at their earliest convenience. I will not maintain LIVE ZOOM meetings.
- **Announcements:** It is very important that students read and keep up with the weekly announcements. I will provide lectures, updates on the course, and instructions for assignments in these announcements throughout the semester. It is very important that you keep a tally on the event of the course, the various deadlines of assignments, as well as review guides and follow-ups for the course.

USE OF EMAIL:

Feel free to e-mail me in regard to anything related to the class, the topic, or professional requests. I will not respond to grade queries for reasons of student privacy, and anything I deem inappropriate or unprofessional. Please use my university email address listed on page 1 of this syllabus.

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.
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.

Overview of Modules and Assignments (subject to change)

MODULE 1: Modernization to World War I (1900 to 1920)

- **PowerPoint Overview**
- **Journal 1: Due February 14**
- **Reading Quiz 1: Due February 01-08**
- **Discussion 1: Due February 08**
- **Exam 1: Due February 08-12**

MODULE 2: The Interwar Years to World War II (1920-1945)

- **PowerPoint Overview**
- **Journal 2: Due March 21**
- **Reading Quiz 2: Due March 07-15**
- **Discussion 2: Due March 15**
- **Exam 2: Due March 15-19**

MODULE 3: The Cold War to the Gulf Conflict (1946 to 1991)

- **PowerPoint Overview**
- **Journal 3: Due April 25**
- **Reading Quiz 3: Due April 12-19**
- **Discussion 3: Due February 08**
- **Research Paper: Due April 16**
- **Final Exam: Due April 24 to May 01**