

University of North Texas
Department of History

History 4125: The Military History of England and its Colonies, 1509-1775

Dr. Chet

Office hours: by appointment (guy.chet@unt.edu).

A series of demographic, social, religious and political convulsions transformed England into a modern nation state during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. England was also transformed, during this time period, into the preeminent naval and military power in the Atlantic World (i.e. the Americas, the Atlantic, western Europe, and the Mediterranean). By following the development and accomplishments of England's fighting forces, this class will examine the role of the military in early-modern England, the effects of the aforementioned convulsions on the military, and the process by which England established itself as the West's premier superpower.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. Developing analytical skills – understanding that historical narratives are arguments, which can and should be evaluated based on evidence.
2. Gaining familiarity with the general history of England and with European military history.
3. Understanding competing analyses of European military and administrative developments during the early-modern era.
4. Developing an independent understanding of European military and organizational developments during the early-modern era.
5. Developing writing skills – learning how to compose an argumentative essay, in which one formulates an analytical argument, lists relevant evidence, and then explains how the evidence supports the argument.

COMMUNICATION: Learning content will be delivered in class, and through the textbooks and reading materials posted on Blackboard. Students must use their UNT accounts to log into the course from the UNT Blackboard Learn page. To correspond with me, please use email (guy.chet@unt.edu), rather than Blackboard. It is too easy for me to miss Blackboard messages; please use email.

GRADING: This class is intended for students without background in English history. Since lectures will focus on military affairs, almost all information about the political, social, and religious background and significance will be provided by the weekly readings. You will be responsible for this material for the exams. During the course of the semester, students are expected to contribute to class discussion, submit reading responses, and complete 3 exams (if a student cannot attend an exam, s/he should contact me *in advance* in order to arrange a make up

exam). The weekly response e-papers will not be graded (feel free, therefore, to speak freely). However, failure to submit an email response by Wednesday morning will result in a two-point penalty off your final course grade. Assignments are graded on a scale of 0 to 100, with the final course grade assigned according to the following scale: A (90-100), B (80-89), C (70-79), D (60-69), F (0-59). In grading the exams, I pay close attention to both substance and form (grammar, spelling, and clarity). In evaluating substance, I examine whether the author has demonstrated a critical, historical understanding of the material by presenting and substantiating a thesis (a historical argument). In order to compute the final course grade, I will add the relative values of each student's number grades for the 2 midterms (30% each) and the final exam (40%).

LATE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN WORK: Assignments must be completed by the due date for full credit. Late submissions will incur a 5-point late-penalty for the first hour, and 5 additional points for every hour thereafter.

TIME COMMITMENT: Students should anticipate at least 10 hours per week for studying materials and completing class assignments. Falling behind schedule in this course will be detrimental to a student's final grade, since the concepts covered are cumulative – not becoming proficient with information in a particular week will lead prevent a student from comprehending material delivered in subsequent weeks.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM: As a student-centered public research university, the University of North Texas promotes the integrity of the learning process by establishing and enforcing academic standards. Academic dishonesty breaches the mutual trust necessary in an academic environment and undermines all scholarship. Students are held accountable for understanding UNT's policy on academic integrity. Any violations of this policy may result in a 0 or F on the particular assignment or an F in the course.

STUDENT SUCCESS AT UNT: Students who have trouble keeping up with assignments should inform the professor as early as possible. "Succeed at UNT" provides students support services and resources for success. Moreover, the History Department's Help Center (WH #220, 940-565-4772) and the History Department Library (WH #267, 940-369-7681) are staffed by graduate students who can assist students with tutoring and essay writing advice.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with special circumstances covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act should register with the Office of Disability Accommodation, and also inform the instructor of the class. Reasonable adjustments will be made to accommodate the special needs of students with disabilities where such adjustments are necessary to provide equality of educational access.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Angus Stroud, **Stuart England** (ISBN 9780415206525)

Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation, 1707-1837* (ISBN 9780300152807).

P.J. Marshall, *The Oxford History of the British Empire*, vol. II (ISBN 9780199246779)

Ben Cassidy, "Ideology of the Offensive" [handout]

Jack Green, "The Glorious Revolution and the British Empire 1688-1783" [handout]

P. Perjes, "Army Provisioning, Logistics and Stragey" [handout]

Guy Chet, "Transmission of English Military Culture to the American Colonies" [handout]

SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Introduction – the English Army

Ben Cassidy handout

Stroud, Introduction, Chapters 1-4.

Week 2: Gustavus Adolphus and the Dutch

Stroud, Chapters 5-9.

Week 3: The English Civil Wars and the New Model Army

Stroud, Chapters 10-11.

Week 4: The Army from the Restoration to the Glorious Revolution

Stroud, Chapters 12-13, Conclusion

Week 5: William III's army

Jack Green, "The Glorious Revolution and the British Empire 1688-1783" [handout]

Linda Colley, "Introduction", Chapters 1, 2, 4. [no email assignment due, but you will be responsible for this material on the exam]

Week 6: William & the Grand Alliance

First mid-term exam

Week 7: Marlborough & the Spanish Succession

Marshall, Chapters 3 (O'Brien), 5 (Steele), 8 (Rodger).

Week 8: Marlborough & Military Logistics

P. Perjes, "Army Provisioning, Logistics and Strategy" [handout]

Week 9: Marlborough & the Quest of Decisive Battle

Week 10: Blue Water Strategy

Second midterm: take-home exam due _____, 4 pm, at guy.chet@unt.edu.

Week 11: The Imperial Wars

Marshall, Chapters 7 (Lenman), 13 (Johnson). Guy Chet, "Transmission of English Military Culture to the American Colonies" [handout]

Week 12: The War of Austrian Succession

Marshall, Chapters 12 (Bartlet), 14 (Shy), 16 (Richter).

Week 13: The War of Austrian Succession

Marshall, Chapter 15 (Conway).

Week 14: The '45

Week 15: Conclusions

_____ : Final exam