**History 4065.001**

**WARFARE AND SOCIETY IN EUROPE:**

**FROM THE FRENCH REVOLUTION TO THE SECOND WORLD WAR**

Spring 2025

Tuesdays from 6:30 to 9:20 p.m., WH 115

*Prof. Geoffrey Wawro*

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*Office = WH 252*

*Office hours – Tues 5:30-6:30pm or by appt.*

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**Required Reading**

Larry Addington, *The Patterns of War since the 18th Century*

Geoffrey Wawro, *Warfare and Society in Europe, 1792-1914*

P.M.H. Bell, *The Origins of the Second World War in Europe*

**Course Description**

This course will examine the evolution of modern warfare from the French Revolution to the Second World War. We will look at technological and tactical advances in the broader context of strategic thought, social change, international relations and sharpening domestic politics that influenced strategic decision-making. Warfare evolved, but so did government and society, and this course will study the deadly interplay of politics, culture, strategy, war plans and technology, from Robespierre to Hitler.

**Requirements**

One midterm and one final exam based on lectures, readings and class discussions. Any enrolled graduate students will fulfill all undergrad requirements, plus write a 20 page research paper or historiographical essay -- after consulting on the topic and sources with me. Students are expected to read every week and come prepared to question or discuss the reading. Undergrads desiring a third grade may write a 10-15 page paper – topic to be agreed with me in advance -- in addition to the two exams.

**Week 1, 1/14/25** – Intro to course: syllabus, readings, expectations.

**Week 2, 1/21/25** – Old Regime and French Revolution. Addington, xix-26.

**Week 3, 1/28/25** – Napoleon. Wawro, 1-23. Addington, 27-42.

**Week 4, 2/4/25** – Restoration, the Revolutions of 1848, “Bonapartism,” the Crimean War. Wawro, 23-73, 97-9.

**Week 5, 2/11/25 -** Cavour, Garibaldi, and the Unification of Italy. Wawro, 73-99. Addington, 43-48, 54-68.

**Week 6, 2/18/25** – Bismarck, Moltke, and the German Wars of Unification. Wawro, 100-123. Addington, 48-54, 94-101.

**Week 7, 2/25/25** – MIDTERM EXAM

**Week 8, 3/4/25** – The New Imperialism to 1905. Wawro, 124-59. Addington, 102-112, 120-33.

**Week 9, 3/11/25** – SPRING BREAK

**Week 10, 3/18/25** – Sea Power and Navalism 1890-1914. Wawro, 160-87. Addington, 113-19.

**Week 11, 3/25/25** – Origins of World War I. Wawro, 188-211.

**Week 12, 4/1/25** -- World War I. Wawro, 212-25. Addington, 134-71.

**Week 13, 4/8/25** – Versailles. Addington, 172-94.

**Week 14, 4/15/25** – Appeasement, and the interwar military balance, Bell, 1-224.

**Week 15, 4/22/25** – The *Blitzkrieg* revolution, and World War II: outbreak and first campaigns. Bell, 225-341. Addington, 195-265.

**Week 16, 4/29/25** -- Pre-finals day. Study for final exam.

**FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN ON Tuesday May 6 from 6:30-8:30 P.M. IN THE CLASSROOM.**