**Course description**

This course is a survey of military history from the late eighteenth century to 1945. The scope is global, at least in theory, but we will center our attention on warfare in the western world (Europe and those states that developed military systems based on European ways of war). The focus is on major developments in the nature and conduct of warfare within the broader context of social, political, and technological change. At the same time, the course also serves as an introduction to some of the key concepts and issues, questions shaping the field of military history today.

No prior knowledge of history, military or otherwise, is assumed. We will be covering a tremendous range of time and territory – try not to worry if you feel a bit lost at times (though an atlas often comes in handy when studying military history: if you do not know where something is, **look it up:** an internet search is a good way to start - try Google maps if you want to know what a region looks like). Try to focus on the big themes and big developments and remember that with history, as with everything else, it is necessary to start somewhere.
Grades and assignments

Class attendance and completion of the assigned reading are expected. Although much of the work for this course will be turned in on-line, this is not an on-line course. Those who fail to attend class or do the readings do so at their own risk.

On the other hand, if you think have the flu or any other communicable disease, please stay home – I’ll be happy to help you catch up.

Grades are based on fulfillment of the assignments, quizzes, and final exam. There will be 100 points for the term distributed as follows.

**Papers** (15 and 30 points for the first and second paper, respectively, for 40 total; the 25 points for the second paper includes a mandatory "paper propectus" describing your topic and the sources you intend to use for it. The propectus is worth 10 points. See "Paper Assignments" for further guidance).

Two paper assignments: the first paper will be based on materials posted to the map of Napoleon's 1805 campaign. The second will be a short research paper on a topic of your choice (within the limits of the assignment - you must comply with the rules of the assignment) related to World War II and the book we will be reading by R.A.C. Parker.

Paper assignment instructions and materials will be posted on Blackboard in the “Paper Assignments” content area. In the same area you will find a submission box for you paper: all papers are to be uploaded into the submission box.

Papers should be posted double-spaced and I would advise you to use your spellcheck before posting. I will post instructions for how to reference the texts.

>>>>> **Be sure to retain a backup copy for your records.** If your paper somehow gets lost in the digital space of Blackboard, it is your responsibility to supply another copy.

Papers (and midterms) will be due at on different days of the week. All work except the final exam will be submitted onto the course Blackboard site. The due time is 11 pm for every assignment - that is to avoid overloading the server during peak use. If you don’t want to be up that late or don’t want your assignment interfering with your social life, submit it before it is due.

**First paper:** Oct. 21, at 11:00 p.m. (Monday evening) – Napoleon's 1805 campaign

**Second paper:** Dec. 6 at 3:00 p.m. (Friday of dead week) – World War II (the paper prospectus is due at 11 pm on Nov. 21)
**Midterms** (15 points each)

The midterms are open book and will be done on the class Blackboard site in the “midterms” content area.

It should go without saying that you may not plagiarize written answers (what I mean by plagiarism is copying another person’s written work – whether it is someone you know or something you find in a book or on-line). You are welcome and indeed encouraged to work with others in developing your answers – the entire idea of the midterms is to think about and digest what we are talking about in class. There is no better way to think about those issues than to talk about them with your classmates. However, put your answers into your words and if you do make direct use of material from other sources (internet, textbook), be sure to place all such material in quotation marks and indicate where you got it.

The midterms will be accessible beginning several days in advance of the due date. Once you open your midterm you may reenter it as many times as you like. However, **you must submit it for it to count and you may only submit once**. Please note that each midterm is randomly generated from a larger body of questions – no two midterms will be identical.

You are advised to cut and paste all written answers into the box: **you should save a copy of all essay answers for your own records.**

**First midterm:** October 11, 11:00 pm (a Friday evening)
**Second midterm:** Nov. 10, 11:00 pm (a Sunday evening)

**Final exam** (25 points total): – Thursday, December 12, 1:00 pm in Lillis 282 – please bring blue or green book (available for purchase in the bookstore).

**Consolidated list of due dates:**

October 11: First midterm (15 points)
October 21: First paper (15 points)
November 10: Second midterm (15 points)
November 21: Second paper prospectus (10 points)
December 6: Second paper (20 points)
December 12: Final exam (25 points)

Total: 100 points for the term - if you don't like thinking in terms of points, substitute percentage for points
The readings listed under each date should be read prior to that class day. You will find it easier to follow the class discussion if you have done the readings prior to class.

We are running a pilot program this term using electronic textbooks. Both of the books assigned for this class are available for free in electronic form via the course BB site (see Course Readings for a link). They are also available for purchase (and for cheap as textbooks go) at the UO Bookstore.

The two books are:


**All other readings** can be found on the class Blackboard site.

**Part I: War in eighteenth-century Europe and the impact of the French Revolution and Napoleon**

Oct. 1: Introduction to class and topic: the varieties of military history

Reading: *War in World History*, preface.

Oct. 3: Eighteenth-century European warfare

Reading: *War in World History*, 404-415

Oct. 8: Eighteenth-century European warfare in the global context

Reading: *War in World History*, 415-422

Oct. 10: The impact of the French Revolution on European warfare
Due: October 11, 11 pm: First midterm

Oct. 15: Napoleonic warfare and the example of Napoleon's 1805 campaign

Reading: David Chandler, *The Campaigns of Napoleon*, 381-439

Oct. 17: The Napoleonic Wars and grand strategy

Reading: *War in World History*, 433-441; and eye-witness accounts of 1813 campaign (on Blackboard)

Due: October 21, 11 pm: First paper

Oct. 22: The industrial revolution and war

Reading: *War in World History*, 442-45 and 453-461; also excerpt of Jean Colin for kicks you can play the "musket simulation" in the Course Readings section of BB

Oct. 24: The American Civil War in the context of global developments in war

Reading: *War in World History*, 445-53

Oct. 29: Industrialized warfare in a global context

Reading: *War in World History*, 462-481; and two first-hand accounts of British imperial wars (on Blackboard)

Oct. 31: The transformation of naval warfare
Nov. 5: The Great War: World War I

    Reading: War in World History, 506-523; also excerpt from Manning, Her Privates We (on BB)

Nov. 7: Interwar developments

    Reading: War in World History, 524-534; also excerpts from Douhet, Mitchell, and Trenchard (on Blackboard)

    Due: Nov. 10, 11 pm: Second midterm

Nov. 12: The origins of WWII in Europe

    Reading: Parker, The Second World War, preface and ch. 1 (1-20); documents on Hitler's foreign policy (on Blackboard)

Nov. 14: The (last) European War

    Reading: Parker, The Second World War, chs. 2-4 (21-71); also see link to Churchill's speech of 13 May 1940

Nov. 19: The Pacific War

    Reading: Parker, The Second World War, chs. 5-6 (72-94) (also see links regarding Churchill and U.S. alliance)
Nov. 21: How the Allies won

Reading: Parker, The Second World War, chs. 7-11 (95-173)

**Due: Nov. 21 11 pm: Paper prospectus**

Nov. 26: The defeat of Germany and Japan

Reading: Parker, The Second World War, chs. 12-14 (177-242)

Nov. 28: Thanksgiving: no class

Dec. 3: The legacy of WWII: why the fighting never stopped

Reading: Parker, The Second World War, chs. 15-18 (243-304)

Dec. 5: Wrap up

**Due: December 6, 11 pm: Second paper**

**FINAL EXAM**: Thursday, December 12, 1:00 pm in Lillis 282 – please bring blue or green book (available for purchase in the bookstore).