RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Department of History

War, Peace, and the Military in the U.S. to 1877

History: 512:347  Professor John W. Chambers II
Fall 2007  210 Van Dyck (CAC); phone 932-3613
Tu-Thu 5th (2:50-4:10 p.m.)  e-mail chamber@rci.rutgers.edu
Location: RAB 001 (DC)  Office Hours: Weds. 4:30-5:30 p.m.

SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This is a survey of American attitudes and experiences in regard to war, peace, and the military from colonial times through the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The course examines the development of military institutions (militia, National Guard, Army, Navy, and Marines). It also explores aspects of the nation's wartime experiences. The course covers technological and organizational developments, changing strategic doctrines, and the nationalization and professionalization of the armed forces.

It also analyzes civilian attitudes towards war, peace, and the military, contours in civil-military relations, development of antiwar, peace, and disarmament movements, and the relationship of war, peace, and the military to U.S. foreign and national security policy and to American society and culture.

I. Books

The following books are required reading for the students enrolled in this course. They are available at the Douglas Co-Op Bookstore on the Douglass Campus and can be purchased in new or used editions there or at many other localities or on-line.


Recommended reading:

II. Course requirements:

Regular attendance is required. More than two absences must be explained and justified to the instructor.

All readings on the list below are required. Each group of readings should be completed by the time of the lectures that it parallels.

There will be a midterm examination and a final examination. Both examinations will cover the readings, lectures, and discussion material. With the instructor's approval of the topic, an optional 20-page term paper may be substituted for the midterm examination. That option requires a prospectus and a term paper.

Student Options
(with approximate weight of each component)

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III. Class schedule / Fall 2007

1. Introduction
Sept. 4

2. American Attitudes Towards War, Peace, and the Military
Sept. 11, 13
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, introduction
Chambers & Piehler, chapter 1
Recommended: Ekirch, pp. vii-xviii (preface & introduction).

3. Europeans and Indians: Warfare in Europe & America
Sept. 18, 20
Readings: Chambers & Piehler, ch. 2, documents, pages 37-47.
Material handed out in class

4. A Study in Contrasts: Puritans and Quakers
Sept. 25, 27
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 1
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 2, essays, page 48-64
Material handed out in class
5. Imperial Rivalries and the French and Indian War  
Oct. 2, 4  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 2

6. The Era of the American Revolution through 1783  
Oct. 9, 11, 16, 18  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 3  
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 3  
Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 1

MIDTERM EXAMINATION, Tuesday, October 23, 2007 in classroom

7. The Constitution and the Federalist Era, 1784-1800  
Oct. 25, 30  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, pp. 88-103 (83-98 in 1st ed.)  
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 4  
Recommended: Ekirch, chs. 2, 3

8. Jeffersonian Republicanism, 1801-1815  
Nov. 1, 6  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, pp. 103-119 (98-116 in 1st ed.)  
Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 4

Prospectus due Nov. 8 for those writing a term paper

9. Coastal Defense and Interior Expansion, 1815-1861  
(Changes in the Militia, Seacoast fortresses, naval technology, Indian Removal, Seminole Wars, and the Mexican War; emergence of the organized peace movement)  
Nov. 8, 13, 15, 20  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 5  
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 5  
Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 5, 6

10. The Civil War and the Meaning of Modern War  
(Thanksgiving no class Nov. 22), Nov. 27, 29, Dec. 4  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, chs. 6, 7  
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 6  
Shaara, Killer Angels, entire.  
Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 7

11. Reconstruction  
Dec. 6, 11  
Readings: Millett & Maslowski, part of ch. 8, pp. 248-264  
(233-246 in 1st edition)  
Chambers & Piehler, ch. 7  
Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 8 (pp. 107-114 only)

December 12, 2006 (last class) OPTIONAL TERM PAPERS DUE TODAY

FINAL EXAMINATION: Monday, Dec. 17, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
(location of examination room to be announced)