

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
Department of History  
War, Peace, and the Military in the U.S., 1607 to 1865

**THIS IS FALL 2015 SYLLABUS; class dates will be slightly different for Fall 2016**

History: 01:512:347  
Fall 2015

Tues. & Thurs. 5<sup>th</sup> Period, 3:55-5:15 p.m.  
Location: Ruth Adams Building 001 (DC)  
email: [john.chambers@rutgers.edu](mailto:john.chambers@rutgers.edu)

Professor John W. Chambers  
office: 210 Van Dyck (CAC)  
Office Hours: Weds. 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Office phone (848) 932-8222

**SYLLABUS**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This is a survey of American attitudes and experiences concerning war, peace, and the military from colonial times through the end of the Civil War in 1865.

The course examines the development of the main military services during this period: the militia/National Guard, U.S. Volunteers, plus the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. 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 services in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

The course 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.

In the process, the course also teaches historical analysis and uses written and visual documents to do so (letters, diaries, memoirs, engravings, paintings & excerpts from films).

**I. Books**

The following books are required reading for the students enrolled in this course. They are available at the Rutgers Barnes and Noble Bookstore and can be purchased in new or used editions there or at other localities or on-line.

Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski, For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States of America from 1607 to 2012, Third Edition (N.Y.: The Free Press of Macmillan, **2012**). **714 pp. ISBN: 978-1-4516-2353-6 (paper)**. The basic textbook. Earlier editions may be used, but page numbers will differ.

John W. Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., Major Problems in American Military History: Documents and Essays (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999, since 2008, by Cengage Learning, Inc.). Paperback. 488 pp. ISBN: 0-669-33538-X (paper). The basic anthology of scholarly articles and primary source documents.

Michael Shaara, The Killer Angels (New York: Ballantine, 1987), 384 pp. ISBN-13 9780345348104. Historical novel of Battle of Gettysburg and basis for the film Gettysburg.

During the semester, a number of materials will be posed on the course's Sakai website.

Recommended reading:

Arthur A. Ekirch, Jr., The Civilian and the Military: A History of the American Antimilitarist Tradition (Colorado Springs, CO: Ralph Myles Pub., 1972; orig. Oxford Univ. Press, 1956).

All of the above are also on Undergraduate Reserve at Alexander Library.

Note: Useful reference works on the subject include: John E. Jessup, ed., Encyclopedia of the American Military, 3 vols. (New York: Scribner's, 1994); and John W. Chambers II, ed., The Oxford Companion to American Military History, 1 vol. (New York: Oxford, 1999), located in Reference Room, Alexander Library.

## II. Course requirements:

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

Each group of readings in list below should be completed by the time of the lectures that it parallels. Lecture Outlines and additional materials will be posted on the Sakai website.

There will be a midterm examination and a final examination. Both examinations will cover the readings, lectures, discussion and material posted on the course's Sakai website.

Optional Term Paper: With the instructor's written approval of the topic, students may, in addition to the two examinations, choose Option B, that is also to write a 4-page Prospectus and a 15-page Term Paper. In that case, the relevant topic must be approved in writing by the instructor. Both the Prospectus and the Term Paper will be graded. If you are interested in this option (Option B), discuss a topic with the instructor. Instructions for a Prospectus and for a Term Paper are on the course's Sakai website.

Student Options (with approximate weight of each component)

### **Option A**

Class Discussion +

Midterm Exam 40%

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Final Exam 60%

Total 100%

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### **Option B**

Class Discussion +

Midterm Exam 30%

Prospectus & Term Paper 30%

Final Exam 40%

Total: 100%

## **Exam Format: choice within each one of the three sections:**

**I. Identification & Significance Questions (answer 4 of 8), worth 1/3**

**II. Multiple Choice Questions (answer 7 of 10) worth 1/3**

**III. Essay Question (answer 1 of 2) worth 1/3**

**plus Optional Extra Credit Document Analysis Question (up to 5 points).**

A Sample exam is at the end of this syllabus.

**Note: Study Guides will be posted on Sakai website 2 weeks before exams.**

### III. Class Schedule Fall 2015

#### 1. Introduction

Sept. 1, 3, 2015 In first class after the introduction, we will view & discuss main points of film Culloden (British TV, 1964) showing a 1750s military, weapons, and tactics vs. indigenous peoples, in this case, British Army vs. rebellious Scottish highlanders. In the second class, a lecture on theories of Clausewitz, & Sun-Tzu, and of Thoreau, Gandhi, King.

Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2015 is designated for Monday classes because of Labor Day, Sept. 7, 2015

#### 2. American Attitudes toward War, Peace, and the Military

Sept. 10, 15

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, introduction

Chambers & Piehler, chapter 1

Recommended: Ekirch, pp. vii-xviii (preface & introduction).

#### 3. Europeans and Indians: Warfare in Europe & America

Sept. 17, 22

Readings: Chambers & Piehler, ch. 2, documents, pages 37-48.

Documents on Sakai website: Initial European images of Native Americans & their warfare

#### 4. A Study in Contrasts: Puritans and Quakers

Sept. 24, 29

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 1

Chambers & Piehler, ch. 2, essays, page 48-64

Documents on Sakai website: Quakers & Indians

#### 5. Imperial Rivalries and the French and Indian War

Oct. 1, 6

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 2.

In class, view excerpt The Last of the Mohicans (US, 1992). Study Guide on Sakai Oct. 6

#### 6. The Era of the American Revolution through 1783

Oct. 9, 13, 15

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 3.

Chambers & Piehler, ch. 3

Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 1

Document on Sakai website, Leutze's Painting of Washington Crossing the Delaware (Germany, 1851)

In class, view excerpt from film, The Patriot (U.S., 2000)

### **MIDTERM EXAMINATION, Tuesday, October 20, 2015 in classroom**

#### 7. The Constitution and the Federalist Era, 1784-1800

Oct. 22, 27, 29

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, pp. 88-103 in ch. 4 (pp. 83-98 in 1st ed.);

and Chambers & Piehler, ch. 4. Recommended: Ekirch, chs. 2, 3

8. Jeffersonian Republicanism, 1801-1815

Nov. 3, 5

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, pp. 103-119 in ch. 4 (98-116 in 1st ed.)

Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 4.

In class, view excerpt from First Invasion: War of 1812 (U.S., 2004)

9. Coastal Defense and Interior Expansion, 1815-1861

(Changes in the Militia, Seacoast fortifications, naval technology, Indian Removal, Seminole Wars, and the Mexican War; emergence of the organized peace movement)

Nov. 10, 12, 17, 19, 24. Study Guide for Final Exam posted on Sakai, Nov. 24.

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, ch. 5

Chambers & Piehler, ch. 5

Materials on Sakai website

Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 5, 6

Nov. 10, 2015: Deadline for approval of Topic of Optional Term Paper (earlier is better)

Nov. 19, 2015: Deadline for 4+ Page Prospectus for those writing Optional Term Paper

THANKSGIVING RECESS, NOV. 26 THROUGH NOVEMBER 29, 2015

Dec. 1, 3, 8, 10 The Civil War

Readings: Millett & Maslowski, chs. 6, 7

Chambers & Piehler, ch. 6

Shaara, Killer Angels, entire.

In class, view excerpt from film, Gettysburg. (U.S., 1993)

Recommended: Ekirch, ch. 7

December 10, 2015 (last class) OPTIONAL TERM PAPER (hard copy) DUE TODAY

Graded term papers will be returned at the final exam.

**FINAL EXAM:** DATE AND TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED

When the LOCATION of the examination room is known, it will be announced in class and posted on course's Sakai website.

NOTE: Sample exam (Midterm and Final Exam) is on the next two pages

## **SAMPLE EXAM**

History 512:347

The following are some questions from prior exams. They are provided here as illustrations of the format and types of questions that may be on future exams.

A Study Guide is provided two weeks before the midterm and final examinations.

### **Part I Identification & Significance Questions**

**(worth 1/3rd)**

Identify and give the significance of **FOUR (4)** of the following. Fill at least the front and back of a page in your blue book for EACH of your 4 Answers.

THESE ARE SAMPLE QUESTIONS FROM THE MIDTERM & THE FINAL EXAMS

1. Clausewitz's Analysis of War Aims & Strategies
2. The French & Indian War: Causes, Aims, Strategies, Results
3. Conscientious Objection in Colonial America
4. Gen. George Washington's Strategy in the American Revolution
5. Predominant American Attitudes toward War, Peace & the Military by 1815
6. Technological Developments in the U.S. Navy, 1820s through 1860s
7. Antiwar Dissent in the United States in the Mexican War
8. The Battle of Gettysburg

### **Part II Multiple Choice Questions**

**(worth 1/3rd)**

Answer **Seven (7)** of the following 10 multiple choice questions by indicating on a separate page in your blue book, the NUMBER (1-10) of the question you are answering and then writing next to it the LETTER (A-D) of what you think is the correct answer.

FOR THIS SAMPLE EXAM, **ONLY TWO EXAMPLES INSTEAD OF ALL TEN QUESTIONS ARE GIVEN BELOW.**

1. Which one of the following statements about Horatio Gates is correct?
  - A) Main sponsor of the Uniform Militia Act of 1792
  - B) Secretary of War in the 1820s.
  - C) Victorious commander at the Battle of Saratoga
  - D) Leader of the American Rangers in the French and Indian War
2. Which of the following was NOT one of the reasons for U.S. decision for war in 1812?
  - A) Restrictions on American trade
  - B) Impressment of American sailors
  - C) Attacks by Indians
  - D) Threats of a British invasion from Canada

### **Part III Essay Question**

**(worth 1/3rd)**

Answer **ONE** (1) of the following essays questions, drawing upon the lectures, discussions, and assigned readings, including the material posted on the Sakai website. Make sure that you organize your thoughts in a logical manner, state them precisely, and supply evidence to support your contentions. Include as much specific data (facts) as you can.

A) Compare and contrast the war aims and military strategies of the United States and Mexico in the Mexican War of 1846-1848. In Clausewitzian terms, were the aims limited or total? Were the strategies direct or indirect? Which strategies proved to be most militarily and politically effective? How and why? Include names of most important battles and campaigns and key commanders.

B) It has been argued that by 1815 a predominant popular attitude had emerged in the United States about the nation's normal state of national security and insecurity, about the proper military institutions (militia and army) for the American Republic, and about their viability and success. Describe that attitude, explain how its holders justified it, and indicate what aspects of that attitude faced significant challenges as a result of the War of 1812.

### **Optional Extra Credit Question** (worth up to 5 additional points)

Evaluate the primary source document, written or visual, reproduced on the accompanying sheet in terms of its message and its degree of credibility using the techniques discussed in class (remember the 5 "W's" and self-interest). Explain what kind of document it is, who created it, when, where, and why, for whom and what was the creator's self-interest? Evaluate its strengths and weaknesses as a primary source about its subject. What is its main point and how is that point supported? You should also discuss what the document suggests and fails to suggest about its subject and its purpose.

RETURN EXAM SHEETS UNFOLDED INSIDE BLUE BOOK AND SIGN OUT

**NOTE:** When studying for a history exam, advice on writing essay answers on history examinations (as well as history term papers) is included on the Rutgers History Department's website on its Undergraduate Section. Here is the link:

<http://history.rutgers.edu/component/content/article/52/106-writing-historical-essays-a-guide-for-undergraduates>