This is a survey of American attitudes toward and experiences with war, peace, and the military from the end of the Civil War to the present, or at least through the Vietnam War. The course examines the development of American military institutions (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, National Guard and Reserves) in peace and war. In addition, it examines peace, antiwar and arms control movements. The course covers organizational and technological developments, changing strategic doctrines, and the nationalization, professionalization and expansion of the armed forces. It explores civil-military relations and the relationship of war, peace and the military to U.S. foreign and national security policy and to American society and culture. In addition, the course emphasizes the historical method of analyzing primary sources and change over time.

REQUIRED BOOKS: The following books are required reading. New or used copies are available at the University Bookstore or other locales, including various sites online.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS: There will be a midterm examination and a final examination. Both examinations will cover the readings, lectures, and material posted on the course’s Sakai website. With the permission of the instructor, a 4-page Prospectus and 20-page Term Paper may be substituted for the midterm exam. In that case, first the topic and then the written Prospectus for the Term Paper must be approved by the instructor. Instructions for writing a Prospectus and Term Paper are on the Sakai website.

Option A (the basic option): Midterm Exam 40%, Final Exam 60%

Option B: (with instructor’s approval) 4-page Prospectus & 20-page Term paper 40%, Final Exam 60%

Option C: Midterm Exam 30%, Prospectus & Term Paper 30%, Final Exam 40%

(Note: Regardless of grade of Prospectus & Term Paper, those choosing Option B or C cannot pass the course without passing the Final Exam with a grade of C or higher.)
Jan. 19, 2010: Introduction

Jan. 21, 26 American Attitudes toward War, Peace and the Military
Readings: Millett, Introduction; Chambers & Piehler, Chapter 1 (*Ekirch, xv-xviii, 3-17)

Jan 28, Feb. 2, 4 Reconstruction, Indian Wars, Emory Upton’s Prescription for Defense
Readings: Millett, pp. 248-249, 251-264, 270-274, 277-280 in Ch. 8; Chambers &
Piehler, Ch. 7 and pp. 223-225 in Ch. 8. (*Ekirch, Ch. 8)

Feb 9: The New Navy and Alfred Thayer Mahan. Readings: Millett, 249-51, 265-70,
274-80; Chambers & Piehler, 225-26, 232-36. (*Ekirch, 124-32)

Feb 11, 16, 18: War of 1898, Military Reform, Peace Movt. Readings: Millett, Chs. 9, 10;
Chambers/Piehler, Ch 8 & pp 226-46. (*Ekirch, Chs 8-11) Feb. 18: Option B Topic due.

Feb 23, 25: World War I
Readings: Millett, Ch. 11; Chambers & Piehler, pp. 248-276 (*Ekirch, Ch. 12)

March 2, 2010: MIDTERM EXAM. Option B Prospectus due electronically today.

March 4, 9, 11: Interwar 1919-1939: Arms Control, Armor, Billy Mitchell & Air Power
Readings: Millett, Ch. 12; Chambers & Piehler, pp. 277-308 (*Ekirch, Chs 13, 14)

March 13-21, 2010 SPRING BREAK

March 23, 25, 30, April 1: World War Two. Readings: Millett, Chs. 13 & 14; Chambers
& Piehler, pp. 310-372; Terkel, entire. (*Ekirch, Chs. 15, 16)

April 6 Postwar Era: Cold War Military
Readings: Millett, pp. 502-506 (*Ekirch, Ch. 17)

April 8 Korea: Limited War, Frustration & Civil Military Relations
Readings: Millett, Ch. 15; Chambers & Piehler, Ch. 13

April 13, 15 Nuclear Deterrence, Anti-Nuclear Movts, and the Cold War
Readings: Millett, Ch. 16

April 20, 21 Vietnam: War and Peace and the Re-evaluation of the Military
Readings: Millett, Ch. 17; Chambers & Piehler, Ch. 14

April 27, 29 U.S. Military in the Post-Cold War World
Readings: Millett, Ch. 18 and epilogue; Chambers & Piehler, Ch. 15
Optional Term Papers due at last class meeting, April 29, 2010

FINAL EXAMINATION Scheduled Friday, May 7, 2010, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM