

**U.S. MILITARY HISTORY**  
HISTORY 340 - Winter 2019

Location: 282 Lillis  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 8:30-9:50  
CRN 27252

Professor Dracobly  
Office: McKenzie 329  
Office phone: 541-346-5910; e-mail: [dracobly@uoregon.edu](mailto:dracobly@uoregon.edu)  
Office hours: Wed. 9:30-11:30; Thurs. 9:45-11:30; or by appointment.

I you cannot make my office hours (when you can just come by: I'll be there), I want to emphasize **by appointment**. I am on campus and available nearly every day. If you want to meet, just get in contact with me.

We also have two Graduate Employees (G.E.s) helping out this term:

Kena Gomalo  
Preetham Sridharan

You can find their contact information on the course Canvas site under Announcement.

## **WHAT THIS COURSE IS ABOUT**

This course examines the military history of the United States from the colonial period to the early twenty-first century with an emphasis on the United States Army. A governing assumption of the course is that a nation's military establishment reflects the society of which it is a part, even as it develops and maintains a distinct identity and traditions of its own. Because war remains the critical test of any military establishment, however, changes in warfare and the performance of the U.S. military in war will be our primary focus. We will be considering throughout the term how the nation's military institutions have responded to the demands of war and how those responses have changed over the last two centuries. The American Revolution, the Mexican War, the U.S. Civil War, the Indian Wars, the two world wars, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and the Global War on Terror will provide the focal points for the course, even as we also keep in mind the many tasks other than war that the U.S. military has often been asked to fulfill.

Required course materials: U.S. Army Center of Military History, American Military History volumes 1 and 2. Washington, D.C., 2009 (revised edition).

This book is available for free as a pdf:

Volume 1: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/AMH-V1/>

Volume 2: <http://www.history.army.mil/books/amh-v2/amh%20v2/>

You will need regular access either to the on-line version of this text or should download a pdf version of it.

You should also download from the course Canvas site the primary source materials that we will be using throughout the term. Those materials are located in the “modules” established for each class day.

## **GENERAL AIMS AND EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course provides an introduction both to U.S. military history and, as a 300-level group-satisfying course, to historical methodology and the ways that historians think about the past. We will be examining a set of issues which arise in many areas of historical inquiry: the creation and development of institutions and institutional practice; the diverse forces that shape those institutions and their practices; and the factors that both promote change and predicate against change within those institutions. Over the course of the quarter we will be examining the wide range of factors and diverse explanations that historians have employed in trying to explain the successes and failures of the U.S. Army in its various endeavors.

Our textbook will provide us with most of substantive content. The various assignments are designed simultaneously to think about and test the different ways of explaining the history of the U.S. Army and to practice the different methods that historians employ in generating new historical knowledge and testing existing historical arguments. The expectation is that the themes and methods learned in this class will be applicable not only to other courses in U.S. history and military history, but also to the study of any institution that exists over a long period of time, develops a body of doctrine that is transmitted from one generation to the next, and creates an institutional memory that is preserved both formally and informally by the members, past and present, of the institution.

Over the course of the term you will:

1. Demonstrate an ability to recognize and understand the central themes of American military history.
2. Compare and contrast both major and minor military conflicts with respect to causes, strategy, operations, and tactics.
3. Assess the evolution of military policy and the role of political influences in shaping that policy, as well as the relationship between civilian and military hierarchies of command in U.S. military history.
4. Evaluate the relationship between war and society in shaping U.S. history.

5. Acquire an understanding of and practice in the use of basic historical concepts as they pertain to the study of institutions over long spans of time.
6. Practice the use of primary sources in developing new historical and testing existing historical arguments.

## **GRADED WORK**

**Mostly weekly quizzes:** an on-line quiz will be due on most Mondays at 11 pm. Answers to the quiz can be found in the textbook, unless otherwise noted. The absolute point values of the quizzes will be slightly variable. As a group, however, the quizzes will be worth 20% of your grade but the two lowest quiz grades will be dropped.

>>>> **No late quizzes will be accepted** (although “due” at 11 pm, the quizzes will be set with 15-minute grace period, so anything that has been opened will be automatically submitted at 11:15 pm). Unless truly extraordinary circumstances arise, dropping the lowest two quiz grades should give you sufficient flexibility. Since the following week’s quiz will be posted on the previous Tuesday, you should have plenty of time to finish regardless of your schedule.

There will be **two on-line essay tests** and an **in-class midterm** and **in-class final**.

Finally, there will **two papers**. The first will be a very short assignment based on an early letter from George Washington at the time of his first command. It is preparatory to the larger paper assignment, which will be based George Washington’s papers from the Revolutionary War (the details will be posted in the assignment on Canvas).

## **HOW GRADES WILL BE DETERMINED**

Mostly weekly quizzes	20%
Short on-line essay	04%
Two on-line essay tests:	30%
Washington paper:	20%
Midterm:	13%
Final exam:	13%
 Total:	 100%

## **SIGNIFICANT DATES: all on-line submission due at 11:00 pm**

Most Mondays, 11 pm: weekly quizzes due (no late submissions)  
 January 16: Short on-line essay due

January 24: Washington paper due  
February 1: First on-line essay test due  
Feb. 12: In-class midterm  
March 6: Second on-line essay test due  
March 21: Final exam, in class, 8 am (Thursday)

## **LATE POLICY**

With the exception of the weekly quizzes, late submissions are accepted for one week following the due date and time with a penalty of 20% of the value of the assignment.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

Final grades will be assigned as follows:

A = 93% and up

A- = 90-92.9%

B+ = 87-89.9%

B = 83-86.9%

And on down the scale to 60% = D-

Anything below a 60% is an F.

A+ are awarded on a discretionary basis. I typically award 1-3% of any class an A+ but only when there are clear cases of students who consistently outperform their peers throughout the duration of the term.

The following criteria will be employed for all written work.

**A:** Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument, in addition to being well executed and reasonably free of errors.

**B:** Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment, and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

**C:** Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

**D:** Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregard for the assigned question.

## COURSE POLICIES

Class attendance is expected and the quizzes and exams will reflect that expectation. If you are in class, I expect you to avoid the use of any devices or engaging in behavior that might distract your fellow students.

The on-line essay tests will be open for two weeks: the week before the quiz is due and the week following the due date. Late midterms will be accepted for up to a week but with an automatic deduction of 20% of the total value of the midterm. No midterm more than a week late will be accepted without an explanation in person of why I should it allow.

There will be an in-class final and midterm. You will need a "blue" (or "green") book, which you may purchase an exam booklet at the UO Bookstore. If you need special accommodations for the in-class exams, you need to make arrangements through the Accessible Education Center: [aec.uoregon.edu](http://aec.uoregon.edu). They typically require several weeks of lead time.

I encourage everyone in the class to collaborate - to talk with classmates about the midterms and final. You will benefit from sharing ideas and talking with others about the coursework.

>>>>> **However, all submitted written work must be your own:** you may share ideas but, in the end, you must write it up yourself. Doing otherwise - whether "borrowing" a colleague's written work or submitting something written by a third party - constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarized work will receive a zero in the first instance. A second instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the class and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

## ACCESSIBILITY

This course supports access and inclusion for students with disabilities. This includes but is not limited to exam adjustments, sign language interpretation, classroom relocation, and adaptive technology services available to students who register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC).

You can find more information at: <https://aec.uoregon.edu/>

# Class Schedule

## WEEK 1

**Jan. 8:** Introduction to US military history: What does military history encompass? What are the central themes of U.S. military history?

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, preface and introduction (xv-17)

**Jan. 10:** The Beginnings: the military in colonial America

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapter 1 (19-43); George Washington to Robert Dinwiddie, October 11-14, 1755, from The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, II (1983), 101-108.

For class make sure to have a copy of Washington's letter to Dinwiddie that you can consult (whether printed out or on a device).

## WEEK 2

**Jan. 15:** American Revolutionary War (day 1)

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapter 3 (45-74); George Washington, General Orders of July 4, 1775, Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, I, 54; and George Washington, Letter "To John Hancock [President of Congress]," September 25, 1776, Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series, VI, 393-40. Also, an example of a "return" from the Seven Years War: The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, III (1984), 428-29.

Topic: Note Washington's attempt to place the "Continental Army" on a regular footing and his general distrust of militia: why the emphasis on a regular army as opposed to relying on militia?

**>>>>> Short on-line essay due: January 16 11 pm**

**Jan 17:** American Revolutionary War (day 2)

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapter 4 (75-106); and Christopher Ward, "Before Cowpens" and "Cowpens," chs. 68-69, The War of the Revolution II (1952), 748-762 (in a single file: war\_cowpens.pdf).

### WEEK 3

**Jan. 22:** From the early years of the Republic and up to the Mexican War

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, skim chapters 5 to 7 (107-76); George Washington "Calls for a Standing Army, 1783," and excerpts from the Constitution and Bill of Rights, as reproduced in John Whiteclay Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., Major Problems in American Military History (1999), 101-102; and excerpts from the Militia Act of 1792, from Walter Millis, ed., American Military Thought, 60-7 (read especially Chap. XXXVIII and Chap. XXXIX, section 1).

**Jan. 24:** The Mexican War And after

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, ch. 8 (177-198)

>>>>> **Washington paper due: Thursday, January 24, 11:00 pm**

### WEEK 4

**Jan 29:** The Civil War

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapters 9 and 10 (199-251); and miscellaneous documents regarding Confederate strategy by General Lee and President Jefferson Davis, from John Whiteclay Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., Major Problems in American Military History (1999), 154-160.

**Jan. 31:** The Civil War (cont.)

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapters 11 and 12 (253-305); and miscellaneous documents regarding Union strategy and the conduct of the war by General Grant and General Sherman, from John Whiteclay Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., Major Problems in American Military History (1999), 166-168; and letters between the same from Walter Millis, ed., American Military Thought (1966), 143-160.

## **WEEK 5**

**Feb. 5:** The Indian Wars, frontier policing and constabulary responsibilities

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapters 13 and 14 (307-346)

**Feb. 7:** Philippine-American War and U.S. emergence as a world power

Read: American Military History, vol. 1, chapters 15 to end (347-396).

## **WEEK 6**

**Feb. 12: IN-CLASS MIDTERM EXAM**

**Feb. 14:** World War I

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, prologue and chapter 1 (1-54); and John Pershing, "Against Amalgamation," and AEF Combat Instructions, 1918," in John Whiteclay Chambers II and G. Kurt Piehler, eds., Major Problems in American Military History (1999), 255-7.

## **WEEK 7**

**Feb. 19:** The interwar years and the beginning of WWII

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapters 2 and 3 (55-105)

**Feb. 21:** WWII: Grand Strategy and the European theatre

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapters 4 and 5 (107-68)

## **WEEK 8**

**Feb. 26:** WWII: The War against Japan

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapter 6 (169-202)

**Feb. 28:** The Korean War and the Army of the Cold War

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapters 7 to 9 (203-88).

## **WEEK 9**

**March 5:** The U.S. Army and Vietnam

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapters 10 and 11 (289-372)

**>>>> March 6: Second on-line midterm due, 11:00 pm**

**March 7:** From Vietnam to Desert Storm: the creation of an All-Volunteer Force

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapter 12 (373-411); and Captain H.R. McMaster, "Eagle Troop," in Personal Perspectives on the Gulf War (1994), 33-38.

## **WEEK 10**

**March 12:** 9/11 and the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT), first stage

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapter 13 (413-461)

**March 14:** The Challenge of the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Read: American Military History, vol. 2, chapter 14 (463-518)

**FINAL EXAM: In our classroom, bring exam booklet: Thursday, March 21, 8:00 am**