

Missouri State University

HST 315:

Military History of the United States

Fall 2017

Section 1 Tu/Th 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.
Strong 400

Dr. Jeremy Neely
Office: 444 Strong Hall

Office Hours: Tu/Th, 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.,
and by appointment

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Required Texts and Supplies

- Millett, Allan R., Peter Maslowski, and William B. Feis. *For the Common Defense: A Military History of the United States from 1607 to 2012*. 3rd ed. New York: Free Press, 2012.
- Primary sources and other readings posted to the course Blackboard page.

For the Common Defense can be purchased from the University bookstore or various online booksellers. Be sure that you purchase the most recent edition, which covers U.S. military history through 2012.

Course Description

This course examines the broad sweep of American military history from the colonial period through the first decade of the twenty-first century, focusing not only on the transformations and functions of the armed forces but also the relationship between the military and society in the United States.

Prerequisites

This is a sophomore-level course whose recommended prerequisites are either History 121 or 122.

Course Objectives

This course will enable students to:

- Understand how the armed forces have shaped and been shaped by the political, economic, social, and environmental history of the United States.
- Assess how strategy, tactics, technology, and geography have influenced warfare and prospects for success in various military engagements.
- Compare and contrast how citizens have viewed the armed forces, particularly the roles of regulars and citizen-soldiers, throughout U.S. history.
- Identify how and why political leaders attempted to maintain civilian control over the armed forces.
- Think like a historian by drawing upon the “five C’s” (change over time, context, causality, contingency, and complexity) of historical analysis as they read primary and secondary texts.
- Synthesize primary evidence and secondary literature as they formulate and support their own arguments, both through the written word and in discussion with peers.

In this course I do not emphasize the rote memorization of historical facts (although mastery of subject matter is a necessary part of the course) but instead put greater emphasis on students’ development as critical thinkers. In other words, when you leave this course you will hopefully remember many of the ideas, names, battles, and even a few dates associated with U.S. military history, but it more important to me that you learn to think and communicate more clearly as you explain *how* and *why* those things have mattered.

Course Requirements and Policies

Students are expected to have read and be familiar with the requirements and policies laid out in this syllabus.

Office Hours

Please stop by my office with any questions or concerns, either during the posted office hours (11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays) or at another time that works for both of us. If you cannot visit during the posted office hours, please contact me to arrange an alternative meeting time. Email is the easiest way to reach me, but you are always welcome to visit, either with or without an appointment.

Grades

Your final grade will be determined by your performance on the following course components. To calculate your final grade at the end of the semester, divide your total number of points out of 1,000.

Exam One	200 points
Exam Two	200 points
Final Exam	200 points
Participation	150 points
Response Papers (50 points each)	150 points
Vietnam War Analysis	100 points
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Total Course Points Possible	1,000 points

I use plus/minus grading. More details are here: www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html

A	930 – 1,000 points	C +	770 – 799 points	F	0 – 599 points
A -	900 – 929 points	C	730 – 769 points		
B +	870 – 899 points	C -	700 – 729 points		
B	830 – 869 points	D +	650 – 699 points		
B -	800 – 829 points	D	600 – 649 points		

Examinations

There will be three examinations in this course. Each examination will ask students to identify a few historical terms and to answer one essay question, all of which will be drawn from a study guide that students will receive in advance of the exam. The first exam will be held during the regular class meeting on **Thursday, September 28**. The second midterm examination will be held during the regular class meeting on **Thursday, November 2**. The final examination will be held on **Thursday, December 14, from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m.**

Participation

Active participation is vital to your success in this course. The participation score, which counts for fifteen percent of the final grade, will reflect both the quality and the quantity of your thoughtful contributions to our discussions in class. In order to contribute thoughtfully to discussion, you must come to class prepared. There will be a lot to read, and I expect that you will have completed the assigned readings before the meetings outlined in the course schedule. As you read, take notes, and then bring those notes (plus any questions that the readings raised for you) into class.

On Tuesdays, I will lead the discussion portion of our class. On most Thursdays, a student group will lead the discussion. The members of these groups—Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie—will be assigned at random and revealed during the second class meeting. I expect you to be an active and engaged participant even when your group is not leading that week's discussion.

Active participation obviously requires that you attend class. I will record student attendance at the start of each class. When I finally sit down to calculate participation scores at the very end of the semester, students who have **more than two** unexcused absences will automatically see their score **reduced by half**; students who have

more than four unexcused absences will automatically see their score reduced to **zero**. You must be present at the beginning of class and remain for the entire period in order to be counted as present for that day. Students who are repeatedly late for class shall see their discussion scores reduced accordingly. It is your responsibility to make sure that I have counted you as present for any day when you are late for class. Student absences will only be excused for illness (with appropriate documentation); personal or family emergencies; temporary military orders or Veterans Administration medical appointments; and participation in university-sanctioned events. You will be notified of your tentative participation grade near the midpoint of the semester.

Response Papers

In addition to helping lead class discussions, each student will also write three short (between one to two pages long) papers that respond to a writing prompt that I will pose about a week's assigned readings. The deadlines for these three papers will correspond with the three weeks when your group is scheduled to lead class discussion, and they will each be due at the **start of class** on that Thursday. A late penalty of ten percent per each day late will be deducted from any paper that is submitted after deadline. Your response paper should also include two discussion questions that the assigned readings raised for you. (After submitting your paper, keep an additional copy of those discussion questions to help facilitate that day's class discussion.) Additional details about the response papers can be found in the Response Papers handout.

Vietnam War Analysis

You will be asked to write a short (between two to three pages long) paper that analyzes the assigned readings related to the Vietnam War. This paper, which will be due at the start of class on Tuesday, November 21, is worth 100 points, or ten percent of the final course grade. Additional details about this assignment can be found in the Vietnam War Analysis handout.

Blackboard

You will find the primary sources and other assigned readings posted on the Blackboard page. All other course documents, including the syllabus and tentative course schedule, PowerPoint slides from lectures, study guides, and rubrics, can also be found there. You will also be able to track your course grade via Blackboard.

Cell Phones and Laptops

In this course, you will not be allowed to use laptops, tablets, or cell phones during class *unless* we are discussing the online readings. Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced or turned off during class time. Disruptive uses of these devices (think: texting in class) will result in a student losing attendance and participation credit. If I see you using your phone inappropriately during class, I will probably call you out by name.

Exceptions to this policy include university emergencies, when students may check their devices to determine if an emergency exists, and instances when students wish to make audio recordings of my lectures. Please ask if you wish to record lectures or if you have questions or concerns about this policy on electronic devices.

Dropping the Class:

It is your responsibility to understand the University's procedure for dropping a class. If you stop attending this class but do not follow the proper procedure for dropping the class, you will receive a failing grade and will also be financially obligated to pay for the class. For information about dropping a class or withdrawing from the university, contact the Office of the Registrar at 836-5520 or visit the University's list of relevant deadlines at www.missouristate.edu/registrar/acad_cal.html.

Emergency Response/Medical Information:

You should familiarize yourself with the emergency response plan for this classroom, including the location of Strong Hall's exits and evacuation points. If you require assistance during an emergency evacuation, please discuss your needs with me at your earliest convenience. (For more information, go to www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm and www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm.) Similarly, if you have emergency medical information to share, please visit with me as soon as possible.

Statement of Nondiscrimination:

Missouri State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution, and maintains a grievance procedure available to any person who believes that he or she has been the victim of discrimination. At all times, it is your right to address inquiries or concerns about possible discrimination to the Office for Institutional Equity and Compliance, Park Central Office Building, 117 Park Central Square, Suite 111, 417-836-4252 (www.missouristate.edu/equity/). Other kinds of concerns, such as those of an academic nature, should be discussed with me and can also be brought to the attention of the Department of History.

Statement on Disability Accommodation:

Students who wish to request academic accommodations for a disability should contact the Director of the Disability Resource Center, Plaster Student Union, Suite 405, (417) 836-4192 or (417) 836-6792 (TTY) (www.missouristate.edu/disability). Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Disability Services prior to receiving accommodations. Disability Services refers some types of accommodation requests to the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, which also provides diagnostic testing for learning and psychological disabilities. For information about testing, contact the Director of the Learning Diagnostic Clinic, 836-4787 (<http://psychology.missouristate.edu/ldc/>).

Statement on Academic Dishonesty:

Missouri State University is a community of scholars committed to developing educated persons who accept the responsibility to practice personal and academic integrity. Students are responsible for knowing and following the university's student honor code, Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, available at www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegrity.htm and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library. Any student participating in any form of academic dishonesty will be subject to sanctions as described in this policy.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. A student caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing (submitting work that is not his or her own) will automatically receive a zero on that exam or assignment and be reported to the Office of the Provost. Discipline may also result in assignment of an "XF" course grade.

In some cases, plagiarism results from laziness or willful dishonesty, but in others it is the product of ignorance or carelessness. Ignorance, however, is not an excuse. I will offer guidance about how to avoid plagiarism, whether intentional or inadvertent, **but it is ultimately your responsibility to practice academic integrity, to cite materials properly, and to do your own work.** If you ever have questions about attribution or paraphrasing, please ask me. When in doubt, though: always cite your sources.

Mental Health/Stress Management

The Missouri State University Counseling Center is available to provide free and confidential services to students. You can find more information at <https://counselingcenter.missouristate.edu/>.

I'm glad that you are here, and I want to help you succeed. If at any point during the semester you find yourself really struggling, please know that there are resources available to help you. The MSU Suicide Prevention Resource Policy includes many of these resources: https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm