

# Missouri State University

**Dr. Jeremy Neely**

## **HST 315: Military History of the United States**

**Spring 2022**

**Section 1      Tuesdays/Thursdays  
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.  
Strong 400**

**Office: 421 Strong Hall  
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Thursdays  
9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and  
and by appointment**

**Phone: (417) 836-6221  
JeremyNeely@MissouriState.edu**

### **Required Texts**

- Gene Allen Smith, David Coffey, and Kyle Longley. *In Harm's Way: A History of the American Military Experience*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.
- Adams, Michael C. C. *The Best War Ever: America and World War II*. Second Edition. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015.
- Primary sources and other readings posted to the course Blackboard page.

### **Course Description**

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

### **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, and the military draft 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* those things are connected and *why* those things have mattered.

## Course Expectations and Policies

I expect you will have read and be familiar with the expectations 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 (9:30 to 11:30 a.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 fastest way to reach me, and barring some kind of emergency, I will reply to your message within a business day, although usually sooner. If I somehow don't reply within a day, please send me another message to make sure I didn't somehow miss the first one.

### 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	250 points
Exam Two	250 points
Exam Three	250 points
Daily Writes	150 points
Participation	100 points

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Total Points Possible	1,000 points
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I use plus/minus grading. Missouri State, alas, does not use A+ or D- grades. More details are here: [www.missouristate.edu/registrar/catalog/grades.html](http://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. The first two exams are scheduled for **February 24** and **April 7**. The take-home final exam will be due on **Saturday, May 14, at 10:45 a.m.**

### Participation

Active and informed participation, which counts for 100 points (or ten percent of the final grade), is vital to your success in this course. The participation score 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. I expect that you will have completed the assigned readings before the classes outlined in the schedule.

I will give you a tentative participation grade near the midpoint of the semester. Your final participation score will not be calculated until the very end of the semester.

### Daily Writes

On most of the days when our class meets I will ask you to write a short response to the readings assigned for that day. These short writes will be due to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on the day when those readings are assigned. These writes will be worth five or ten points apiece and will be worth a total of 150 points.

Your daily writes should demonstrate that you have done the reading and thought about it in a sophisticated way.

One of the best ways to show this is to include a brief quotation that you think best illustrates what the source's author(s) tried to say. For these short writes as well as the longer exams, you need not consult outside sources. The purpose of the assignments is to practice your skills of historical analysis, focusing upon the assigned texts.

### **Map Quiz**

A map quiz that will be due to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m. on January 25 will measure your knowledge of important places in U.S. military history. A list of these places will be posted to Blackboard.

### **Planning for the Unexpected**

If our class moves entirely online for any period of time, I will make announcements to Blackboard that explain how the course will proceed.

### **Absence Policy**

I will take attendance every day that our class meets. I want you to be in class. Being present will help you to succeed on your exams and the short writing exercises described above. In addition, you can only earn the participation points described above if you are present for our in-class discussions. I once imposed penalties that kicked in when students had several unexcused absences, but I am not imposing penalties this semester. If you come to class regularly, your chances of success in the course will improve greatly; if you don't come to class, you're more likely to struggle.

Although I want you to be present in class, please do not come if you feel unwell. Even if you're experiencing just mild symptoms of a common cold, please stay home. Seek medical attention from your physician or Mager's Health and Wellness Center, who can then advise you when it will be safe to return to class.

### **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**

Cell phones and other electronic devices should be silenced during class time. Disruptive use of these devices (think: texting in class) will result in a student losing participation credit. Students who wish to make audio recordings of my lectures should seek my permission first. Please don't redistribute those recordings.

### **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](http://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](http://www.missouristate.edu/safetran/51597.htm) and [www.missouristate.edu/safetran/erp.htm](http://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/](http://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:**

If you are a student with a disability and anticipate barriers related to this course, it is important to request accommodations and establish an accommodation plan with the University. Please contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) (<https://www.missouristate.edu/disability/>), Meyer Library, Suite 111, 417-836-4192, to initiate the process to establish your accommodation plan. The DRC will work with you to establish your accommodation plan, or it may refer you to other appropriate resources based on the nature of your disability. In order to prepare an accommodation plan, the University usually requires that students provide documentation relating to their disability. Please be prepared to provide such documentation if requested. Once a University accommodation plan is established, you may notify the class instructor of approved accommodations. If you wish to utilize your accommodation plan, it is suggested that you do so in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of class. Early notification to the instructor allows for full benefit of the accommodations identified in the plan. Instructors will not receive the accommodation plan until you provide that plan, and are not required to apply accommodations retroactively.

### **Statement on Academic Dishonesty:**

I expect that you will know and follow the university's student honor code, Student Academic Integrity Policies and Procedures, which are available at [www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegrity.htm](http://www.missouristate.edu/policy/academicintegrity.htm) and also at the Reserves Desk in Meyer Library.

This semester we commit ourselves to acting ethically and with academic integrity. This means that I expect you to do your own work and to credit others for work and ideas that are not your own. 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.

Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught cheating on an exam or plagiarizing (submitting work that is not their 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.

### **Mental Health and 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 with mental health, whether it's depression, anxiety, addiction, 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](https://www.missouristate.edu/policy/Op1_08-suicide-prevention-available-suicide-programs-and-related-procedures.htm)

## **Course Outline**

### **Week One**

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#### **January 18, Syllabus Day**

Readings HST 315 Syllabus  
Andrews/Burke, "What Does It Mean  
To Think Historically?"

#### **January 20, Dangerous New World**

Readings *In Harm's Way (IHW)*, Chapter 1  
*Aztec Account of Spanish Attack*  
Grenier, "First Way of War," 16-43

## Week Two

### **January 25, Wars for Empire**

Map Quiz due to Blackboard by 11:59 p.m

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 2  
*Grenier, "First Way of War," 43-52*  
*Pontiac Calls for War*  
*Rogers Provides Rules for Rangers*

### **January 27, American Revolution**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 3  
*Parliament Passes Quartering Act*  
*Declaration of Independence*  
*Shy, "Am. Society and War for Indep."*

## Week Three

### **February 1, War for Independence**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 4  
*G. Washington Explains Strategy, 1777*  
*Women in SC Experience Occupation*  
*B. King Recalls Fighting for the British*  
*Washington Bids Farewell to the Army*

### **February 3, Defending the Early Republic**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 5  
*Hamilton, Federalist 26*  
*Articles of Confed. Provisions on War/Military*<sup>^</sup>  
*Washington Calls for Standing Army*<sup>^</sup>  
*Constn./Bill of Rights on War/Military*<sup>^</sup>  
*Anti-Federalists Fear a Large Military*<sup>^</sup>  
(<sup>^</sup> In "New Nation, Military, Am. Way of War")

## Week Four

### **February 8, Armed Forces and National Expansion**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 6 (pp. 175-193)  
*Tecumseh Calls for Pan-Indian Confed.*  
*Congress Debates Going to War*  
*The Monroe Doctrine*

### **February 10, "A Wicked War"**

Readings *IHW*, Chs. 6-7 (pp. 193-219)  
*Hitchcock Agonizes over Wars*  
*William T. Sherman Disdains Politics*  
*D. L. Goodall Exults in Battle*  
*Greenberg, "Buena Vista," from*  
*A Wicked War*

## Week Five

### **February 15, The War of the Rebellion**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 7 (pp. 220-238)  
*Phillips, "No North—No South..."*

### **February 17, The Unfinished Work**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 8 (pp. 239-258)  
*Butler Reacts to Self-Emancipation*  
*Singleton Recalls Fighting for the Union*

## Week Six

### **February 22, Hard War**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 8 (pp. 258-272)  
*The Lieber Code*  
*Order No. 11/J. Neely on Order No. 11*

### **February 24 – Exam One**

## Week Seven

### **March 1, Occupations and Conquest**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 9  
*Lang, "Republicanism, Race, Reconstn."*

### **March 3, Birth of American Empire**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 10 (pp. 305-320)  
*McKinley on Expansionism*  
*James on "Philippine Question"*

## Week Eight

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### **March 8, Preparedness**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 10 (pp. 320-332)  
*Emory Upton Urges a European-Style Army*  
*Emma Goldman on Preparedness*

### **March 10, The Great War**

Readings *Wilson, Norris, LaFollette*  
Video “They Shall Not Grow Old”

*No Class (Spring Break) – March 15 - 17*

## Week Nine

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### **March 22, Over There**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 11 (pp. 333-348)  
*Sedition Act of 1918*

### **March 24, The Interwar Period**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 11 (pp. 333-348)  
*DuBois, Returning Soldiers*  
*American Legion Rallies Veterans*  
*Mitchell on Air Power*  
*Butler, War Is a Racket*

## Week Ten

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### **March 29, World War Two**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 12  
*Adams, Best War Ever*,  
Chapters 1 - 3  
*Roosevelt, Arsenal of Democracy*  
*Roosevelt, Four Freedoms (excerpt)*

### **March 31, World War Two:**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 13  
*Adams, Best War Ever*,  
Chapters 4 – 6

## Week Eleven

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### **April 5, Origins of the Cold War**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 14 (pp. 414-422)  
*Lippmann on Containment*

Video “The Blinding of Isaac Woodard”

### **April 7 – Exam Two**

## Week Twelve

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### **April 12, Korean War**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 14 (pp. 422-446)  
*Phillips, Battlefield/Jim Crow*

### **April 14 – No Class (Spring Holiday)**

## Week Thirteen

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### **April 19, New Look**

Reading *IHW*, Ch. 15, pp. 439-446  
*Eisenhower, Farewell Address*

### **April 21, Flexible Response**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 15, 446-454  
*Taylor Suggests a Flexible Response*

Video “The Vietnam War” (excerpts)

## Week Fourteen

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### **April 26, Vietnam War**

### **April 28, Vietnamization**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 15, pp. 454-463  
*Joint Chiefs Differ w/POTUS over Restraints*<sup>^</sup>  
*McNamara Recommends US Response*<sup>^</sup>  
(<sup>^</sup> In “Vietnam War” pdf)

Video “The Vietnam War” (excerpts)

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 15, 463-469  
*Thomson, “How Could Vietnam Happen?”*

Video “The Vietnam War” (excerpts)

### **Week Fifteen**

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#### **May 3, Shadows of Vietnam**

Readings *Gates Comm. on All-Volunteer Force*  
*W. Westmoreland, US Could Have Won*  
*Kovic, Agonizes over Meaning of War*  
*Veterans Review Apocalypse Now*  
*Kerry, Statement against War*

#### **May 5, End of the Cold War**

Readings *Kessler & Gabriel re: Women in Combat*

### **Week Sixteen**

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#### **May 10, New World Order**

Reading *Jones, “America, Oil, War in Middle East”*

#### **May 12, Gulf Wars and Beyond**

Readings *IHW*, Ch. 16, 482-500  
*Kohn, “The Danger of Militarization”*  
*Adams, Best War Ever*, Ch. 7/Afterword

**Final Exam: Saturday, May 14, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.**