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Telephone: 825-2402  
Internet: robert.wooster@tamucc.edu

I encourage you to ask questions and make comments in class and/or during office hours. If these hours are not convenient, please feel free to make an appointment with me. This is particularly important in this course, for the U. S. military is notorious for having developed specialized jargon and confusing acronyms. In addition, there are numerous specialized terms relating to military issues, organization, and ordnance. I will try to reduce this to a minimum, but if you don’t understand a term I use in class, please ask me to explain it. You’ll be doing yourself (and undoubtedly some other bewildered classmate) a favor.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**
The development of U.S. military strategy and policy from the Colonial Wars through the Gulf Wars.

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**
Through essay exams, class participation exercises, readings quizzes, and a research paper, students who successfully complete this course will:

1. Understand the events, personalities, and ideas which have shaped U. S. military history;
2. Place America's military past within its larger national and international contexts;
3. Construct persuasive essays using sound logic and concrete examples;
4. Become more skilled in the art of primary research and historiographical analysis.

**COURSE POLICIES**
Please read the course requirements listed below with care. It is important that there is no misunderstanding regarding them, so if you have any questions concerning them, be sure to ask. I will operate under the assumption that you are aware of and understand them.

1. **Lectures and Attendance** -- The lectures are designed to be the foundation for the course. As such, regular class attendance is essential if you hope to pass the course. I assume that when you sign up for the course, you are committing yourself to be in class on a regular basis. Further, it is essential that you pay close attention and take good notes when you are here. Despite the help of PowerPoint screens to guide you, this is not always easy in a lecture setting. The screens are just an aid, and merely copying what is on them will not be enough.

2. **Examinations**
   First Exam: Section One of the lectures; *Major Problems in Military History*, Chapters 1-5
   Second Exam: Section Two of the lectures; *Major Problems in Military History*, Chapters 6-10
   Final Exam: Section Two of the lectures; *Major Problems in Military History*, Chapters 11-15

There will be three exams. These exams will be drawn from the lectures as well as the readings, and will consist of a series of chronology questions (20%), identifications (30%), and an essay (50%). Subject matter for the chronologies and identifications from the readings will be listed on a study guide, but there will be no such guide covering potential subject matter from the lectures. All essay questions will be drawn from a study guide.

On exam days and during the readings quizzes, electronic devices will not be permitted. In order to do well on the exams, it is essential that you attend class regularly, take good notes, and read your assigned materials. There are no short-cuts to academic success. It demands energy and effort on your part.

3. **Make-up Examinations** – For those students who miss either the first or second exam, all makeups will be given on November 7 during the regular class period. You should immediately reserve this date and time in your calendar. Because of the nature of the course, you are strongly advised to take the exams at the originally scheduled time. You are expected to show up for the make-up without being prompted, and must rearrange your schedule to take the make-up at the time
noted above. It is your responsibility to make-up the test, and your responsibility to make the necessary arrangements to take the makeup at this scheduled time. The make-up will cover the same materials and use the same study questions as the regular examination.

4. Readings quizzes – There will be seven quizzes over the assigned reading during the semester. Consisting of multiple choice, true-false, and short answer questions, each quiz should take about fifteen minutes. The subject matter for each quiz will be described in a readings quiz guide covering the reading in question. Your five highest quiz grades will be used to calculate your semester quiz grade. No makeups will be given for any quiz unless you have an excuse for a verified university function, or an emergency for which you must provide documentation approved by the Student Affairs office. To encourage you to take notes on your reading, you may use handwritten notes or approved printouts when taking the quizzes.

5. Extra Credit -- You have enough of importance to do in the regular assignments for this course. No extra credit opportunities will be available.

6. Grade Appeals during the semester -- You have the right to appeal if you believe that you have received a grade which does not reflect the quality of your work, or if you do not understand why an answer you gave was graded as it was. Please feel free to bring the matter to my attention.

7. Assistance – Office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. I encourage you to come by and talk with me during office hours. If you cannot make these times, ask to make an appointment.

8. Freedom of Speech -- Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment. Reducing confusion, providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request a clarification.

9. Academic etiquette -- Universities must maintain standards of academic etiquette in order to affect an atmosphere conducive to learning. You are expected to demonstrate courtesy to one another in and out of the classroom. Turn off your cell phones, blackberries, etc., and use electronic devices only for legitimate academic reasons. Talking to one’s neighbor(s) during class lectures or general discussions, chronic lateness, using cell-phones or text message gadgets in class, surfing the web, leaving class before it has been dismissed, etc., is inherently disruptive and thus injurious to the rights of others to the opportunity to learn. As such, it is unacceptable in a university classroom. Students who are unable to abide by these rules of academic etiquette and normal civility will be removed from the class.

10. Academic Integrity -- Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question, and, in more serious cases, lead to further academic penalty. For definitions of and penalties for plagiarism, see the guidelines for your research paper and University Procedures.

11. Late Work – If you turn in an assignment late without a valid reason (verified extended illness, accident, or unavoidable circumstance cleared by the professor in advance) you will be assessed a penalty of ten points per weekday you turn in that assignment late.

12. Electronic submissions of assignments – This is not an on-line course. You must submit hard copies of each assignment at the beginning of the class period in which it is due. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

13. Blackboard and Emergency Preparations – This syllabus, as well as class handouts, are available through the Blackboard Learn website, which may be accessed “The Island Online,” https://bb9.tamucc.edu/. You should check it regularly. In case of a hurricane, natural disaster, etc., which causes the closure of the campus for several days, course materials and assignments for those days will also be posted on Blackboard.
14. **Class participation/daily work** – On many class days, there will be some sort of exercise in which you expected to participate in classroom activities. This will often (but not always) entail class discussion as well as some form of short writing exercise, often involving the reading. Your class participation/daily work grade will be graded as either excellent (95), average (75), present (60), or absent (0). Your two lowest class participation/daily work grades will be dropped, but there are no makeups for class participation/daily work exercises.

**DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS**
The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**ACADEMIC ADVISING**
The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

**DROPPING A CLASS**
I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class.

**GRADE APPEALS**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, Student Grade Appeals. These documents are accessible online at: [http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf](http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, [http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html](http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html).

**REQUIRED READING**

**COURSE GRADES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Readings quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
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**PAPER REQUIREMENTS**
You will also write a ten to twelve-page paper, which must be based on a theme from one of the chapters of the Chambers and Piehler reader, *Major Problems in American Military History*. In addition to using all appropriate sources included in Chambers and Piehler, you will be required to include materials from at least ten additional sources (five primary and five secondary) into your paper. Please see the “U.S. Military History Paper” and “History Area Style Guide” handouts for further information and requirements. Please read the “Style Guide” with care, and follow the rules set forth therein for matters of organization, quotations, names, style and clarity, format, plagiarism, primary and secondary sources, documentation, footnotes/endnotes, and bibliography. To encourage you to think of writing a paper as a process, rather than something done hurriedly in the last week before the assignment is due, the paper assignment will include the following elements, with the percentage of the paper grade in parentheses:

1) Paper proposal (1-2 pages), summarizing the key themes raised in the chapter you’ve selected to base your paper on and proposing a specific topic (10% of paper grade). Due September 19.

2) A complete bibliography, using proper bibliographic techniques. We’ll go over the proper bibliographic forms in class; see also the “History Area Style Guide.” (10% of paper grade). Due October 3.

3) Four pages of draft text for your paper (“I’ve started to write” assignment). This draft will be graded on its completeness and the quality of your citations. (10% of paper grade). Due November 12.

4) The final research paper itself. This paper will be graded according to the quality of evidence, depth of analysis, and effectiveness of organization, style, and presentation (70% of paper grade). Due November 28.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)**

**Section 1: The Military and the Formation of the United States**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 27</td>
<td>Introduction; <em>Major Problems</em>, Chapter 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug. 29</td>
<td>Colonial Military Traditions; <em>Major Problems</em>, Chapter 2; Reading and analyzing primary documents. BRING CHAMBERS AND PIEHLER TO CLASS!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 5</td>
<td>The American Revolution, part 1</td>
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| Sept. 10 | The American Revolution, part 2; *Major Problems*, Chapter 3 | **Readings Quiz 1**
| Sept. 12 | The Military and the Early Republic; *Major Problems*, Chapter 4 | Paper Workshop; BRING CHAMBERS AND PIEHLER TO CLASS!
| Sept. 17 | The Sword of the Republic; *Major Problems*, Chapter 5; | **Readings Quiz 2**
| Sept. 19 | The Sword of the Republic, part 2 | **One page proposal for paper topic due**
| Oct. 24 | First Exam | |

**Section 2: The Military and the Growth of an American Empire**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 26</td>
<td>The Civil War: The Early Years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 1</td>
<td>The Civil War: Turning the Tide; <em>Major Problems</em>, Chapter 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>The Union Triumphant</td>
<td><strong>Paper bibliography due</strong></td>
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Oct.  8  Reconstruction and the Wars against the Indians; *Major Problems*, Chapter 7
Readings Quiz 3

10  Paper workshop

15  National and International Frontiers

17  The Emergence of a Modern Navy; *Major Problems*, Chapter 8

22  The Great War

24  The American Expeditionary Force; *Major Problems*, Chapter 9
Readings Quiz 4

29  The Long Armistice; *Major Problems*, Chapter 10

31  Second Exam

Section Three: The Military of a World Power

Nov.  5  Pearl Harbor

7  Paper Workshop; Makeup Exams

9  Last day to drop a course with an automatic “W”

12  World War II, part 1. During the lectures on World War II, you’ll need to read Chapters 11 and 12 in *Major Problems*
I’ve started to write assignment due

14  World War II, part 2
Readings Quiz 5

19  World War II, part 3

21  Readings Day; no classes

22  Thanksgiving Holiday; no classes

26  Indochina in Flames; *Major Problems*, Chapter 13
Readings Quiz 6

28  The Wars in Vietnam; *Major Problems*, Chapter 14
Research papers due

Dec.  3  An Era of Violent Peace; *Major Problems*, Chapter 15
Readings Quiz 7

5  Three Wars in Iraq

FINAL EXAM – TBD