

**HIS/SOC 555 War and the Military.
Michael Barnhart and Ian Roxborough
Spring 2016**

**Tuesdays 4:00 – 7:00
N403**

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Introduction

This course aims to provide an introduction to war in the modern world. We begin with a general discussion of war and then move quickly to the following topics: what are the causes of wars? How do military organizations vary from one country to another and how do they change over time? How is warfare related to state-building? What do we mean by terms like “irregular warfare” and “insurgency,” and how are these forms of warfare related to “conventional” interstate warfare? What are the difficulties facing modern military organizations when they confront adversaries practicing irregular warfare? How do wars come to an end? What kinds of political settlements and forms of state emerge from wars?

The course has an emphasis on war in Asia and is organized more or less chronologically. The focus is on the twentieth century. The course ends with a discussion of recent (and ongoing) conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Students should find that this course helps them to understand contemporary wars and military operations and locate these in a broad framework of the rise and fall of great powers, empires, nation- and state-building, decolonization, and nationalism.

Requirements

There will be 4 brief papers. They are not research papers; they are designed to enable you to think about some of the larger issues raised by the reading. The questions are deliberately broad so that you can tackle them in ways that suit your individual interests. They are listed below.

Books to purchase

Edward Drea, *Japan's Imperial Army*, 2009
Stuart C. Miller, *Benevolent Assimilation*,
Michael Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War*
Noriko Kawamura, *Emperor Hirohito and the Pacific War*
Ernest May, *The Truman Administration and China, 1945-9*
Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: a History*
Mark Lawrence, *The Vietnam War*
David Hunt, *Vietnam's Southern Revolution*
Tom Ricks, *The Gamble*
Carter Malkasian, *War Comes to Garmser*

Schedule

UNIT ONE: FORMS OF WAR

Tuesday Jan 26: the fundamentals of war

Andreas Wimmer, "War", Annual Review of Sociology, 2014

Kestnbaum, Meyer 2009 "The Sociology of War and the Military," Annual Review of Sociology, vol 35, pp. 235-54

Jonathan Sumption, *The Hundred Years War II: Trial by Fire*, ch.1

United States Marine Corps, *Warfighting*, (MCDP-1), 1997 (optional) [You can find the most recent version at <http://www.clausewitz.com/readings/mcdp1.pdf>. The original was published in 1989]

Tuesday February 2

State vs proto-state: the Filipino insurrection

Stuart C. Miller, *Benevolent Assimilation*, entire.

Tuesday February 9

Modern states, modern armies

Edward Drea, *Japan's Imperial Army*, chs. 7-12

David Evans and Mark Peattie, *Kaigun*, chs. 8 and 13.

Tuesday February 16

Starting Wars: Germany

Hew Strachan, *The First World War, Vol. One: To Arms*, chs. 1-4.

Essay Assignment for Unit One: What are the key differences between conventional and unconventional warfare?

UNIT TWO: MILITARIES AND DECISION MAKING

Tuesday February 23

Starting Wars: Japan

Barnhart, *Japan Prepares for Total War*, entire.

Tuesday March 1

China: War or insurgency?

Taylor, *Generalissimo*, chs. 4-9

Peattie, ed., *Battle for China*, chs. to-be-assigned

Tuesday March 8

Ending Wars: 1945

Noriko Kawamura, *Emperor Hirohito and the Pacific War*, entire.

Essay Assignment for Unit Two: How well did professional military organizations succeed in training skillful national defense policymakers?

Tuesday March 15 Mid-semester break

UNIT THREE: AMERICA IN ASIA

Tuesday March 22

Ernest May, *The Truman Administration and China, 1945-9*, entire.

Tuesday March 29

Korea

Bruce Cumings, *The Korean War: a History*, entire.

Tuesday April 5

Vietnam I

Mark Lawrence, *The Vietnam War*, entire.

Mark Lawrence and Fredrick Logevall, eds., *The First Vietnam War*, chs. 8 (Duiker), 12 (Jian), and 14 (Rotter).

Tuesday April 12

Vietnam II

David Hunt, *Vietnam's Southern Revolution*, entire

Essay Assignment for Unit Three: How different is the American military, and American defense policymaking, from other nations studied earlier in the semester?

UNIT FOUR: ASIA'S BALKANS

Tuesday April 19

The New Hundred Years War: Iraq

Tom Ricks, *The Gamble*, chapters 2, 5-7, 9 and epilogue

Tuesday April 26

The New Hundred Years War: Afghanistan

Carter Malkasian, *War Comes to Garmser*, chapters 1-7 and conclusion

Tuesday May 3

Thoughts and Summations

Essay Assignment for Unit Four: How different is war and warfare in Iraq and Afghanistan from other conflicts studied earlier in the semester?