**INTA 3012/8803**

**War in the Twentieth Century (W20C)**

Regents Professor Seymour E. Goodman, 302 Habersham, 5-1461, seymour.goodman@inta.gatech.edu, available after class or by appointment (easily made)

Fall, 2018, TuTh, 1:30-2:45, CoC 102, August 20 – December ?, 2018

**Syllabus** (This syllabus is current as of August 10, 2018.)

W20C provides a historical foundation and understanding of the causes, conduct and consequences of modern war and aims to support informed discussion and analysis of contemporary crisis and conflict.

**Learning objectives:**

To become knowledgeable about the why, when, what, where, and how of the three most extensive and dominating (and some of the many lesser) wars of the 20th Century. The three are World War I (currently in its centennial), World War II, and the Cold War (including the Soviet-American military-industrial conflict, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam). How did they attain their global scales?

To understand each war from the perspective of those that came before and the influence each would have on those that followed.

To develop a deeper understanding of how the three big and many lesser wars of the 20th Century resulted in the entire world as we have it today.

To determine if “macro-patterns” for success or failure in armed conflict appear and disappear over the course of the 20th Century. Have the perceptions of what makes for success and failure changed?

To identify the dominant and emerging technologies of each period. To understand the roles of these technologies in determining the conduct and outcomes of the wars of the period.

**Readings**:

Martin van Creveld***, The Changing Face of War: Lessons of Combat from the Marne to Iraq***. NY: Ballantine, 2006.

Geoffrey Parker (ed.), ***Warfare, The Triumph of the West***, Cambridge University Press, 1995. Chapters 13-17, epilogue.

Byron Farwell, ***Over There: The United States in the Great War, 1917-18***, NY: Norton, 1999.

Paul Kennedy, ***Engineers of Victory: The Problem Solvers Who Turned the Tide in the Second World War***. NY: Random House, 2013.

Ken Burns and Lynn Novik, ***The*** ***Vietnam War***, multi-part video documentary available from multiple sources, 2017.

A copy of each book will be placed on library reserve.

Assignments of Chapter N in these books will be designated VCN, PN, FN, and KN respectively. Episodes in the Burns and Novik documentary will be denoted BN.

**Grades (3012)**:

15% Class participation, including weekly attendanc, and reading verification.

20% Team projects.

65% Two combination in-class and take-home exams for 30% and 35% each. The last will be the final exam.

Additional requirements for the INTA8803 students will be worked out individually.

Depending on class size, we will compress much of the post-1950 wars into the student projects, e.g. the late 1940s, Korean War, Cuban missile crisis, Berlin x3, India-Pakistan wars, Middle east wars, etc. With some variations, each will consist of a 15 minute in-class presentation, a 1-2 page summary, and a 1-2 page annotated bibliography.

Some broader Georgia Tech context reminders:

We operate under an honor system that we take seriously. In particular, you should explicitly cite your sources.

We also operate under the Georgia Tech and Ivan Allen College’s Commitment to a Diverse Community. (See iac.gatech.edu)

**Schedule:**

After the first week, each reading assignment should be completed by the day listed.

Week 1:

Aug 21 Overview of the class and syllabus. Some definitions and concepts.

Aug 23 Wars at the turn of the century, 1871-1913. The Great Powers, their  
 wars for colonies and territories. The world as it developed by 1913.

VCIntro, VC1  
Biosketch assignment.

Week 2:

Aug 28 Prelude to World War, 1871-1913

VC1

Aug 31 World War I

P13, Biosketches due.

Week 3:

Sep 4-6 World War I, 1914-17

P14, VC2, F1

Week 4:

Sep 11-13 World War I, 1917-18

F2-21

Week 5: (Poznan)

Sep 18 The Great War comes to an end

F22-27

Sep 20 Midterm exam

Week 6:

Sep 25-27 The Twenty Years’ “Truce”

P15, VC3

Week 7:

Oct 2 The Eve of World War II

Oct 4 World War II, first pass

P16, KIntro

Week 8:

Oct 9 Fall recess

Oct 11 How to Get Convoys Safely Across the Atlantic

K1

Week 9:

Oct 16-18 The WWI Symposium will be the entire week’s classes.

A full program with Wardlaw location and times will be distributed.

Week 10:

Oct 23 How to Win Command of the Air

K2

Oct 25 How to Stop a Blitzkrieg

K3

The final drop date is at the end of this week.

Week 11:

Oct 30 How to Seize an Enemy-held Shore

K4

Nov 1 How to Defeat the “Tyranny of Distance”

K5

Week 12: [WWI at GTL for Nov 8 class.]

Nov 6 The world in 1945-1950. Nation-State transformations.

K5, KConcl, VC5

Nov 8 War in the Second Half of the 20th Century. Korea.

The schedule and content of Weeks 13, 14, 15 will be completed once we know the size and makeup of the class.

Week 16:

Dec 4 Last day of classes

War in the 21st Century.   
Lessons learned or not learned from the 20th Century.

Dec ? Final Exam.