

INTA 3012/8803SG (HTS 3803SG)

War in the Twentieth Century (W20C)

Regents' Professor Seymour E. Goodman, 302 Habersham
seymour.goodman@inta.gatech.edu, [available before or after class or by appointment \(easily made\)](#)

Spring 2021, TuTh, , 12:30-1:45, classes from January 14 – April 27, 2021 + final

Syllabus (This syllabus was current as of February 28, 2021.)

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 crises and conflicts.

In a bit more detail, the primary storyline for this course:

At the beginning of the 20th Century, there were arguably nine (9) Great Powers who had largely divided up the rest of the world among themselves, most often in the form of colonies or territories. The military-technological gaps across the Great Powers were fairly small.

At the beginning of the 21st Century, there was one Superpower. The colonies and territories for the most part had become over 100 independent countries. The military-technological lead of the one Superpower was huge, dwarfing the next few most advanced countries.

Much of this change was the result of three major wars (World War I, World War II and the Cold War), and a large number and variety of smaller wars, during the 20th Century.

We are concerned with how this came about.

The one Superpower has now been mired in three wars for most of the young 21st Century. Each has lasted longer than any of its wars of the 20th Century. The military-technological and several other gaps between the Superpower and its enemies are greater than has been the case at any time in its nearly 250-year history. Why doesn't the Superpower win any of these wars?

Learning objectives:

To become knowledgeable about the why, when, what, where, and how of the three most extensive and dominating wars of the 20th Century. The three are World War I, World War II, and the Cold War (including the Soviet-American military-industrial conflict, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam). We will also consider post-WWII

decolonization and the many armed conflicts that followed. 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 become knowledgeable of the political geography of the 20th Century conflicts.

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.

Sources (in roughly the order of coverage):

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

Michael Howard, *The First World War*, Oxford, 2002 (paperback 2003).

Peter Jackson, “*They Shall Not Grow Old*,” feature film documentary, 2018.

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

Cold War Armageddon, film documentary, 8 episodes, 2016. (AHC)

After Hitler, film documentary, 2 parts, 2017 (NG).

The Nunn School Symposiums on WWI/WWII/Cold war may be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SamNunnSchoolofInternationalAffairsGeorgiaTechTHWG/videos>

Assignments of Chapter or Episode x will be designated VCx, Hx, Kx, CWAx, and AHx respectively.

Grades (3012):

30% Class participation, including weekly attendance, and completed assignment verification. These will be collected on Thursday of every other week.

20% Student map project.

20% Midterm.

30% Final exam.

Additional requirements for INTA 8803 students will be worked out individually.

Some broader Georgia Tech context reminders:

We operate under the GT 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:

Jan 14 (Th) Overview of the class and syllabus. Some definitions and concepts. Wars at the turn of the century, 1870-1913. The Great Powers, their wars for colonies and territories. The world as it developed by 1913.

VCIntro, VC1

Week 2:

Jan 19 Prelude to World War, 1870-1913

VCIntro, VC1

Biosketch assignment.

Jan 21 World War I

Emerging technologies ready to take off

H1

Week 3:

Jan 26-28 World War I, 1914-15
Military organization
H3-H4, VC2, Bio sketches due in discussion section of Canvas

Week 4:

Feb 2-4 World War I, 1916-17
H5-H6-H7, "They Shall Not Grow Old"

Week 5:

Feb 9 World War I, 1917-1918
VC2, H8
Feb 11 The "end" of the Great War
H9

Week 6:

Feb 16 The Twenty Years' "Truce," the new political geography
Feb 18 The Twenty Years' "Truce," technological evolutions
vC3, 1935 maps due

Week 7:

Feb 23 Midterm exam (coverage up to 1940)
Feb 25 WWII 1940-41
KIntro

Week 8:

Mar 2 World War II, 1941-42
Mar 4 How to Get Convoys Safely Across the Atlantic
K1; start vC4

Week 9:

Mar 9 How to Win Command of the Air: Europe and the Pacific

K2, vC4

Mar 11 How to Stop a Blitzkrieg

K3

Week 10:

Mar 16 Break day, no class

Mar 18 How to Seize an Enemy-held Shore

K4, View Session I of the “End of World War II and the Start of the Cold War in Europe.”

Week 11:

Mar 23-25 The end of WWII in Europe.

View Sessions II and III of the “End of World War II and the Start of the Cold War in Europe.”

View AH 1 and 2. VC5.

Week 12:

Mar 30-Apr 1 The entire class this week will be embedded in the symposium “The End of World War II and the Start of the Cold War, Asia-Pacific*”

K5, View CWA Eps. 1-3

Week 13:

April 6 Nation-State transformations. Formation of the UN, NATO, the Warsaw Pact. Technological developments, 1945-

Finish VC5, K Concl, 1950 maps due

April 8 The Cold War and Wars of independence, 1945-

View CWA Eps. 4-8

Week 14:

April 13-15 The Cold War and Armed Conflict in the second half of the 20th Century

Map projects due for armed conflict from the late 1940s through the 1990s by April 15.

Week 15:

Apr 20 Armed conflict in the second half of the 20th Century

VC6

Apr 22 Armed conflict in the second half of the 20th Century

April 27 Last day of classes. Wars in the early 21st Century.

May 3 Final exam, 2 hrs starting at 11:20 am

*Denotes symposium at times other than our normally scheduled classes. Announcements will be sent to all members of this class.

The following was appended to this syllabus to adjust to the cancellation of on-campus instruction after the spring break.

INTA 3012/HTS 3803SG/INTA 8303SG2, War in the 20th Century.
(23+4+1 students)

Map exercises.

During the pre-break part of the semester, two person student teams produced poster-sized maps of the Great Power empires (largely forged through armed conflict) on the eves of the World Wars (1913 and 1938 respectively).

The final map exercise, also in teams of 2-3 students each with different partners, is to put together maps of post-WWII armed conflicts. For this “armed conflict” is more broadly defined than the state-vs-state warfare of the first half of the century to include post-colonial separation conflicts and civil wars, regional state-vs-state conflicts not directly involving both post-WWII “superpowers,” etc. The 11 student teams are based on regional and other criteria (e.g., Middle East – North Africa, direct UN participation including peacekeeping operations) and were formed during class time in our last week on campus. The due date for these maps is April 13. The original intent of having each team give an in-class presentation is going to be replaced by a kind of take-home exam where each student reviews all the other 10 maps and writes a critical review of two of them. The intent here was and still is to have all the students learn this material from their classmates, i.e., with each team sharing their piece of a very large and complicated pie with everyone else.

World War II and the Cold War.

The planned all-day symposium on the End of World War II and the Start of the Cold War, the visiting lecture by Prof. Emeritus John Garver on “China’s Wars since 1945,” and the hoped for visiting lecture by Gen. Phil Breedlove have all been cancelled. They have been replaced by viewing eight (8) one-hour documentaries on the Cold War. These documentaries are required viewing with subject matter that will be included on the final exam.

Kennedy’s *Engineers of Victory* (World War II), Buruma’s *Year Zero* (immediate post-WWII), and the second half of van Creveld’s *The Changing Face of War* (WWII and the rest of the 20th Century) remain required reading and material for the final exam.

The final portion of the class participation credit for the course, which had significant class attendance, in-class participation, and honor statement reading verification components, is going to devolve into honor statements covering the required reading and the eight Cold War documentaries

The final will be a timed open books/notes/videos take home exam. It will be similar to the midterm and be limited to covering World War II and the Cold War.

This week I am sending out a very short practice exam to check out the delivery and recovery mechanics and prompt any questions they may have.

The weights for the final grades of the different parts of the course might undergo a very slight adjustment in favor of the majority of students depending on what I see of their map exercises after they are due April 13.

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Review of the remaining deliverables and due dates this semester.

Revised 11 April 2020.

Participation points. These will be added to what you had before the cancellation of on-campus instruction. The major difference of course, is that class attendance has had to be dropped. The final total will count 20% of the final grade, as per the original syllabus.

2 pts Kennedy Ch 5 (second reading) and Conclusion

5 pts van Creveld Chs. 5 (2), 6 (2), and 7 (1)

9 pts Buruma, entire book, 9 chapters

8 pts Cold War Armageddon documentary, 8 episodes (partly replacing scheduled class and symposium time)

24 pts maximum total

So the total participation points will consist of those acquired before the break for a maximum of 42 points, a maximum of 24 as listed above + 10 for the map reviews below (the map assessments for the final exam are not part of this). Again, for 20% of the final grade.

An honor statement is due April 17-20. If you do not claim all 34 points since the end of on-campus instruction, you need to tell me what you did not complete.

Map exercises.

Finished maps for all 11 teams due noon April 16. This will count 20% of your final grade as per the syllabus. There is room for a lot of achievement here, in both content and representation. It is important that what you send be clear and readable to get the grade your content deserves. That was the case with the poster-sized maps submitted for the 1913 and 1938 exercises, but this time we see them on-line in a reduced form. If you want to check this aspect out before April 16, you may submit a partial map to Kayleigh and me to check

out that aspect. Different teams are welcome to help each other out with regard to the mechanics of presentation.

Originally we were hoping to share the focused content of the 11 teams with all your classmates through 15-20 minute in-class presentations. Under the circumstances we cannot do this. As a substitute, each team is required to send a copy of its map to the entire class. Each member of the class is expected to take a careful look at each of the other 10 maps, and report up to 10 as another addition to the participation points. This should be done separately (although it is okay to do it in the same email) from and in addition to the 24 points specified above. [Added Jan 14, 2021. This semester we will have all of the maps placed in Canvas as they are completed. And we will have short 10-15 minute presentations by the map teams.]

As part of the final exam, we will ask you to write up your assessments of the two “best” (in your opinion, but particularly concerned with those maps that you learned the most from studying) maps among the 10 you reviewed. The total should be less than 1 page, 12 pt font, 1.5 spacing, at least 1” margins. Do this before the timed take-home final, and cut and paste this page into the designated place on the final exam when it is sent to you.