

Technology and Military Organization

INTA 6015
MW 2:00 to 3:15

Spring 2021

Professor Michael Dan Salomone, PhD

Habersham 154

Office Hours: Immediately after class while we are still online is the best time to see me.

<michaeldujac@aol.com> cell 678-617-0872

Course Description and Objectives

This course is organized around the concept of Revolutions in Military Affairs (RMAs). RMAs involve significant changes in technology applied to military purpose and corresponding changes in military organization and operational art leading to new conceptions of the way warfare is conducted. Since the time of Napoleon, it is widely believed that there have been several such RMAs (including the development of nuclear weapons which is outside of the purview of this course) and that another is underway at the present time. The nature of these revolutions will be explored through case studies with special emphasis on militarily useful technology, its impact on military organization, and the nature and role of innovation in these processes.

Course Requirements

You are expected to attend **ALL** classes. You are expected to read **ALL** the assignments in advance of class. This is your “homework”. You are expected to participate in class discussions. Failure to adhere to the above requirements will adversely affect your grade. Readings outside the texts will be available on Canvas or can be sourced from my personal library. There will be film to assist in the understanding of the case studies. *If you think that film is a waste of time for learning, then you certainly will not want to take this course.*

Texts

Martin Van Creveld: Command in War

J.F.C. Fuller: The Conduct of War, 1789-1961

John Keegan: The Face of Battle

Elliot Cohen & John Gooch: Military Misfortunes: The Anatomy of Failure in War.

You will be required to present to the class and submit to me an annotated briefing on one of the course topics that will require supplemental research and reading. This will be 33% of your grade, and another 33% will be a composite score of the frequency and quality of your class participation. The final 34% of your final grade will be the presentation and submission of an annotating briefing or a topic of interest approved by me on a topic relevant to the course content. This briefing will be done with several of your classmates as a group project, so there will be several groups. These grades are determined solely at my discretion.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of this course, the successful student will have a working understanding of the manner in which military organizations organize their human capital in response to or in support of technological or organizational innovation, external threats or opportunities, and budgetary feasts or famines.

Students will have demonstrated the ability to:

1. Use historical examples of military innovation to understand the outcomes of major wars and battles;
2. Identify key instances of ‘military revolution’ and their perceived effects on the manner and prosecution of ‘war’; and
3. Understand the connection between politics, conflict, and war from the perspective of key military practitioners and writers in Western military thought, including but not limited to Clausewitz, Moltke, Schlieffen, Fuller, Keegan, and Van Creveld.

The Course:

Introduction: Topic: Where we are now. Film: Iraq: Battle Plan Under Fire and “The Revolution in Military Affairs” (RMA) briefing.

From Whence We Came:

1.0) Warfare in the “Ancient” World.

Read:

- Fuller, "The Limited Wars of the Absolute Kings" and "The Rebirth of Unlimited War"
- Keegan, "Agincourt 25 October 1415"
- Van Creveld, "Introduction" and "The Stone Age of Command"

Films:

- Selections from “300”, “Brave Heart” and “Henry V”.

2.0) Between the Napoleonic Wars and the American Civil War.

Read:

- Keegan, "Waterloo, 18 June 1815"
- Fuller, "Napoleonic Warfare", “The Theories of Clausewitz"

Film:

- Selections from “Waterloo”.

2.1) Influence of the Industrial Revolution and the American Civil War.

Read:

- Van Creveld, "The Revolution in Strategy" and "Railroads, Rifles, and Wires"

- Fuller, “The Influences of the Industrial Revolution”, “The American Civil War 1861-1865”

Film:

- Selections from “Gettysburg”.

The Century of Industrialized Slaughter:

3.0) The Early Twentieth Century.

Read:

- Fuller, "Moltke, Foch, and Bloch", "The Roots of Armageddon" part 2 (Military Developments 1870-1903) only, and "The Conduct of World War I"
- Van Creveld, "The Timetable War"
- Keegan, "The Somme, 1 July 1916"
- Cohen & Gooch “Failure to Adapt: The British at Gallipoli”

Films:

- Selections from “All Quiet on the Western Front”; “The First World War”; and “Visions of War”.

4.0) Military Innovation Between the World Wars.

Read:

- Fuller, "The Twenty Years Armistice" and "The Conduct of World War II"

Film:

- Selections from “Visions of War” and “Tanks”.

5.0) Inter-war Case Studies.

Read:

- Stulberg and Salomone, “The German Blitzkrieg Transformation: Rebuilding Preeminence from Catastrophe”
- Chapter 3 from Cohen and Gooch, “Catastrophic Failure: The French Army and Air Force, May-June 1940”
- Tami Davis Biddle, “Dresden 1945: Rhetoric and Reality”

Film:

- “The Bombing of Germany”.

The Ever Unfolding Present:

6.0) The Current RMA, Vietnam, and the Gulf Wars.

Read:

- James R. Fitzsimonds & Jan M. Van Tol, "Revolution in Military Affairs", Joint Force Quarterly, Spring 1994
- P. Bracken, "The Military After Next"
- Cohen & Gooch Chapter 7, “The Defeat of the American Eighth Army in Korea” and Chapter 5 “Israel Defense Forces on the Suez Front”

- Salomone and Crecine, “Information Rich Environments”
- T.P.M. Barnett, “The Seven Deadly Sins of Network-Centric Warfare”
- Stulberg and Salomone, “Six Maxims” and “U.S. Counterinsurgency in Vietnam: Shirking Transformation” Chapter 6.

Films:

- “Inside the Kill Box”, General Schwarzkopf’s “Briefing” at the conclusion of ground combat in the Gulf War, February 28, 1991.

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