**INTA 3012/8803**

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

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Fall, 2017, TuTh, 3-4:15, IC 215, August 21 – December 14, 2017

**Syllabus** (This syllabus is current as of July 24, 2017.)

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 determine if “macro-patterns” for success or failure in warfare appear and disappear over the course of the 20th Century. In particular, does an “American way of war” emerge during the 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.

Parker, Geoffrey (ed.), ***Warfare, The Triumph of the West***, Cambridge University Press, 1995.

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

Robert Cowley (ed.), ***The Cold War: A Military History***. NY: Random House, 2005.

Assignments of Chapter N in these four books will be designated VCN, PN, KN and CN respectively.

**Grades (3012)**:

30% Class participation, including attendance, and short assignments.

70% Two in-class exams for 35% each. The second will be the final exam.

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

**Schedule:**

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

Week 1:

Aug 22 Overview of the class and syllabus. Some definitions and concepts.

Aug 24 Prelude to World War, 1871-1914

VCIntro, VC1  
Biosketch assignment.

Week 2:

Aug 29 Prelude to World War, 1871-1914

P13

Aug 31 World War I

P14, Biosketches due.

Week 3:

Sep 5 World War I

VC2

Sep 7 World War I

Week 4:

Sep 12 The Twenty Years’ “Truce”

P15, VC3

Sep 14 The Eve of World War II

Week 5:

Sep 19 World War II

P16, KIntro

Sep 13 How to Get Convoys Safely Across the Atlantic

K1

Week 6:

Sep 26 How to Win Command of the Air

K2

Sep 28 How to Stop a Blitzkrieg

K3

Week 7:

Oct 3 How to Seize an Enemy-held Shore

K4

Oct 5 How to Defeat the “Tyranny of Distance”

K5

Week 8:

Oct 10 Fall recess

Oct 12 The world in 1945

KConcl

Week 9:

Oct 17 Midterm exam

Oct 19 The Post-War World, 1945-1992

Week 10:

Oct 24 Return and review the midterm  
 The Post-War World

P17

Oct 26 (SHOT) The final drop date is at the end of this week.

Week 11:

Oct 31 The Cold War: First Skirmishes

CI

Nov 2 The Korean War

CII

Week 12:

Nov 7 The Korean War

Nov 9 The Deep Cold War

CIII

Week 13:

Nov 14 Vietnam

CIV

Nov 16 Vietnam

Week 14:

Nov 21 In the Shadow of the Bomb

VC5, CV

Nov 23 Thanksgiving

Week 15:

Nov 28 The new world disorder, 1991-present

Nov 30 The new world disorder, 1991-present (ask Phil to do one class?)

VC6

Week 16:

Dec 5 Last day of classes

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

Dec X Final Exam

VC 6x40 +1

K 5x70 +2

C 5x90 avg (60-150)

P 5x25

Colonial wars up to WWII. E.g. Italy in Africa

Mideast MENA wars. Breakup of Ottoman after WWI. Arab-Israeli. Other big wars like Iraq-Iran. Various civil wars. Algeria.

Sub-Saharan Africa. During WWI and WWII. Anti-Colonial wars. Big Congo internal and external wars. Rwanda. Nigeria.

Asia. Malaya, French-Indochina, Indonesia, US in Philippines after SPANAM, China CW to 1949, India-China wars, India-Pakistan, German and Dutch and French little colonies in Asia-Pacific.

Little US wars. Granada, Panama, pre-WWII interventions in Central America and Carib.

Ask Phil B to give a class on the transition from Cold War to post-1992. After TG.

Each exam will have a short answer and map portion, and each will have a take-home portion that has them write up answers to the questions raised in the learning objectives. Occasionally have a class that has them come in with “practice” write ups of one of the questions raised in the learning objectives. Use Phil M’s rubric for how points will be awarded.

One possible take-home question: List 10 of the lesser wars during the X period. For each, state the principal adversaries and at least two outcomes.

Attendance = at least 50% of class participation grade. Sign in every class. 1 point for being there and 1 point for having read the assignment for the day. No rules on missed classes. What counts is the final point total.

Each Tuesday bring in 2 statements of 1-2 complete sentences each that arose from your reading of the week’s assignment: (1) Something you learned that was particularly interesting, especially something approaching a “revelation.” (2) A question or point you think worthy of class discussion. Each counts for one point towards class participation. On the Thursday of the week, we will devote part of the class to a discussion selected from what was submitted on Tuesday. No explicit attendance. All this will add up to the 30% class participation.