

HI 284 **History of War**

Professor Cathal J. Nolan
Executive Director, International History Institute

“Homo homini lupus est”

Administrative Information

Office hours: Tues. and Thur. 6:15 - 7:45 p.m. Location: B-13, 725 Commonwealth Avenue (in basement, across from bagel shop). Phone: (617) 353-1165 e-mail: cnolan@bu.edu

Required Readings

Keegan - *Face of Battle*, 76 (Peng USA),
Townshend - *Oxford History of Modern War*
Keegan - *Book of War*, 99 (Penguin)
Nolan, *Allure of Battle* (Oxford 2017).

Marlantes, *What It is Like to Go to War* (Grove 2012)

Articles posted online to the HI 284 page on **Blackboard**.

Here is a quick link to the BU Bookstore: <https://tinyurl.com/BU-F19-CAS-HI-284-A1>

Grading:

Book review 1	25%	Due: October 10
Midterm	25%	Date: October 24
Book review 2	25%	Due: December 3
Final exam	25%	TBA by University
Discussion group: up to 3%	Assigned by TF as a bonus for active participation	

You MUST attend the final. Do not make travel plans that conflict with the exam. You will not be exempted from sitting the final exam on the set date if you ignore this warning.

Tutorials:

Attendance is voluntary, but encouraged. You have the opportunity to discuss lecture material, go beyond it, discuss your reviews and exams with the people who grade them, and broaden your knowledge of war. The Teaching Fellow(s) will hold office hours and be available on email. And they control a possible bonus of up to 3% for active participation in the voluntary tutorials. Time(s) and place(s) TBA.

BU notification on plagiarism policy: The *Academic Conduct Code* contains the BU definition of plagiarism. Familiarize yourself with it, since it governs all possible charges and penalties. To avoid unintended plagiarism, learn correct citation of sources. *The discussion groups may aid you in this task.*

You **must** save all written work in **electronic form**. A *random selection* (with some targeted names), will be made for scanning by **anti-plagiarism software** (Note: do **NOT** submit **unless requested**).

For basic citation and other writing assistance consult your TF & the clear and concise *Writing Guide*, which is posted on the course Blackboard site in the folder “Tips on Writing.”

NO “MLA” CITATION. That is, do **NOT** cite sources inside the text (e.g., *Smith 1995*). Use footnotes or endnotes (Chicago style). **Failure to abide by this rule for History papers will result in a 5% penalty.**

This warning is ignored by some students every year, and every year someone surrenders 5% for failure to read and abide by course rules. Don’t let it be you. Forewarned is forearmed.

Lecture And Reading Schedule

For the most part, lectures will *not* repeat information provided in the texts. Lectures are used to highlight signal changes in the history of modern warfare, sometimes by traditional focus on a battle or campaign, other times by exploring the experience of war by ordinary people. Approach the readings on a topical or weekly basis. It is, of course, best to read ahead. You should discuss readings in the TF group sections.

Introduction

- *Saving Private Ryan* **Watch the opening 22 minutes of the film before the 1st class.**
- Many of you will have seen this already. I will give a talk on what it got right and what it left out
- Nolan, *Allure of Battle: Introduction*

And just so you have a truly foul taste for combat in your mouth before you decide whether to stay in the course, and we proceed together deeper into the history of war, read these two Vietnam War memoirs. I do not affirm or deny the harsh conclusions of the authors. That's up to you to consider and decide.

Marlantes, "Temple of Mars" and "Killing"

Online: William Broyles, "Why Men Love War"

The Infantry and Gunpowder Revolutions

Oxford History of Modern War: "Military Revolution I"

Keegan, *Face of Battle*: "Agincourt" (do **not** read the *Introduction*: it is misleading and dreadfully dull).

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Froissart, Battle of Crecy
- Wavrin, A French Knight's Account of Agincourt
- Wheatcroft, The Fall of Constantinople

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Battle in History, Battle Retarded

War on the Margins of Empire

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Battle Reformed

Marlantes, "Guilt" & "Violence"

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Mendoza, Botching, Disorder, and Chaos
- Clendinnen, Aztecs
- Regueneau, Attack by Iroquois Warriors
- Crockett, Davy Crockett

From Galleys to Fighting Sail

Online:

- Enlightenment at Sea: "Soul's Right Hand": Command and Control in the Age of Fighting Sail"

Linear Warfare

Oxford History of Modern War:

- "Military Revolution II"
- "Battle: The Experience of Modern Combat"

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Dunbar, Braddock
- Southey, Battle of Blenheim
- Campbell, Hohenlinden

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Battle with Reason, Battle Restored

Marlantes, "Enemy Within"

Nations at War

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Battle Decisive, Battle Defeated
Marlantes, "Lying" & "Loyalty"

Keegan, *The Face of Battle*, "Waterloo"

Oxford History of Modern War:

- "Nation in Arms I"
- "Technology and War I (to 1945)"

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- A Gentleman, Battle of Vittorio
- Victor Hugo, Russia 1812
- Wheeler, Letters of Private Wheeler
- Wellington, Dispatch from Waterloo

Midterm Exam

The Long 19th Century

Oxford History of Modern War:

- "Nation in Arms II"
- "Imperial Wars"
- "Sea Warfare"

Online:

- Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address]
- Gettysburg Address
- Apache Wars
- Surrender oration of Chief Joseph (in *Course Documents* main folder)

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Battle Exalted, Battle of Annihilation (Franco-Prussian War, and after)

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Bodell, A soldier's view of Empire
- Freemantle, The Freemantle Diary
- Stephen Crane, War is Kind

World War I

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Annihilation of Battle, Annihilation of Strategy

Keegan, *The Face of Battle*: "The Somme"

Oxford History of Modern War:

- "The Great War"
- "War and the People: The Social Impact of Total War"

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Rommel, Infantry Tactics
- Rogerson, Twelve Days
- Glubb, A Soldier's Diary
- Sassoon, The General
- Owen, Anthem for a Dead Youth

World War II

Marlantes, "Heroism" "Home" & "The Club."

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: Annihilation of Nations, Annihilation of Mercy, Annihilation of Illusions

Oxford History of Modern War:

- "Second World War"
- "Air Warfare"

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Orwell, Wounded
- Churchill, May 1940 Broadcast
- Stahlberg, Bounden Duty (2) and (3)
- Osmont, Normandy Diary
- Pyle, Battle of Normandy
- Lawrence, Bombing Nagasaki

Post-1945 Warfare:

Keegan, *The Face of Battle*: "The Future of Battle"

Marlantes, read Ch. 11 "Relating to Mars"

Nolan, *Allure of Battle*: *Conclusion*.

Oxford History of Modern War:

- People's War
- Women and War
- Against War
- Technology and War II (since 1945)

Keegan, *Book of War*:

- Fenton, Fall of Saigon
- McNab, Bravo Two Zero

Online:

- "Killing is fun"
- "Explaining wartime rape"
- "Portraits of Mars" (critique of war movies)
- "War: Is it a 'Male thing'?" (in *Course Documents* main folder)
- History of Post-Combat Disorders