

The American Military Experience

Spring 2007

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Aim of the Course. In the 21st century, the United States maintains easily the most powerful military establishment in the world. Moreover, since the end of the Cold War, force has become the preferred instrument of American statecraft. The premise of this course is that some appreciation of the American military experience is essential to understanding how the United States today plays its role as a global superpower.

Course Themes. The course will concern itself with the following:

- the principle of civilian control, its origins and practice;
- the relationship between citizenship and the obligation of military service;
- the development and identity of the armed services;
- the evolution of the central defense establishment in Washington;
- the political, social, and economic consequences of American wars;
- the peacetime role of U. S. military forces at home and abroad;
- the changing American “style” of waging war.

Course Requirements.

Attendance (10%)

Pop Quizzes (20%)

Mid-term Exam (30%)

Final Exam (40%)

Course Administration.

The instructor expects students to do all homework assignments, to attend all meetings of the course, and to inform him if circumstances will prevent them from coming to class.

Students may make-up a quiz only if missed due to an excused absence.

Students are expected to adhere to all provisions of the CAS Academic Code.

The last date for dropping the course (no “W” grade) is lesson 5 and for withdrawing (with “W” grade) is lesson 8.

Office Hours.

Monday, 11:00 to 1:00

Friday, 11:00 to 1:00

Principal Texts.

Allan R. Millett and Peter Maslowski, *For the Common Defense* (Revised and Expanded Edition)

Lesson 1. Introduction**Lesson 2. The Colonial Heritage**

For the Common Defense, pp. 1-19.

Lesson 3. Wars of Empire

For the Common Defense, pp. 22-46.

Lesson 4. Minutemen and Continentals

For the Common Defense, pp. 51-83.

Lesson 5. The Constitutional Framework

For the Common Defense, pp. 88-92.

“The Constitution of the United States,” especially the Preamble; Article I, section 8; Article II, section 2; and the Second and Third Amendments.

Lesson 6. Military Legacy of the Revolution

For the Common Defense, pp. 92-106.

Lesson 7. Creating an American Navy

For the Common Defense, pp. 106-119.

Lesson 8. Instrument of Expansion

For the Common Defense, pp. 123-144.

Lesson 9. Halls of Montezuma

For the Common Defense, pp. 144-157.

Lesson 10. Forging the American Way of War

For the Common Defense, pp. 162-200.

Lesson 11. Preserving the Union

For the Common Defense, pp. 203-240.

Lesson 12. War and African-Americans

“*Glory*,” film starring Denzel Washington and Matthew Broderick.

Lesson 13. National Constabulary

For the Common Defense, pp. 248-264.

Lesson 14. Stirrings of Reform

For the Common Defense, pp. 265-280.

Lesson 15. War for Empire

For the Common Defense, pp. 284-300.

Lesson 16. Nation-Building

For the Common Defense, pp. 300-313.

Lesson 17. Military Progressivism

For the Common Defense, pp. 316-342.

Lesson 18. Raising the force

Jeanette Keith, "The Politics of Southern Draft Resistance, 1917-1918"

<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/87.4/keith.html>

Lesson 19. The Great War at Sea

For the Common Defense, pp. 355-360.

Lesson 20. Over There

For the Common Defense, pp. 346-355, 360-376.

Lesson 21. Return to Normalcy

For the Common Defense, pp. 380-386.

Lesson 22. Mid-Term Exam (March 9, 2007)

Lesson 23. The Rise of Military Aviation

For the Common Defense, pp. 386-390.

Lesson 24. War Plan Orange, the Marine Corps, and Mechanization

For the Common Defense, pp. 390-396.

Lesson 25. The Depression

For the Common Defense, pp. 396-407.

Lesson 26. War Comes Again

For the Common Defense, pp. 413-446.

Lesson 27. The Grand Alliance

For the Common Defense, pp. 450-486.

Lesson 28. Women and Military Service

Judith A. Bellafaire, "The Women's Army Corps," <http://www.army.mil/cmhp/brochures/wac/wac.htm>

Lesson 29. War and Civil Liberties

Roger Daniels, "Incarceration of the Japanese Americans," *The History Teacher* 35 (May 2002), <http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/ht/35.3/daniels.html>

Lesson 30. Toward Hiroshima

“The Manhattan Project, 1945: Dawn of the Atomic Era,”
<http://www.mbe.doe.gov/me70/manhattan/1945.htm>

Lesson 31. National Security State

For the Common Defense, pp. 494-507.

Lesson 32. Korea

For the Common Defense, pp. 508-520.

Lesson 33. Truman and MacArthur

For the Common Defense, pp. 520-527.

Lesson 34. The New Look

For the Common Defense, pp. 531-552.

Lesson 35. Flexible Response

For the Common Defense, pp. 553-563, 570-578.

Lesson 36. Vietnam: Getting In

For the Common Defense, pp. 578-589.

Lesson 37. Vietnam: Getting Out

For the Common Defense, pp. 589-601.

Lesson 38. Born Again

For the Common Defense, pp. 607-628.

Lesson 39. Post-Cold War Interval

For the Common Defense, pp. 628-642.

Lesson 40. GWOT

Lesson 41. Iraq Again

“The Iraq Crisis,” <http://www.mideastweb.org/iraq.htm>

Version of January 8, 2007