

**History of Modern War**  
**HI 472 / IR 472**  
**Fall 2007**  
**Professor Andrew J. Bacevich**  
**Office hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-4:00**  
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**Purpose.** This course examines the experience of warfare since the beginning of the twentieth century. It attempts to answer the following questions:

- Who advocates for war? With what goals and expectations? With what differences between publicly expressed and privately held purposes? How do international conditions affect the decision for war?
- Why have nations experienced such difficulty in accurately gauging the character of the war on which they are about to embark?
- At the outset of war, what strategy have opposing nations devised to achieve their political aims? In the midst of war, how do nations modify that strategy to correct its shortcomings?
- Once war has been engaged, why do nations have such difficulty controlling events? How do governments and armies adjust as war departs from its expected course? How does war's actual course affect the belligerent goals and objectives?
- How does the conduct of war affect civil-military relations – not only the relationship between generals and their civilian masters but also the relationship between the army and society? What role does public opinion play in the conduct of warfare?
- What are the consequences of modern war? Why do the consequences so often differ radically from those anticipated?

Students will evaluate nine different cases. In only one of them, the last, will we focus on the United States.

**Course Requirements.**

- Attendance and oral participation (20%)
- Final exam (30%)
- Research paper (50%)

**Academic Conduct.** Work submitted must be your own. Presenting someone's else work as your own is plagiarism and will result in receiving an F for the assignment and possibly for the course as well, with possible further sanctions by the University Academic Conduct Committee. The Boston University *Academic Conduct Code* describes plagiarism as “copying the answers of another student on an examination, copying or substantially restating the work of another person or persons in any oral or written work without citing the appropriate source, and collaboration with someone else in an academic endeavor without acknowledging his or her contribution.”

The rules pertaining to plagiarism apply to material taken from the web as well. Unacknowledged use of material from the internet constitutes plagiarism and will be punished as such.

### **Assignments.**

Lesson 1. Introduction

Lesson 2. The Boer War

Gregory Fremont-Barnes, *The Boer War*, pp. 1-50.

Lesson 3. The Boer War.

Fremont-Barnes, pp. 51-91.

“Breaker Morant”

Lesson 4. Canada in the Great War

Desmond Morton and J. L. Granatstein, *Marching to Armageddon*, pp. 1-105.

Lesson 5. Canada in the Great War

Morton and Granatstein, pp. 106-189.

Lesson 6. Canada in the Great War

Morton and Granatstein, pp. 190-273.

Lesson 7. Dismembering the Ottoman Empire

David Fromkin, *A Peace To End All Peace*, pp. 23-203

Lesson 8. Dismembering the Ottoman Empire

Fromkin, pp. 207-379.

“Lawrence of Arabia”

Lesson 9. Dismembering the Ottoman Empire

Fromkin, pp. 383-567.

Lesson 10. The Soviets in World War II

Geoffrey Roberts, *Stalin's Wars*, pp. 1-117.

Lesson 11. The Soviets in World War II

Roberts, pp. 118-295.

Lesson 12. The Soviets in World War II

Roberts, pp. 296-374.

Lesson 13. Japan and the Far Eastern Crisis, 1931-1945

H. P. Wilmott, *The Second World War in the Far East*, pp. 1-93.

Lesson 14. Japan and the Far Eastern Crisis, 1931-1945

Wilmott, pp. 94-173.

Lessons 15. Japan and the Far Eastern Crisis, 1931-1945

Wilmott, pp. 174-217.

“Letters from Iwo Jima”

Lessons 16, 17, and 18. The Battle of France, 1940

Read one of the following:

Alistair Horne, *To Lose a Battle*

Marc Bloch, *Strange Defeat*

Ernest R. May, *Strange Victory*

Julian Jackson, *The Fall of France*

Robert Doughty, *Seeds of Disaster*

Lesson 19. France in Algeria

Alistair Horne, *A Savage War of Peace*, pp. 1-146.

Lesson 20. France in Algeria

Horne, pp. 147-230.

“Battle of Algiers”

Lesson 21. France in Algeria

Horne, pp. 231-414.

Lesson 22. France in Algeria

Horne, pp. 415-566.

Lesson 23. The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Michael Oren, *Six Days of War*, pp. 1-126.

Lessons 24. The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Oren, pp. 127-256.

Lesson 25. The Arab-Israeli Conflict

Oren, pp. 257-327.

Daniel Isaac Helmer, *Flipside of the COIN*,

[http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/csi/OP21\\_Flipside%20of%20the%20COIN\\_web%20version.pdf](http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/csi/OP21_Flipside%20of%20the%20COIN_web%20version.pdf)

Lessons 26 and 27. The United States in Iraq

Read one of the following:

Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *The Generals' War*

H. Norman Schwarzkopf, *It Doesn't Take a Hero*

Michael Gordon and Bernard Trainor, *Cobra II*

George Packer, *The Assassins' Gate*

Tommy Franks, *American Soldier*

Thomas E. Ricks, *Fiasco*

and view "Three Kings"