

Bellevue College

HIST 250: U.S. Military History

Spring 2014

This syllabus contains essential information about class policies, structure, etc. that are intended to help further your learning in the class. It is your responsibility to be familiar with the syllabus. Make sure you read it!

Instructor: Dr. Brian Casserly

Office Hours: Mondays and Fridays, 11.30 – 12.20pm; TWTh, 9.30 – 10.20am; and by appointment. (My office is in D-110 – the main Social Sciences office)

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“With the historian it is an article of faith that knowledge of the past is a key to understanding the present.” Kenneth Stampp

“History is, in its essentials, the science of change.” Marc Bloch

“War is hell.” William Tecumseh Sherman

“Overgrown military establishments...under any form of government, are inauspicious to liberty, and...are to be regarded as particularly hostile to republican liberty.” George Washington

INTRODUCTION AND TEACHING PHILOSOPHY:

Welcome to HIST 250! Fundamentally, history involves the study of change and for the rest of the quarter I look forward to working with you as we examine some of the major changes and developments in U.S. military history from the 1600s to the early 21st century.

Over the course of the quarter you will be learning to think like historians. This will involve studying major historical changes and developments and the contexts in which these occurred. We will explore [primary sources](#), the tools that historians use to understand the past, such as letters, diaries, journals, government documents, newspaper and magazine articles, photos, music, movie clips, to name just a few. We will also examine how historians construct interpretations and analyses of the past, i.e. [secondary sources](#). We will learn to think critically about both these types of sources and what they can tell us about the past and about the explanations that historians produce. We will also focus on learning how to develop strong analyses of historical evidence. It is important that we understand that interpretations of the past are not static. Professional historians expect that newly discovered artifacts, newly released documents, and new approaches to studying history will change our perceptions of the past.

Between now and the end of the quarter we will use a variety of forms of evidence to explore the military history of the United States from the beginning of European settlement to the early 21st century. In this period the United States has seen its military grow from a small, part time defense force in the colonial

era, to the largest and most powerful military in the world by the late 20th century. The nation has been involved in at least thirteen major conflicts since the 1770s, not counting wars against Native Americans and smaller military operations abroad. These wars have had a significant effect on both the U.S. military and wider American society.

We will be emphasizing several interconnected themes in U.S. military history over the course of the quarter:

- The experience of war and its effects on the American military (as individuals and as an institution) and wider U.S. society and culture.
- The changing relationships between the military and American society, foreign relations, culture, social changes, technology, etc.
- Changes in the relationship between the military and civilian government.

Your responsibility over the quarter is to attend and participate in class, complete all readings and assignments on time, and to become familiar with the narrative of military history as presented in the readings and class lessons. You will also be asked to develop skills in historical thinking, to learn how to analyze primary and secondary sources, to make arguments and interpretations from them, and to critically evaluate the interpretations that other historians have made. In addition, you will be working on your communication skills, especially in terms of writing.

This class meets daily. Class time will consist of lectures and analysis and discussion of primary source evidence and secondary source interpretations of historical developments. **This is not a distance learning class!** We will cover material during class meetings that is not covered in the books or readings and which is not available online. Some of this material will be included in exams, quizzes and other assignments. **Regular attendance in class is required and is essential if you are to receive a passing grade.**



HIST 250 is a college-level class and it involves intensive reading and writing. To be successful, all students should have reading and writing skills that are at least at the English 101 level. If you are not comfortable at this level of reading and writing you should not take the class.

I am available to meet with you individually during my office hours (or by appointment) to discuss any questions or problems you may have about any aspect of the course. Feel free to drop by to talk about anything related to the course or history more generally. Outside of office hours, E-mail is the easiest way to contact me and during the regular work week I will usually respond to messages within 24 hours. I will not respond to e-mail as quickly on the weekends.

Class materials are available through Canvas – log in to <http://bellevuecollege.edu/canvas/> and look for the link to HIST 250. In accordance with Bellevue College policy and in order to comply with federal privacy laws, **I can only communicate with you via e-mail through your Bellevue College e-mail accounts or Canvas's e-mail system. I will NOT reply to messages sent from non-college accounts, e.g. Gmail, Yahoo, Hotmail, etc.**

LEARNING OUTCOMES ADDRESSED:

At the end of the course, as a successful student, you should:

- Be able to explain the causes and consequences of the [major developments in U.S. military history](#) in the period covered by the class, and be able to explain the historic significance of those developments.
- Have developed your skills in information literacy, critical thinking and problem solving in dealing with historical evidence and questions.
- Have improved your writing skills and your ability to produce thesis-driven, evidence-based essays.
- Have developed a familiarity with the historical backgrounds of a diversity of cultural traditions as they relate to military history.

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HIST 250:

One of my goals for the class is to help you learn how to be successful college students, whether at Bellevue College or wherever you may transfer to.

The skills necessary for college success are also those valued by employers, i.e. [professionalism](#) in terms of good work habits such as punctuality, attendance, respect for others, the ability to collaborate and communicate effectively and appropriately, and the ability to complete assignments fully, etc.

The following guidelines about how to be successful as a student and in the work place are based on what I've observed as a student, an instructor, and as someone who has worked for both large and small organizations in the business and government sectors:



Near Gettysburg, 1863: A reflective moment.

- **Think critically about class topics and ask questions**
 - Ask about anything you don't understand related to class topics, readings, or assignments. You are welcome to visit me during my office hours to discuss anything related to class, or if you wish to talk about history as a discipline or major, or about college more widely. You can also make an appointment to meet with me if my office hours don't work for your schedule.
- **Come to class and be on time**
 - Research shows that students who miss class tend to do significantly less well than those who come to class regularly, so attend all classes and actively participate in discussions. I will take attendance everyday – **if you do not attend class you will not be able to receive credit for class attendance or participation.**
 - Arriving late or leaving early is disruptive to the class and shows a lack of courtesy for your fellow students and myself. If you are late to class you will NOT receive credit for attendance that day. If you leave class early you will also not get attendance credit for that day. I will make exceptions for important off-campus commitments, but you MUST discuss this with me in advance.
 - Class outlines are **NOT** available online and I do not provide them to students who miss class. If you are absolutely unable to attend a class, make sure you obtain notes from a fellow student and make up all work covered during your absence.
- **Be prepared to work hard**
 - You will need to demonstrate independent work habits and to be ready to work on class materials almost every day. You should expect to work at least two hours outside of class for each hour of class time.

- Take notes in class! What we focus on in class will be the subject of quizzes and exams and you will not be able to remember what we covered unless you take notes.
- Read all of the assigned readings when you are supposed to be reading them. Take notes as you read.
- You may occasionally find some of the readings for the class difficult due to their older style of language and/or the complex issues they raise. This is something that all historians have to grapple with and you should not get discouraged. Focus on trying to understand as much of the reading as possible and bring questions about it to class.
- **Complete assignments on time**
 - Complete assignments and submit them on time - at the beginning of class on the due date. Assignments and their due dates are noted in the course modules in Canvas. Because employers value timely completion of work and college is where you should be learning good habits for the workplace, **late assignments will be penalized.**
 - Keep copies of all graded exams and papers returned to you.
 - Hand in your own work. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. This includes cheating, copying and plagiarism (see the explanation of plagiarism later in this syllabus).
- **Behave appropriately and with respect**
 - Your behavior in class must not interfere with the learning of other students.
 - As a matter of respect towards myself and other students, and because there are a variety of expected behaviors that you will need to abide by while college students and when you enter the professional workforce, **I expect you to behave with courtesy and respect toward everyone in the class.** That means **you must arrive to class on time and not engage in private conversations, texting, reading unrelated material, or other disruptive or disrespectful behavior in class.**
 - Laptop computers, tablets and other electronic devices should be used for class work only. **If it's not being used for class-related work turn it off and put it away!**
 - Active participation in discussions means that sometimes there will be strong disagreement over issues and interpretations. I encourage you to challenge the ideas you hear in class, in the readings, and from other students but you must do so in a respectful and courteous manner. Keep your comments to the issues and the evidence NOT the person!
 - For first time breaches of classroom etiquette you will receive a warning. If you continue to disrupt the class you will be asked to leave and may be reported to the Dean of Students for possible disciplinary action.

Remember, coming to class, completing readings and written assignments on time, thinking seriously about class topics and materials, and asking questions about anything you're unclear of are the best ways of guaranteeing that you will be successful in the class.

REQUIRED READINGS:

The weekly reading assignments will be an important part of your learning experience. They will form the basis for our discussion in class and will allow us to investigate in greater depth the central issues covered by the class, using the academic tools of historical analysis. You are responsible for completing all of the reading assignments (detailed in the Class Modules in Canvas) on time. Material in the scheduled readings that is not covered during class meetings may still appear on exams, so make sure you read all that has been assigned. The following are the required books for the class:

- Brad D. Lookingbill, [*The American Military: A Narrative History*](#) (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013) – clicking on the link will take you directly to the publisher's website where you can see the book required for the class.

- Brad D. Lookingbill, ed., [*American Military History: A Documentary Reader*](#) (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).
- Selections from Patrick Rael, *Reading, Writing, and Researching for History: A Guide for College Students* (Brunswick, ME: Bowdoin College, 2004), available for free at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-guides/>
- There are also additional readings available online in Canvas – **these should be printed out and brought to class on the days they are scheduled for discussion.**
- Copies of the books required for the class are on reserve at Bellevue College's [Library and Media Center](#).

To maximize the quality of discussions and the grades you get for class participation it is important that you complete all the readings that have been assigned for that week. You MUST bring the readings to class on the days we are scheduled to discuss them.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

To be successful in this course you will need to master the narrative of military history as presented in class and in the readings. In addition, you will be asked to think like historians and evaluate material critically so that you can make informed and intelligent interpretations and analyses. My job as the instructor is to help you acquire these skills and those you will need to write effective essays and exams.

The assignments for this class are intended to help you develop skills in critical thinking and effective writing. All written assignments (except those completed in-class) must meet my requirements for papers (available in the paper assignment instructions, which will be posted in the class site in Canvas). Assignments must be submitted at the start of class on the day they are due. For due dates of assignments please see the Class Calendar. Late assignments will be penalized for each day they are late. Your grade in the class will be determined by the quality of your work on the following assignments:



- **Homework assignments** (150 points out of a total possible 1,000 points for the course). There will be 10 homework assignments over the course of the quarter. They will be based on the reading assignments for the class. These assignments must be submitted on the day we are discussing the readings the assignment is based on. No late assignments or make-ups will be allowed.
- **Midterm and Final Exams.** The midterm is worth 100 points and the final exam is worth 150 points.
- **Attendance and Participation in Discussion of Readings and Class Material** (200 points). 100 points of your overall grade will be based on class attendance. You are allowed **THREE (3) unexcused absences** from class over the quarter without affecting your attendance grade. **For each additional absence or late arrival to class (except in the case of documented illnesses or emergencies) your attendance grade will fall by 5 points.** In addition, it is also your responsibility to actively participate in discussions of the readings and class materials. An additional 100 points of your overall grade for the class will be based on the **quality and**

frequency of your participation in class discussions, as well as on other in-class work that I may assign. **Make sure you bring the readings to class!**

- **Research paper and related assignments.** You will be completing a research project that will be comprised of the following components:
 - **Paper prospectus.** You will briefly describe your paper topic and the research you will complete (25 points).
 - **Draft thesis statement and introduction.** (25 points)
 - **Annotated bibliography.** You will cite and critically evaluate the usefulness of several sources you will be using in your research paper (100 points).
 - **Research paper** (250 points). You will write a 6-8 page research paper.
 - Further details of these assignments will be available in Canvas.

Grading Scale:

Your grade is based on a total possible score of 1,000 points for the quarter and will be determined by the following scale:

A = 950 – 1,000 points	B- = 800 – 839	D+ = 670 – 699
A- = 900 – 949	C+ = 770 – 799	D = 620 – 669
B+ = 870 – 899	C = 740 – 769	F = under 620
B = 840 – 869	C- = 700 – 739	

Class policies on assignments:

- All material covered in the readings, lectures, etc. is fair game for inclusion in exams, homework and quizzes.
- **Completing and earning a passing grade on ALL assignments is necessary to pass the course as a whole.**
- Your overall grade will be based on the assignments listed above.
- **Late assignments will be penalized** and I reserve the right not to accept them.
- **There are no make-ups on exams or quizzes**, except in cases of **documented emergency**.
- All assignments must be produced specifically for this class. You may not submit assignments produced for other classes for this course.
- Cheating on exams or quizzes or plagiarizing on paper assignments will, at minimum, lead to a grade of zero on that assignment. See below for more details on plagiarism and cheating and how to avoid them.
- Grades for in-class discussion will be assigned as follows:
 - A: You make insightful comments on the assigned readings or class materials that help to further the discussion.
 - B: You demonstrate through more than one comment that you have completed and understood the readings.
 - C: You make at least one pertinent, insightful comment on the readings.
 - D: You make an effort to participate, but do not show that you have adequately thought about, understood and/or completed the readings.
 - F: You make no effort to engage in class discussions
- If you disagree with my assessment of your work, you should discuss this with me. Before you meet with me to discuss your grade, you must describe in writing why you disagree with my assessment. Please supply the original paper, quiz or exam with my comments and a description of why you feel the grade you received was not a fair evaluation of the quality of your work. After reevaluating your work I may decide to increase, decrease or leave your grade unchanged.
- Incomplete grades are only available for students who maintain a C average through Week 10 of the quarter and have completed all the assignments up to that point.

Remember, I am here to help you do as well as possible in the class – I am happy to discuss with you how you can maximize the quality of your work.

PLAGIARISM AND ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Plagiarism involves the use of ideas or material which is not your own without giving proper credit to whoever created the idea/material. Examples of plagiarism would include cutting and pasting material directly from a website into a paper or assignment without citation, or taking an idea from a book or website and presenting it as your own, or having someone else write a paper for you and presenting it as your work. To avoid plagiarism you should keep the following in mind:

1. If you copy material word for word from another source you need to place that copied material in quotation marks "..." and provide a citation for it.
2. Always provide a citation for ideas or material that you found on websites, books, articles, TV documentaries, etc. You should do this EVEN if you are not using the material from the source word for word.
3. All ideas and material that are not your own should be cited using the *Chicago Manual of Style* format. Information on providing citations for papers, interviews, etc. is available on the class website in Canvas.
4. You may not submit papers and assignments from other classes to meet assignment requirements for this course.

In the context of exams cheating involves the use of unauthorized notes or other resources (e.g. cellphones), copying from other students, the use of a surrogate exam taker, etc.

I will not tolerate plagiarism or cheating and I will investigate suspected cases. In the event that I find instances of plagiarism or cheating I reserve the right to report the student to the college authorities for disciplinary action. **At minimum, the student will receive a failing grade on the assignment. I also reserve the right to give students guilty of plagiarism or cheating a failing grade for the class as a whole.** All ideas and material that are not your own should be cited using a consistent citation format.

The bottom line: ALL work submitted for the class must be your work only. **If you have any concerns or questions about plagiarism or cheating, please discuss them with me.**

AFFIRMATION OF INCLUSION:

Bellevue College is committed to maintaining an environment in which every member of the campus community feels welcome to participate in the life of the college, free from harassment and discrimination.

We value our different backgrounds at Bellevue College, and students, faculty, staff members, and administrators are to treat one another with dignity and respect.

DISABILITY ACCOMODATIONS:

The campus Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. Please visit the DRC if you have any questions about classroom accommodations.

If you are a student who has a disability or a learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC staff as soon as possible.

The DRC office is located in D-125, located inside of the library (the entrance faces the central courtyard) or you can call their reception desk at 425-564-2498. Deaf students can reach the DRC by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit their website for application information and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Remember if you are someone who has either an apparent or non-apparent disability and requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with me to develop a safety plan in the first week of the quarter.



A NOTE ABOUT COURSE CONTENT:

Since historians examine just about every aspect of human culture and societies, we sometimes talk about provocative or controversial material or issues that people may find disturbing. You may be confronted with subject matter that is difficult to read about, look at, discuss, or listen to. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics, they will always be framed within an academic context. Keep in mind that you will still be responsible for any course material you miss if you choose not to participate because you feel uncomfortable with that material. If you have any questions or concerns about content or the class climate surrounding controversial material, feel free to speak with me about it.

CLASS CANCELLATION:

Class will meet at all scheduled times unless otherwise noted. In the case of instructor absence or of college closure due to inclement weather and/or other emergency conditions, class will not meet and arrangements will be made to adjust the course schedule accordingly. If you believe the college may be closed because of inclement weather or emergency conditions, you should check the college website for a posted announcement.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Audio or video recording of the class is not allowed without my express permission.

I reserve the right to make changes to any aspect of the course as I may see fit over the course of the quarter. It is each student's responsibility to regularly check their Bellevue College e-mail account and the class page in Canvas for announcements about possible changes.

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE DIVISION Spring 2014

Cheating, Stealing and Plagiarizing*

Cheating, stealing and plagiarizing (using the ideas or words of another as one's own without crediting the source) and inappropriate/disruptive classroom behavior are violations of the Student Code of Conduct at Bellevue College. Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to: talking out of turn, arriving late or leaving early without a valid reason, allowing cell phones/pagers to ring, and inappropriate behavior toward the instructor or classmates. The instructor can refer any violation of the Student Code of Conduct to the Dean of Student Services for possible probation or suspension from Bellevue College. Specific student rights, responsibilities and appeal procedures are listed in the Student Code of Conduct, available in the office of the Dean of Student Services and at [http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_\(Procedures\).asp](http://bellevuecollege.edu/policies/2/2050P_Student_Code_(Procedures).asp)

Email Communication with instructors must be done through student email accounts only. Instructors cannot communicate with students about their course work or grades through student's personal email accounts.

Incomplete

If a student fails to complete all the required work for a course, an instructor may assign the grade of Incomplete ("I"). The student must complete the coursework by the end of the next quarter, or receive the assigned letter grade (usually an "F").

F Grade

Students who fail a course will receive a letter grade of "F."

Final Examination Schedule

The Social Science Division will adhere to the final examination schedule as stated in the BC Schedule. Final examinations will be held at the end of each quarter at fixed times. Instructors will not give examinations in advance of the regular schedule. A student who is absent from any examination held at any time during the quarter may forfeit the right to make up the examination. If, for illness or some other circumstance beyond the student's control, the student is unable to be present at any scheduled examination and has contacted the instructor on a timely basis, the student may be permitted to take such examination at a time designated by the instructor.

Withdrawal From Class

College policy states that students must formally withdraw from a class by the end of the seventh week of the quarter (Registration Office, B125). If a student has not withdrawn by that date, an appropriate letter grade will be assigned for the course.

Hardship Withdrawal

Instructors may assign the grade of "HW" (hardship withdrawal) at their discretion in the event that a student cannot complete the coursework due to extreme and exceptional circumstances. Students may also contact the Enrollment Services office BEFORE grades are assigned in cases of hardship.

Students Who Require Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who have accommodation needs are encouraged to meet with the Disability Resource Centre (DRC) office located in B132 (telephone 425.564.2498 or TTY 425.564.4110), to establish their eligibility for accommodation. The DRC office will provide each eligible student with an accommodation letter. Students who require accommodation in class should review the DRC accommodation letter with each instructor during the first week of the quarter.

Students with mobility challenges who may need assistance in case of an emergency situation or evacuation should register with Disability Resource Centre, and review those needs with the instructor as well.

Distribution of Grades

Grades will not be posted in the Social Science Division or in faculty offices, and program assistants or coordinators will not give out grades. Students should access their grades through the BC Web site.

Return of Papers and Tests

Paper and/or Scantron score sheet returns will be arranged in the following ways ONLY: by mail, if student supplies the instructor with stamped, self-addressed envelope (with appropriate postage); or by the instructor designating a time and place whereby the student may retrieve his/her papers. Unclaimed papers and/or Scantron score sheets must be kept by the instructor for a minimum of sixty (60) instructional days following the end of the quarter.

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**If you are accused of cheating, stealing exams and/or plagiarism, there is a Bellevue College Student Discipline and Appeals Procedure (the right to due process) which you may pursue. Contact the office of Division Chair (D110), the Dean of Student Services (B231A) or the Associated Student Body (C212) for information regarding the appeals process.*