
AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY



About This Course

This course provides an overview of American military history from colonial times to the present. Collectively, the American armed forces represent critically important national institutions, that have profoundly shaped – and been shaped by – American culture, the economy, domestic and foreign policy, politics, geography, and demography. While we won't recount or memorize every possible battle or strategic decision, the course will help you develop a conceptual and methodological framework for studying the American military and how it's changed over time, as a complex historical phenomenon.

HI 250 ST: American Military History fulfills the History course requirement for Reserve Officer Training (ROTC), but it is open to any interested student. Please be aware that the course will move quickly through time with a strenuous reading load, two exams, and rigorous expectations for in-class participation and high-quality academic writing.

Student Learning Outcomes

For ROTC students:

Integrate basic knowledge of military history into your education as a future officer.

For all students:

Identify and explain major developments in American military history from colonial times to the present.

Employ historical thinking and historical research tools to analyze selected case studies and develop evidence-based interpretations of the past.

Contextualize American military history within U.S. and global history, along political, cultural, economic, gender, racial, and other relevant dimensions.

Basic Information

3 credits. Meets Tues & Thurs 11:30 - 12:45 in Sullivan 308

History Major: American Elective

Instructor: Dr. Tona Hangen, email: thangen@worcester.edu. Phone: 508-929-8688

**Office: Sullivan 327D
Office Hours: M 1:30 - 3:30**

Required Texts

Joseph T. Glatthaar, *The American Military: A Concise History* (2018 Oxford UP) ISBN 9780190692810

— Abbreviated **TAM** in the Syllabus

Army Historical Series, *American Military History, Volumes I and II* (free PDF, available in Blackboard or online) — Abbreviated **AMH** in the Syllabus

Additional readings will be provided on Blackboard.

Course Policies

Technology: Laptops or tablets are permitted in class, but I request that you stay on task with your device use, refraining from web-searching or social media. No cell phone use in class.

Accessibility: I am committed to educational diversity and to creating a learning environment where all can succeed. All accommodations requested through Student Accessibility Services will be honored.

Academic Integrity: All papers, exams, and written assignments must be your own work. When and where you employ the work or words of others, you must cite your sources (MLA or Chicago Style preferred). Plagiarism is a serious academic offense, and includes: copying or only slightly rephrasing passages from books, articles, reference works, or online sources and submitting them as your own words; buying papers off the internet; or submitting someone else's paper as your own. If you plagiarize, the assignment will receive no credit, you will receive a failing grade (an E) for the course, and possibly face further consequences from the university.

Online Days and Snow Make-ups: The first week of class I will be away from campus (ironically, participating in an Army military history training course), so the first two classes will be conducted online. In addition, if the University closes for inclement weather or another reason, we move that day's class online either as a synchronous Zoom meeting or asynchronous online assignment, without changing the syllabus. Please check Blackboard and the course website for updates on days with announced University closures.



Army maneuvers during the Mexican-American War of 1846

“The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.”

- GEN NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF

Grading Criteria

Your learning in this course will be measured in multiple ways. Your prepared **attendance**, active **participation** in class discussion, and online **discussion** boards are baseline expectations for everyone and give even less-vocal students opportunities to be present, help craft collective understandings, and share with and learn from others.

Taking notes on our texts and in class will be one of your most important skills.

Twice during the semester, you'll individually present a **chapter summary** from the AMH volume to the entire class, showing your ability to synthesize complex information and convey it in an accessible way to your peers. This can take the form of an outline, memo, handout, a short oral presentation, video or audio format, or other creative possibilities. More than one person might be assigned to present on the same day, in which case the presenters can decide how to divide the material.

You will write two **case study analyses**, one from early military history and one from more recent military history. A case study consists of a short well-researched account of a narrowly-focused episode (such as a battle, military engagement, policy, or law), followed by a discussion of context, identification of relevant military principle(s), and your assessment of the case's significance, lesson, or legacy. See guidelines and rubric on Blackboard. These are **due on Feb 4 and April 9**.

There will be an in-class **midterm exam on February 27** and an in-person **final exam on May 7**. The exams will be made up of multiple-choice or short-answer questions as well as essay questions.

You will write **two papers** of your choice, **due on March 12 and April 21**. Each paper is 4-5 pages long, double-spaced. Choose a different option for each paper:

Option 1) Discuss a single primary source or coherent collection of primary sources. A primary source is an original, uninterpreted piece of historical evidence. Examples: group of Civil War letters from the same person; military report or directive; battle drawing from an eyewitness; speech; newsreel; radio broadcast; Congressional hearing. If you need help finding an appropriate source, see me during office hours or meet with one of our reference librarians.

Option 2) Write a review of a book that deals with some aspect of American military history. Clearly identify whether the book is fictional or non-fiction (either can work for this assignment). You cannot use our course textbooks for this option.

Option 3) Write a review of a film that deals with some aspect of American military history. Clearly identify whether the film is fictional or non-fiction / documentary (either can work for this assignment).

Option 4) Interview a veteran (does not have to be someone with combat experience) and write a report or biography of their service or a portion of their service.

Option 5) Visit (in person) and write a review of a military reenactment, monument, memorial, or museum.

At the end of the semester, everyone will briefly present / recap one of their case studies or papers as an example of their best work in the course. The **presentation day is April 28**.

Grade Breakdown

CHAPTER SUMMARIES (2)	20 @ 10 each
DISCUSSION BOARD (3)	30 @ 10 each
MIDTERM EXAM	30
CASE STUDY ANALYSIS (2)	30 @ 15 each
PAPERS (2)	40 @ 20 each
ACTIVE ATTENDANCE	20
FINAL EXAM	30
TOTAL	200 POINTS

Class #	Date	Topic & Reading	What's Due
1	Tues Jan 14 *online*	Course and Class Introductions Reading: AMH V1, 1 Introduction (pp. 1-17); TAM Introduction (p. ix-x)	Discussion Board 1 by 11:59 pm
	Definitions	Military History, Theory and Practice of War, American Military System, Glatthaar's 4 themes	
	NOTE	Today's class is ONLINE ONLY, we are not meeting in person. Please check Blackboard, review the syllabus and course information, view Video 1, complete today's reading, and contribute to the opening Discussion Board.	
2	Thurs Jan 16 *online*	Origins of American Military Experience, 1607-1763 Reading: AMH V1, 2 (19-43); TAM (pp. 1-6)	Chapter Summary SignUp
	Definitions	European warfare, militia system, colonial-era military technology	
	NOTE	Today's class is ONLINE ONLY, we are not meeting in person. Please check Blackboard, view Video 2, complete the day's reading, and sign up for your two Chapter Summaries.	
3	Tues Jan 21	First In-Class Meeting. The American Revolution Reading: AMH V1, 3-4 (45-106); TAM (pp. 7-15)	
	Definitions	Minutemen, Continental Army, Articles of Confederation, major turning points in the Revolutionary War, French alliance, Yorktown	
4	Thurs Jan 23	The Formative Years and War of 1812 Reading: AMH V1 5-6 (107-157); TAM (pp. 15-24)	
	Definitions	Constitutional Convention, Militia law, Battle of Fallen Timbers, Quasi War, Louisiana Purchase, Corps of Discovery, Napoleonic Wars, War of 1812	
5	Tues Jan 28	Toward a Professional Army Reading: AMH V1 7 (159-176); TAM (pp. 25-28)	
	Definitions	War Department, Seminole Wars, Indian removal, Republic of Texas	
6	Thurs Jan 30	Mexican American War Reading: AMH V1 8 (177-198); TAM (pp. 29-34)	
	Definitions	Mexican-American War, Annexation of Texas, Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	
7	Tues Feb 4	Civil War, to end of 1862 Reading: AMH V1 9-10 (199 - 251); TAM (pp. 34-41)	Case Study Analysis 1
	Definitions	Fort Sumter, Secession, Confederate States of America, Army of the Potomac, Emancipation Proclamation, major turning points in the war 1861-1862	

Class #	Date	Topic & Reading	What's Due
8	Thurs Feb 6	Civil War, 1863-1865 Reading: AMH V1 11-12 (252-301); TAM (pp. 42-44)	Discussion Board 2 by 11:59 pm
	Definitions	General Orders 100, major turning points in the war 1863-1865, Draft Riots, Appomattox, Andersonville, Sherman's Field Order No. 15	
9	Tues Feb 11	The Military in Reconstruction and West, 1865-1890s Reading: AMH V1 13-14 (302-346); TAM (pp. 44-47)	
	Definitions	Reconstruction, Freedmen's Bureau, National Guard, Army Engineers, Frontier Army, Buffalo Soldiers, Indian Wars, Wounded Knee	
10	Thurs Feb 13	American Imperialism Reading: AMH V1 15 (347-370); TAM (pp. 47-52)	
	Definitions	Manifest Destiny, War of 1898, Annexation of Hawaii, Philippine-American War, Boxer Uprising	
11	Tues Feb 18	"Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick," 1902-1917 Reading: AMH V1 16 and Epilogue (371-396); TAM (pp. 53-56)	
	Definitions	"Big Navy," General Staff, Army reorganization, Caribbean and Mexican interventions, Panama Canal, National Defense Act of 1916	
12	Thurs Feb 20	World War I Reading: AMH V2 Prologue and 1 (1-54); TAM (pp. 57-67)	
	Definitions	American Expeditionary Forces, Eastern and Western Front, Selective Service Act, Plattsburg Movement, WW1 tactics and military technology, Belleau Wood, Aisne-Marne Campaign, Meuse-Argonne Campaign, Fourteen Points, League of Nations	
13	Tues Feb 25	Exam Review Day	
14	Thurs Feb 27	Midterm Exam	
15	Tues Mar 3	Modernizing the Military Reading: AMH V2 2 (55-78); TAM (pp. 68-73)	
	Definitions	Demobilization, National Defense Act 1920, Army Air Corps, CCC Camps, Neutrality Acts, RAINBOW 5	
16	Thurs Mar 5	World War II: Defensive Phase, Strategy Reading: AMH V2 3-4 (79-132); TAM (pp. 73-78)	
	Definitions	Pearl Harbor, Arsenal of Democracy, Executive Order 9066, ARCADIA Conference, Tehran Conference, Bataan and Corregidor, TORCH, SLEDGEHAMMER, OSS, OVERLORD, WAC, War Production Board, Lend-Lease	

Class #	Date	Topic & Reading	What's Due
17	Tues Mar 10	World War II in North Africa and Europe Reading: AMH V2 5 (133-168)	
	Definitions	Allied North African and Tunisian campaigns, Sicily campaign, Italian campaign, ULTRA, D-Day, Ardennes, Battle of the Bulge, concentration camps, V-E Day	
18	Thurs Mar 12	World War II in the Pacific, International Agreements Reading: AMH V2 6 (169-202); TAM (79-87)	Paper 1
	Definitions	Guadalcanal and Papua, ANAKIM, Rabual campaign, MIS, Central Pacific Drive CENPAC, Luzon, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Far East campaign, Yalta and Potsdam conferences, Manhattan Project, V-J Day	
	Spring Break	March 14-22	
19	Tues Mar 24	The Cold War Reading: AMH V2 7 (203-220); TAM (88-93)	
	Definitions	United Nations, International Military Tribunal, Nuremburg Trials, National Security Act of 1947, CIA, DOD, Occupations of Japan / Korea / Berlin, Truman Doctrine / containment, Marshall Plan, Rio Treaty, Brussels Treaty, NATO, Army Reorganization Act of 1950, Uniform Code of Military Justice, Executive Order 9981, Berlin Airlift	
20	Thurs Mar 26	The Korean Conflict Reading: AMH V2 8 (221-254); TAM (94-97)	
	Definitions	Korean Conflict, 38 th Parallel, Recall of MacArthur, DMZ	
21	Tues Mar 31	Dominoes: New Look to Vietnam Reading: AMH V2 9 (255-288)	
	Definitions	Massive Retaliation, New Look, Continental Defense, ICBM, Eisenhower Doctrine, Military-Industrial complex, Reserves, Bay of Pigs, Cuban Missile Crisis, Berlin Wall, National Guard role in civil rights struggle, ROAD	
22	Thurs Apr 2	War in Vietnam, 1953-1967 Reading: AMH V2 10 (289-335); TAM (98-107)	
	Definitions	Dien Bien Phu, Viet Cong, Special Forces, MACV, Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, ROLLING THUNDER, Battle of Ia Drang, Highway 13, Binh Dinh, Vietnam-era military technology	
23	Tues Apr 7	War in Vietnam, 1968-1975 Reading: AMH V2 11 (337-372); TAM (107-109)	
	Definitions	Tet Offensive, Khe Sanh, Vietnamization, CORDS, fragging, Cambodian incursion, Ho Chi Minh Trail, Lam Son 719, Easter Offensive, Fall of Saigon, Nixon Doctrine	

Class #	Date	Topic & Reading	What's Due
24	Thurs Apr 9	Transition to All-Volunteer Military Reading: AMH V2 12 (373-411); TAM (110-113)	Case Study Analysis 2
	Definitions	All-Volunteer Force / MVA, rise of women in the armed forces, Total Force Policy, New Doctrine, FM 100-5, post-Vietnam military technology, STEADFAST reorganization, El Salvador, Grenada, Panama	
25	Tues Apr 14	Post-Cold War: Peacekeepers or Freedom Fighters? Reading: AMH V2 13 (413-461); TAM (113-115)	
	Definitions	Persian Gulf War (Desert SHIELD / Desert STORM), technology of deployment and logistics, Northern Iraq operation, Somalia / Mogadishu, Haiti, Balkan conflict, Kosovo	
26	Thurs Apr 16	9/11 and the War on Terror Reading: AMH V2 14 (463-518) or PDF Ch 14; TAM (115-12)	
	Definitions	9/11/2001, AUMF, Homeland Security, War on Terror, Afghanistan War, Taliban, Al-Qaeda, Guantanamo, WMD, Invasion of Iraq / Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, Future Combat System, Counterinsurgency Doctrine, The Surge	
27	Tues Apr 21	The Last Chapter ... So Far Reading: AMH V2 Ch 15 (PDF); TAM (pp. 124-127)	Paper 2
28	Thurs Apr 23	The Present and Future Military Reading: Article Packet on Blackboard	
29	Tues Apr 28	Student Presentations	
30	Thurs Apr 30	In the News	Discussion Board 3 by 11:59 pm
31	Tues May 5	Exam Review / Course Wrap-Up	
	Thurs May 7	Final Exam 12:30 - 3:30 pm in Sullivan 308	