

**History 5363-01 Syllabus**  
**Graduate Seminar in Military History:**  
**Seapower in the Age of Steam**  
**CRN Number: 80067**  
**Credit Hours: 3**  
**Class Location: Online**  
**Semester: Fall 2017**

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Office Hours: By appointment Monday through Friday.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course aims to make students aware of the influence exerted on the modern world by warfare at sea. The wars of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries created vast European controlled empires that first fractured and then crumbled in the first half of the twentieth century. The creation, maintenance, and security of these empires were based heavily upon seapower. The desire for large navies as symbols of prestige and empire, drove Europe and later the world into expensive and complex naval arms races that were large contributors to the two World Wars that defined the first half of the twentieth century.

The course will focus on evolution of naval technology and the naval arms race that contributing to the chaotic descent into the First and Second World Wars, the major naval elements of both World Wars, and the state of seapower at the beginning of the Cold War. Hence this seminar aims to make students aware of the events, logistics and policies that determined the course of war at sea. Technological as well as human aspects were important and receive attention in discussions of tactical success and failure. This course aims to provide an analytical as well as a rounded view of modern naval history that can be placed in the context of international affairs.

Naval history integrates many species of history, which are usually studied separately. Completing this course will cover not only the history of actual naval operations, but important aspects of national political, social, economic, technical and medical history, among others.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

1. Students hone their ability to analyze and synthesize different types of history to assess the importance of naval warfare and seapower in the modern world.
2. Students will hone the ability to research for themselves and present independent accounts and interpretations of different historical issues through class assignments.
3. This class broadens students' abilities to construct and defend sustained arguments in written form.
4. Students will refine their historiographical and bibliographical skills.

## REQUIRED COURSE TEXTS

### Books to Buy

- Harding, Richard. *Modern Naval History: Debates and Prospects*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2016.
- Milner, Marc. *Battle of the Atlantic*. Stroud, Gloucestershire: History Press, 2011.
- Overy, R. J. *Why the Allies Won*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1997.
- Sondhaus. *The Great War at Sea: A Naval History of the First World War*. Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Symonds, Craig L. *The U.S. Navy: A Concise History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

### Books available Digitally through SHSU Library

- Borneman, Walter R. *The Admirals: Nimitz, Halsey, Leahy, and King--the Five-star Admirals Who Won the War at Sea*. New York: Little, Brown and, 2012.
- Brown, D. K. *Warrior to Dreadnought: Warship Design and Development, 1860-1905*. Barnsley: Seaforth Publishing, 2010.
- Grove, Eric. *The Royal Navy since 1815: A New Short History*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.
- Kennedy, Paul M. *The War Plans of the Great Powers 1880-1914*. Boston, MA: Routledge, 2014.
- O'Brien, Phillips Payson. *Technology and Naval Combat in the Twentieth Century and beyond*. London: Routledge, 2001.
- Rodger, N.A.M., J. Ross Dancy, Benjamin Darnell, and Evan Wilson, eds. *Strategy and the Sea: Essays in Honour of John B. Hattendorf*. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2016.

## ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

**Short Papers:** There will be eight opportunities to write a 1,000-word short paper during the course, of which students **must write three of the papers**. Students may choose to write a fourth paper, which will replace their lowest paper score. Each short paper will answer an assigned prompt, and conform to the rules of spelling and grammar. Short papers will rely on course readings for references and must use either Chicago or Turabian writing manuals.

**Research Paper:** Each student will write a 6,000-word research paper on a topic of their own choosing, approved by the professor. The research paper **MUST** rely on **scholarly publications and primary source documents** (printed or archival). Research papers must cite a minimum of twenty-five sources. **The research paper is due on 26 November at 11:59pm**. All students will be **required to perform a live viva voce** defense of their research paper as part of their grade, which will consist of a ten minute presentation of the topic by the student, followed by twenty minutes of questions from the instructor. This can be done in person in the instructor's office, or via a Skype Video call for students based away from SHSU.

**Discussion Forums:** There will be **eight discussion forums** via the classroom online ‘blackboard’ in which participation is required. Each student will make one blog post (ca. 300 words) as well as respond to two additional postings (ca. 150 words each). The ‘forum week’ begins on Sunday morning at 12:00am of the assigned weeks and ends the following Saturday at 11:59pm. **The original blog posts are due by Wednesday** of each week at 11:59pm, and the two responses are due by Saturday at 11:59pm. Forum topics will be picked by the student and can include questions, comments, or insights on the given week’s readings. The purpose of the blog is to create a discussion about the week’s readings and to allow Instructor and Student interaction. Forum assessment will be based upon the quality of the student’s engagement with the week’s assigned reading. Students **MUST complete all eight** of the discussion forums to pass the course.

**\*\*Note\*\*:** The **research paper and the three short papers** must be foot noted using the Chicago or Turabian style manuals. They must include a title page and bibliography, which will not count toward the word limit. Students have +/- 10% of the stated word limit to complete their essays. Essays must be completed in Times New Roman font size 12, on standard letter sized paper (8.5”x11”), with 1-inch margins. Failure to meet these criteria will result in a **10% grade reduction per infraction**.

**Video/Live Discussions:** Each student is required to have **three live discussions/interviews** with the course Instructor. One of these will be the student’s defense of their paper, the other two will be set up between the professor and the student prior to the term paper being handed in. It is suggested that students do this to discuss their prospective research topic and then again once they have done some of the research. These can be done in person or via video chat (Skype or Google Video Chat).

**\*\*Note\*\*:** Off-site students are **required** to have access to a Skype/Google Video Chat capable computer with a web-cam.

### Calculating your final score:

Assignment	Individual Point Value	Total
Short Papers (x3)	100	300
Research Paper	400	400
Research Paper Defense	200	200
Online Discussion Forum	100	100
Grand Total		1,000

### Grading:

A = 900 – 1,000 points

B = 800 – 899 points

C = 700 – 799 points

D = 600 – 699 points

F = 599 points or below

## **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

As this is an online class, communication is a course priority. Please type **'5363'** in the subject line of your emails to help quickly identify your message as important. (*Emails written after 5pm will be answered the following day*) All email correspondence will take place via SHSU email accounts only, as FERPA (Federal Education Rights Privacy Act) regulations require that communication and grades are kept confidential. Live communication with the instructor is available via Skype to students not physically located at or near SHSU. 'On-site' students can visit the instructor during office hours or set up meeting times via email in order to discuss course work.

**\*\*Note\*\*:** Some days see more email arrive in my 'inbox' than I can possibly answer. During those days I will try to get to class email first, but inevitably some of my duties take priority. If your message is urgent, please mark it as such, so I can give it the necessary attention.

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:**

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

## **STUDENT ABSENCES ON RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS POLICY:**

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. Section 51.911 (a) (2) defines a religious holy day as: "a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20...." A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

University policy 861001 provides the procedures to be followed by the student and instructor. A student desiring to absent himself/herself from a scheduled class in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shall present to each instructor involved a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). The instructor will complete a form notifying the student of a reasonable timeframe in which the missed assignments and/or examinations are to be completed.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES POLICY:**

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If you have a disability that may affect adversely your work in this class, then I encourage you to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with me about how I can best help you. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: No accommodation can be made until you register with the Counseling Center.

**VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:**

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

**\*Note that all university policies above can be found at the following website:**

**<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>**

## Course Schedule Overview

### **Phase 1: 23 Aug – 21 Oct**

#### **Section 1 (23 Aug – 02 Sept): Sail to Steam**

Brown, *Warrior to Dreadnought*: Chapters 1-6

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapters 1-2

Harding, *Modern Naval History*: All

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapter 10

Symonds, *The U.S. Navy*: Chapters 1-5

#### **Section 2 (03 – 09 Sept): The Advancement of Naval Gunnery**

Brown, *Warrior to Dreadnought*: Chapters 7-12

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapter 3

Symonds, *The U.S. Navy*: Chapter 6

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapters 16-17

#### **Section 3 (10 – 16 Sept): Prewar Arms Race**

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapter 4

Howard, Michael. "A Thirty Years' War? The Two World Wars in Historical Perspective: The Prothero Lecture." *Transactions of the Royal Historical Society* 3 (1993): 171-84. (JSTOR)

Kennedy, *The War Plans of the Great Powers 1880-1914*: All

O'Brien, ed., *Technology and Naval Combat*: 1-5

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapters 11 & 18

#### **Section 4 (17 – 23 Sept): World War I**

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapter 5

Sondhaus, *The Great War at Sea*: All

Symonds, *The U.S. Navy*: Chapter 7

#### **Section 5 (24 – 30 Sept): The Interwar Years**

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapter 6

O'Brien, ed., *Technology and Naval Combat*: 6-9

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapter 12

#### **Section 6 (01 – 07 Oct): World War II in the Atlantic**

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapter 7

Milner, *Battle of the Atlantic*: All

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapter 13

#### **Section 7 (08 – 14 Oct): World War II in the Pacific**

Borneman, *The Admirals*: All

Overy, *Why the Allies Won*: All

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapter 19

Symonds, *The U.S. Navy*: Chapters 8

### **Section 8 (15 – 21 Oct): Nuclear Power at Sea and the Cold War**

Grove, *The Royal Navy since 1815*: Chapters 8-9

O'Brien, ed., *Technology and Naval Combat*: 10-15

Rodger, Dancy, Darnell, and Wilson, eds., *Strategy and the Sea*: Chapters 14, 20 & 21

Symonds, *The U.S. Navy*: Chapters 9-10

### **Phase 2: 22 Oct – 26 Nov**

Research and Writing: The Research Paper is due **26 November at 11:59pm**.

During this phase of the course, students will be required to have two video conferences with the professor, first to choose their research topic and the second to follow up on research and writing progress.

### **Phase 3: 27 Nov – 07 Dec**

Research Defense: Students will make individual appointments to defend their research papers. This can be done in person or via video chat.