

History 6394-01 Syllabus
Graduate Seminar in Military History:
Seapower in the Age of Steam
CRN Number: 21245
Credit Hours: 3
Class Location: Online
Semester: Spring 2018

Dr. J. Ross Dancy

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
10:00am to 11:00am

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is the Capstone of the MA in History program, and thus is designed around producing a written paper of article length and quality. Students will use the skills gained throughout the program to thoroughly research and write on an approved topic.

The course topic will focus on the memory of war and in particular how war has affected those who fought. As this is the 100-year anniversary of the end of World War One, the readings for the course and the research papers will focus around the fallout that followed the Great War.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Students hone their ability to analyze and synthesize different types of history to assess the aftermath of war on society.
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: All Available Digitally Through SHSU Library

Cabanes, Bruno. *The Great War and the Origins of Humanitarianism, 1918-1924*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Cohen, Deborah. *The War Come Home: Disabled Veterans in Britain and Germany, 1914-1939*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001.

Fussell, Paul. *The Great War and Modern Memory*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1975.

Linker, Beth. *War's Waste: Rehabilitation in WWI America*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2011.

Winter, Jay. *Remembering War: The Great War Between Memory and History in the Twentieth Century*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2006.

Winter, Jay. *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1995.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Short Papers: Students will write three 1,000-word minimum comparative book reviews during the course. Each short paper will comprise an in-depth critical comparison of the two assigned books, and conform to the rules of spelling and grammar. Short papers will rely on course readings for references and must use Chicago or Turabian writing manuals.

Research Paper: Each student will write a 10,000-word minimum research paper on a topic of their choosing, within the bounds of the course and 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 forty sources (10 Primary and 30 Secondary)**. The research paper is **due on 29 April at 11:59pm**. All students will be **required** to present a **paper prospectus** that is **due 24 February at 11:59pm**. Students are also required to present a **research paper outline and annotated bibliography** that is **due 24 March at 11:59pm**. All of these deadlines have to be met in order to pass the class.

****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**.

Viva Voce: Each student will perform a 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 Dr. Dancy. This can be done in person in the professor'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 of a minimum of 300 words each week. The 'forum week' begins on Sunday morning at 12:00am of the assigned weeks and ends the following 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 and the process of preparing and researching a paper. The purpose of the forum is to create a discussion about the process of professional academic writing and to allow Instructor and Student interaction. Forum assessment will be a completion grade, but that will be based upon the quality of the student's engagement. Students **MUST complete all eight** of the discussion forums to pass the course.

Video/Live Discussions: Each student is required to have **three live discussions/interviews** with the Dr. Dancy. 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
Comparative Book Reviews (x3)	50	150
Research Paper	700	700
Research Paper Defense	150	150
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 **‘6394’** 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: 17 January – 10 February

Section 1 (17 Jan – 27 Jan): Veterans of War

Cohen, *The War Come Home*

Linker, *War's Waste*

Section 2 (28 Jan – 03 Feb): Mourning and the Fallout of War

Cabanes, *The Great War and the Origins of Humanitarianism*

Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*

Section 3 (04 Feb – 10 Feb): Remembering WWI

Fussell, *The Great War and Modern Memory*

Winter, *Remembering War*

Phase 2: 11 February – 24 March

Research and Planning: During this phase of the class, students will pick their research topics and begin the lengthy process of researching a professional academic paper. As part of this phase, students will **continue to post weekly on the blackboard forum** where they can discuss the process of research and ask questions. Weekly forum participation is required.

- ❖ A required paper prospectus with a thesis concept and bibliography is **due 24 February**. This will be followed by a face-to-face discussion with the Professor (in person or via Skype).
- ❖ A required annotated bibliography with a minimum of thirty secondary and ten primary sources, along with an outline of the basic paper argument is **due 24 March**. This will be followed by a second face-to-face discussion with the Professor (in person or via Skype).

Phase 3: 25 March – 29 April

Writing: The Research Paper is due **29 April at 11:59pm**.

During this phase of the course, students will write their research papers. The Professor will be available via appointment to answer questions and provide guidance for students.

Phase 4: 30 April – 10 May

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