

HIST611

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Course Summary

Description

Course Description: This course is a study of warfare in the ancient world with emphasis on the great empires of the Near East and the Mediterranean, particularly the Greeks and Romans. Student examine the origins of warfare in the Neolithic period to the decline and fall of the Western Roman Empire in the fifth century. Special emphasis will be placed on the military history of Mesopotamia and the Near East (Sumerian, Akkadian, Babylonian, Hittite, Assyrian and Persian), Egypt (Old, Middle and New Kingdom), Greece (Mycenaean, Archaic, Hellenic and Hellenistic) and Rome (Republican and Imperial). The phalanx, the legion, Greek Fire and the importance of roads are discussed in detail.

Course Scope:

Lethal violence is part of the heritage of *Homo Sapiens*. During our prehistory, our intelligence and dexterity allowed us to make tools and weapons that made us the supreme predators on the planet. Those same weapons also proved to be very effective against other human beings. But warfare, as distinct from simple personal violence, is a relatively recent phenomenon, only as old as civilization. There is a world of difference between a band of individual warriors and a disciplined army of soldiers. This course will examine those differences, how and why armies came into existence, how they were used, the limitations they operated under, and how those armies and the battles and wars they fought have shaped thousands of years of human history.

This course examines human warfare as it developed in the ancient Near East, Mediterranean and European regions from the beginnings of civilization in these regions in what is commonly referred to as the Fertile Crescent, Mesopotamia, through the great Bronze Age civilizations and their collapse, the rise of the Greek and Macedonian civilizations and empires, and finally Rome, from Republic to Empire to the collapse of the West.

This is an immense field of study, covering some four thousand years and thousands of miles in distance both east to west and north to south. So by necessity a single course like this can only provide a brief introduction to the subject. One possible way to look at the subject would be chronologically, looking at each civilization or empire in turn, studying its military system and the important battles and wars it fought. But such an approach would quickly become repetitive, as these armies and their fighting styles often differed only in relatively minor details.

Instead, this course will examine the basic components of ancient warfare, core elements that endured with only minor variations among all of these military powers for thousands of years. Each component will have its own assigned book and Forum Discussion. It is not expected that these studies will be exhaustive, but rather they should provide students with a foundation for further study and for understanding the nature of ancient warfare. The components to be studied are: Infantry; Chariots/ Cavalry; Siege Warfare; and Naval

Warfare. The similarities and differences across time and empires for each component will be part of the study.

Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

Examine the link between the emergence of urban civilizations and organized armies Analyze the organization of various armies and their effectiveness

Assess the development of the chariot and cavalry as part of armies

Evaluate the development of fortifications and siege weapons and techniques to capture them

Examine the development of two distinctive forms of ancient warfare, the Greek phalanx and the Roman legion

Analyze the origins and role of naval power in the history of the Mediterranean Assess the rise and fall of various ancient imperial powers

Examine various important battles of antiquity and evaluate the various factors that led to victory or defeat

Deconstruct some of the myths of ancient warfare

Outline

Week 1: From warrior to soldier - the origin of armies

Learning Objectives

Examine the differences between individual warriors and an army of soldiers.

Consider the factors necessary create and maintain an army.

Analyze why armies remained fundamentally unchanged for thousands of years.

Readings

Textbooks

Matthew, Storm of Spears, Chapters 1 - 7

Dyer, War, Chapter 1; O'Connell, Of Arms and Men, Chapter 3 - Resources, Assigned Readings

Websites

Ancient Hoplitikon, Greek Reenactor website: <http://ancienthoplitikon.com/British Roman Legion>

Reenactor website: <http://www.romanarmy.net/>

Lesson

Week 1

If You Want To Know More

Dyer, War

Hamblin, Warfare in the Ancient Near East to 1600 BC

O'Connell, Of Arms and Men: A History of War, Weapons and Aggression

Spalinger, War in Ancient Egypt

Assignment

Forum

Virtual Introduction; Topic #1 - Initial Post

Written Assignment

None

Week 2: Winning combinations - the Greek phalanx and the Roman legion

Learning Objectives

Examine the origins of the Greek and Roman methods of warfare

Analyze why these new systems proved generally superior to others

Evaluate why, over the course of a thousand years, no other power came up with a system that was clearly superior to either

Readings

Textbooks

Matthew, Storm of Spears, Chapters 8 - 14

O'Connell, Of Arms and Men, Chapters 4 - 5 - Resources, Assigned Readings

Websites

Greek reenactor website: <http://www.larp.com/hoplite/index.html>

Late Roman reenactor website: <http://www.romanarmy.net/>

Lesson

Week 2

If You Want To Know More

Connolly, Greece and Rome at War

Goldsworthy, The Complete Roman Army

Warry, Warfare in the Classical World

The Cruxshadows, Ethernaut (musical album with a Trojan War theme)

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 1 - Response Posts

Written Assignment

Opinion Essay # 1 - Matthew

Week 3: Military mobility - the origins and development of chariot warfare

Learning Objectives

Assess how the domestication of the horse created new opportunities for warfare

Examine the various technological developments that were necessary to create the chariot as a weapon of war

Discuss the strengths and limitations of the chariot as a weapons system

Evaluate the decline of the chariot and why it remained in decline

Readings

Textbooks

Noble, Dawn of the Horse Warriors, Chapters 1 - 7

Websites

Ancient Warfare Magazine

<http://www.karwansaraypublishers.com/pw/ancient-warfare/>

Osprey Publishing

<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/period-books/ancient-warfare>

Lesson

Week 3

If You Want To Know More

Drews, The End of the Bronze Age: Changes in Warfare and the Catastrophe ca. 1200 BC

Sidnell, Warhorse: Cavalry in Ancient Warfare

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 2 - Initial Post

Written Assignment

Research Paper Proposal

Week 4: From wheels to riding - the development of cavalry

Learning Objectives

Examine the factors that led to the transition from riding in chariots to riding on horseback

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of cavalry

Consider the various technological developments that were necessary for mounted riders to be effective in combat

Assess the interaction between infantry and cavalry

Readings

Textbooks

Noble, Dawn of the Horse Warriors, Chapters 8 - 14

Websites

Ancient Warfare Podcasts

[https:// thehistorynetwork.org/ category/podcasts/ ancient-warfare-magazine/](https://thehistorynetwork.org/category/podcasts/ancient-warfare-magazine/)

Lesson

Week 4

If You Want To Know More

McCall, Cavalry of the Roman Republic

Sidnell, Warhorse: Cavalry in the Ancient World

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 2 - Response Posts

Written Assignment

Opinion Essay # 2 - Noble I

Week 5: Walls and how to knock them down - siege warfare

Learning Objectives

Examine the origins of fortifications, their construction and how they impacted warfare

Evaluate the options available to armies for capturing fortified places

Consider why siege warfare was so brutal and costly, often to both attacker and defender

Readings

Textbooks

Nossov, Ancient and Medieval Siege Weapons, Chapters 1 - 17

Websites

Greek artillery

[http:// www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Technology/en/CatapultTypes.html](http://www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Technology/en/CatapultTypes.html)

Lesson

Week 5

If You Want To Know More

Campbell, Ancient Siege Warfare

Kem, Ancient Siege Warfare

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 3 - Initial Post

Written Assignment

None

Week 6: Greek creativity and Roman engineering and determination - siege warfare enhanced

Learning Objectives

Evaluate the impact of Greek creativity and imagination on siege warfare, with an emphasis on the machinery

Consider Roman effectiveness at siege warfare, despite their lack of original ideas about the subject

Examine some of the most famous sieges of antiquity, including Tyre, Syracuse, and Masada

Readings

Textbooks

Nossov, Ancient and Medieval Siege Weapons, Chapters 18 - 25

Websites

Ancient Greek War Machines

<http://www.mlahanas.de/Greeks/war/Helepolis.htm>

Smithsonian documentary on Masada

<http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/shows/siege-of-masada/0/3417626>

Lesson

Week 6

If You Want To Know More

Campbell, Besieged: Siege Warfare in the Ancient World

Davies, Roman Siege Works

Rocca, The Forts of Judea, 168 BC - AD 73: From the Maccabees to the Fall of Masada

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 3 - Response Posts

Written Assignment

Opinion Essay # 3 - Nossov

Week 7: Mastering the sea - the development of ships and sailing

Learning Objectives

Consider the invention of sea going ships, sailing and navigation in the Mediterranean

Examine how these ships were first used in war

Evaluate the development of specialized naval warships

Discuss the evolution of naval warfare tactics

Readings

Textbooks

Casson, The Ancient Mariners, Chapters 1 - 9

Websites

Trireme Trust

[http:// www.triremetrust.org.uk/](http://www.triremetrust.org.uk/)

Lesson

Week 7

If You Want To Know More

Morrison, The Athenian Trireme

Rodgers, Greek and Roman Naval Warfare

Wood, Warships of the Ancient World, 3000 - 500 BC

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 4 - Initial Post

Written Assignment

None

Week 8: Mare Nostrum - naval power makes the Mediterranean a Roman highway

Learning Objectives

Examine the Hellenistic drive to create ever larger oared warships

Analyze the growth of the original naval power, Carthage

Assess the wolf versus the shark - the Punic Wars

Evaluate Roman naval control of the Mediterranean

Consider the limits of naval military power and why it never expanded outside the Mediterranean

Readings

Textbooks

Casson, The Ancient Mariners, Chapters 10 - 18

Websites

Military History Links

<http://vlib.iue.it/history/mil/>

Military History

<http://www.americanhistoryprojects.com/downloads/mil-2012.html#J>

Lesson

Week 8

If You Want To Know More

Goldsworthy, The Fall of Carthage: The Punic Wars

Miles, Carthage Must Be Destroyed

Strauss, The Battle of Salamis

Assignment

Forum

Topic # 4 - Response Posts

Written Assignments

Opinion Essay # 4 - Casson; Research Paper;

Optional Extra Credit Opinion Essay, Matyszak

Evaluation

There will be three types of graded activities in this course – Discussion Forum postings, Reading Opinion Essays, and a Research Proposal and Paper. The breakdown of each activity, in terms of points and percentage of the overall course grade, is given in the table at the end of this section. A brief description of each of these activities follows. For more complete information on the work, see the **Assignments** section as well as the folders in the **Resources** section of the course site. The **Assignments** section will have due dates and point values for the assignments, and the **Resources** section will have folders with instructions and samples of the assignments for viewing. All of the various assignments are intended to promote and provoke critical and analytical thinking on the part of the students, not simply to regurgitate facts.

Assignments may be turned in before the required due date.

The Forum discussion topics are the most frequent of the graded assignments. There will be a total of four different group topics, one every other week, beginning along with the Virtual Introduction of the first week. See the **Course Outline** section of this syllabus, as well as the **Calendar** and **Forums** sections of the class site for the due dates. The first topic will begin the first week of the term, and will continue until the due date listed in this syllabus, when the next topic will begin. Participation in the discussion topics will be graded on both the number and the quality of a student's postings. Students will be expected to post both an Initial Response to the instructor's original subject/questions, as well as at least two Responses / Replies to other student's posts.

The Initial Post for a given topic will be due the first Sunday of the two week period, while the Responses will be due the following Sunday. For example, for the first topic, the Initial Post will be due at the end of Week #1, and the Responses for that topic due at the end of Week #2. The topics will be developed in part to encourage the students to do the assigned reading, but also to provoke further investigation, research and thought about the subjects. Initial Response posts are expected to be at least **500** words in length, while Response posts are expected to be at least **250** words each, although in both cases they may be longer. All Forum posts are expected to be substantive, and to reference readings, both the assigned texts as well as outside reading. For further information on the discussion groups and the expectations for them, see the **Instructions** in the Discussion folder in the **Resources** portion of the class site.

The Reading Opinion Essays will be based on the various books assigned as course reading. Note that while these essays will discuss the books assigned, they are **NOT** traditional "book reviews". The point of the Reading Opinion Essays is to discuss your personal reaction to the book – what you felt about it, what you liked and didn't like, and why. These essays are not intended to be an objective analysis of the book, but rather a purely personal reaction to it.

The purpose of these assignments is to help students understand and identify the degree to which their own personal reaction to a book influences their analysis of it.

The Reading Opinion Essays are to be a **minimum** of three full pages of text, **exclusive** of the required title page and any end matter. Complete instructions for the Essays may be found in the Writing Assignments / Opinion Essays folder in the Resources section of the class site.

The research proposal and paper constitutes the largest single portion of the graded assigned work. The proposal will be due at the end of Week 3, and the paper will be due at the end of the course, the end of Week 8. The paper will be a minimum of **15** pages of text, **exclusive** of title page, notes, or bibliography, although it may be longer. The paper must be about some aspect of ancient warfare. The paper subject could be a biographical study, an examination of a battle or war, a look at the military system of a particular culture or empire, or the design and use of a particular type of weapon – almost anything that relates to the period between the beginning of warfare during the Summerian Empire and the fall of the western Roman Empire.

Instructions for the paper and proposal, and an example of the format for the proposal can be found in the Writing Assignments / Research Paper folder in the Resources section of the class site. The annotated bibliography in the Bibliography folder in the Resources section, as well as the bibliographies in the course texts can serve as a starting point for the research for these papers. The paper should follow the appropriate guidelines for form and style listed in the Policies section of this syllabus. There is also a Research and Writing Tools folder in the Resources section containing a PDF file of the US Army's Center for Military History's official Writing Manual – an excellent resource for working on the paper.

For students with a more interactive bent, there is an option that can be used in place of the traditional research paper. This involves purchasing and installing a computer simulation, one of AEGOD's *Alea Jacta Est* games. These simulations cover the range of Roman military history, from the Birth of Rome to wars in the East against Parthia. The student will be required to write two After Action Reports (AAR) based on this simulation, one covering the tutorial and one covering a campaign of the student's choosing. The tutorial AAR is substituted for the proposal, and the AAR on the larger campaign substitutes for the research paper. The grade for these AARs is based not on the results of the simulation, but on how well the student reports

on what has happened and what they learn from the experience. Further details on these optional alternate assignments can be found in the Game folder in the Resources section of the class site. If a student wishes to choose this option, they must inform the instructor before the end of Week 2. For further questions about this option, contact the instructor.

Grading:

Name	Points
Discussion Forums	0
Virtual Introduction	10
Forum Topic #1 - Initial Post	35
Forum Topic #1 - Responses	40
Forum Topic #2 - Initial Post	35
Forum Topic #2 - Responses	40
Forum Topic #3 - Initial Post	35
Forum Topic #3 - Responses	40
Forum Topic #4 - Initial Post	35
Forum Topic #4 - Responses	40
Reading Opinion Essays	0
Textbook Opinion Essay # 1 - Matthew	75
Textbook Opinion Essay # 2 - Noble	75
Textbook Opinion Essay # 3 - Nossor	75
Textbook Opinion Essay # 4 - Casson	75
Research Paper	0
Paper Proposal	100
Research Paper	300
Optional Extra Credit Opinion Essay	0
Optional Extra Credit Opinion Essay	50

Materials

Book Title: The Ancient Mariners: Seafarers and Sea Fighters of the Mediterranean in Ancient Times, 2nd ed.

Author: Lionel Casson

Publication Info: Princeton University Press

ISBN: 9780691014777

Book Title: Ancient and Medieval Siege Weapons: A Fully Illustrated Guide To Siege Weapons And Tactics

Author: Konstantin Nossov

Publication Info: Lyons Press

ISBN: 9780762782642

Book Title: A Storm of Spears: Understanding the Greek Hoplite in Action

Author: Christopher Matthew

Publication Info: Casemate Publishers

ISBN: 9781612001197

Book Title: Dawn of the Horse Warriors: Chariot and Cavalry Warfare, 3000-600BC

Author: Duncan Noble

Publication Info: Pen and Sword

ISBN: 9781783462759

Optional Extra Credit Reading

Matyszak, Philip *Legionary: The Roman Soldier's Unofficial Manual* Thames and Hudson, 2009 978-0500251515 Hard Cover

Recommended Books

Campbell, Duncan B. *Besieged: Siege Warfare in the Ancient World* Osprey Publishing, 2006 978-1846030192 Hard Cover

Connolly, Peter *Greece and Rome at War* Frontline Books, 2016 978-1848329416 Soft Cover

Drews, Robert *The End of the Bronze Age: Changes in Warfare and the Catastrophe CA. 1200 B.C* Princeton University Press, 1995 978-0691025919 Soft Cover

Goldsworthy, Adrian *In the Name of Rome: The Men Who Won the Roman Empire*

Phoenix Press, 2004 978-0753817896 Soft Cover

Goldsworthy, Adrian *The Complete Roman Army* Thames & Hudson, 2011 978-0500288993 Soft Cover

Goldsworthy, Adrian *The Fall of Carthage: The Punic Wars, 265 - 146 BC* Cassell, 2007 978-0304366422 Soft Cover

Hackett, Sir John (editor) *Warfare in the Ancient World* Facts on File, 1989 978-0816024599 Hard Cover

Hamblin, William J. *Warfare in the Ancient Near East to 1600 BC: Holy Warriors at the Dawn of History* Routledge, 2006 978-0415255899 Soft Cover

James, Simon *Rome and the Sword: How Warriors and Weapons Shaped Roman History*

Thames & Hudson, 2011 978-0500251829 Hard Cover

Lendon, J.E. *Soldiers & Ghosts: A History of Battle in Classical Antiquity* Yale University Press, 2005 978-0300119794 Soft Cover

Matthew, Christopher *An Invincible Beast: Understanding the Hellenistic Pike-Phalanx at War* Pen and Sword, 2015 978-1783831104 Hard Cover

Sage, Michael M. *Warfare in Ancient Greece: A Sourcebook* Routledge, 1996 978-0415143554 Soft Cover

Spalinger, Anthony J. *War in Ancient Egypt* Blackwell Publishing, 2005 978-1405113724 Soft Cover

Strassler, Robert B. *The Landmark Thucydides: A Comprehensive Guide to the Peloponnesian War* The Free Press, 1996 978-0684828152 Hard Cover

Warry, John *Warfare in the Classical World* University of Oklahoma Press, 1995 978-0806127941 Soft Cover

The above Recommended books are just that – books that are recommended as a means of increasing a student's knowledge of the subject of Ancient Warfare. In particular, they provide a greater depth and focus, or an alternate perspective, on areas that are not dealt with extensively in the course readings. Students are not required to read any of these books, these titles are provided as a means for further understanding of the subject. This list is by no means inclusive. For a more complete list of additional works, see the Annotated Bibliography in the Resources section of the class site.

Optional Resources (Recommended)

- Marius, Richard. *A Short Guide to Writing about History*. NY: Longmans, 1999.
- *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 16th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010.
- Turabian, Kate L. *Manual for Writers of Term Papers*, 7th Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997. *Purchase is highly recommended.*
- Turabian Citation Guide Online
http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Department of History and Military Studies requires conformity with the traditional University of Chicago Style Manual and its Turabian offshoot. Citations will follow traditional endnote or footnote attribution. Do not use parenthetical (MLA) variation.

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Websites

In addition to the required course texts the following public domain Websites are useful. Please abide by the university's academic honesty policy when using Internet sources as well. Note web site addresses are subject to change.

Website for
a magazine
devoted to
ancient
warfare <http://www.karwansaraypublishers.com/pw/ancient-warfare/>

West Point
atlas for
ancient
warfare,
Greco-
Roman <http://www.westpoint.edu/history/SitePages/Ancient%20Warfare.aspx>

Website for
ancient
military
history,
generally
neglects
Bronze Age <http://www.ancientmilitary.com/index.htm>

Site for
podcasts on
various
ancient
warfare
topics <https://thehistorynetwork.org/category/podcasts/ancient-warfare-magazine/>

Osprey
Publishing,
focused on
ancient
warfare.
They do an
enormous
number of
specialized
titles about
almost every
aspect of
ancient
warfare <https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/period-books/ancient-warfare>

Greek
hoplite
reenactor
website <http://www.larp.com/hoplite/index.html>

Home site
for the
Society of
Ancient
Military
Historians <http://ccat.sas.upenn.edu/rice/samh.html>

Ancient
Hoplitkon,
Greek
reenactor
website <http://ancienthoplitikon.com/>

British
Roman
Legion
reenactor
website <http://www.romanarmy.net/>

British Late
Period
Roman
military
reenactor
websaite <http://www.comitatus.net/>

Trireme
Trust - web
site for a
group
researching
Greek
warships,
who built a
modern
replica <http://www.triremetrust.org.uk/>

Collection of
links about
military
history.
Extensive
section on a
wide variety
of ancient
warfare
topics <http://vlib.iue.it/history/mil/>

Web
sources for
military
history,
significant
ancient
topics

<http://www.americanhistoryprojects.com/downloads/mil-2012.html#J>

Website for
Greek
artillery,
battlefield
and siege

<http://www.hellenicaworld.com/Greece/Technology/en/CatapultTypes.html>

Smithsonian
documentary
on the siege
of Masada

<http://www.smithsonianchannel.com/shows/siege-of-masada/0/3417626>

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Course Guidelines

Phasellus eros sopien, lacinia eget veut vitae, viverro finibus neque Donec vulputate (empor erat id laoreet Nunc commodo ornare justo, sit omet ultrices magna pharetro quis Ut oc nunc in metus fermentum pellentesque eel quia leo. Fusce sodales diam eel tempor posuere ougue nsus ullamcorper quom, id vehiculo libero ante oc ipsum, Donec vitae purus magna Curobitur semper dui quis risus pretium finibus Phosellus non magna consectetur, faucibus magno et, ullamcorper eros. Ut oc nunc in metus fermentum pellentesque eel quia leo. Fusce sodoles, diom eel tempor posuere, ougue risus ullomcorper quom, id vehiculo libero ante oc ipsum. Donec vitae purus magna. Curobitur semper dui quia risus pretium finibus. Phasellus non magna consectetur, faucibus magno et, ullomcocper eros. lacinia eget velit vitae, vrvecro finibus neque Donec vulputote tempor erot id looreet Nunc commodo ornare 'usto, sit omet ultrices magno phoretro quis. Ut oc nunc in metus fermentum pellentesque eel quis leo. Fusce sodoles, diom eel tempor posuere, ougue risus ullomcocper quom, id vehiculo libero ante oc ipsum, Donec vitae purus magno. Curobitur semper dui quia risus pretium finibus. Phasellus non magno consectetur, faucibus magno et, ullamcorper ecos. Phosellus eros sopien, lacinia eget veut vitae, viverra finibus neque Donec vulputote tempor erot id looreet Nunc commodo ornare justo, sit omet ultrices magno phoretro quis Ut oc nunc in metus fermentum pellentesque eel quia leo. Fusce sodoles, diom eel tempor posuer ougue nsus ullomcorpec quom, id vehicula libero ante oc ipsum. Donec vitae purus magno Curabitur semper dui quis risus pretium finibus Phosellus non magno consectetur, faucibus magno et, ullomcorpec eros.

University Policies

[Student Handbook](#)

- [Drop/Withdrawal policy](#)
- [Extension Requests](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)

- [Appeals](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

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