

HIST 392: American Naval History – Spring 2015

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203 East Hall -- 677-5569

Course Time and Place:

This course meets in Beacom 206 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:00-9:50 a.m.

Office Hours:

Mondays & Wednesdays from 10-11 am, and Tuesdays from 1-2:30 pm in East Hall 203, although you can arrange to see me any time. Give me a call or send an email. If I'm in, chances are we can meet.

Required Readings:

- Nathan Miller, *The U.S. Navy: A History* (1997)
- Chipp Reid, *Intrepid Sailors: The Legacy of Preble's Boys and the Tripoli Campaign* (2012)
- Jim Leeke, *Manila and Santiago: The New Steel Navy in the Spanish-American War* (2009)
- Thomas Cutler, *The Battle of Leyte Gulf* (2001)

Course Description:

This course is a survey of American naval history from colonial times to the present. Because it is a survey course, we will not have the opportunity to give as much attention as you may desire to every important, interesting, and controversial topic. However, we will discuss a wide range of issues about which you will be expected to think and form your own opinions. Naval history, and military history in general, is about more than guns and battles (what some of my colleagues like to call "Boom! Splash! Man the pumps!"). We will spend much of our time discussing things like technology, science and exploration, administration, and foreign policy -- the less glamorous but equally important components of a balanced overview of naval history. Rote memorization will do you little good in this class; be prepared to think for yourselves, especially when it comes to the outside readings. You are strongly encouraged to make use of the instructor's office hours throughout the semester.

Course Requirements:

The instructor expects each student to keep up with the schedule of readings that appears on this syllabus. You will have a much better idea of what's going on if you have done the reading. These assignments, along with information from the lectures and discussions, will provide the material for the exams. There are 375 possible points to be earned in this class. There will be three (3) essay exams. Each exam will be worth 100 points. You will also create an annotated bibliography on a naval topic of your choice, which is worth 75 a points and to be completed in two parts as explained in more detail below. Your course grade is determined by your average and is based on a standard 10-point scale.

Makeups

Makeups must be taken within two weeks of a missed exam and will only be given if the student has a university-approved absence. **It is your responsibility to arrange the makeup.** Unless there are extenuating circumstances, makeups not completed within two weeks will have a score of zero entered on the grade sheet. Students with unexcused absences will not be allowed to take a makeup.

Writing Essay Exam Questions

When writing essays, it is important that you build your answer around some kind of thesis statement. Be blunt and put your thesis in the opening paragraph. The remaining paragraphs should strengthen your thesis while answering the question. I often write essay questions that ask you to explain different aspects of a basic question. You may find it easiest to make each of these aspects the subject of its own paragraph. Be sure to

support your essay throughout with details from lectures and your readings. Make it **crystal clear** to me that you understand the material. Finally, include a strong conclusion where you tell me what you just told me in the rest of the essay.

Semester Schedule

Topics and dates are subject to change.

- 12 Jan: Introduction to Naval History
- 14 Jan: Topic: Ships, Guns & Sailors in the Age of Sail
- 16 Jan: Topic: Tactics in the Age of Sail
- 19 Jan: NO CLASS: MLK HOLIDAY
- 21 Jan: Workshop: Research Tools
- 23 Jan: Topic: The Revolutionary War: Part I
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 11-33
- 26 Jan: Topic: The Revolutionary War, Part II
- 28 Jan: Topic: The New Navy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 34-54.
- 30 Jan: **ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY TOPICS DUE**
Topic: The US Navy, 1797-1812
- 02 Feb: Topic: The War of 1812
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 55-79.
- 04 Feb: Topic: 1815-1860: Operations & Personnel
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 80-109.
- 06 Feb: Topic: 1815-1860: Science & Exploration
- 09 Feb: Topic: 1815-1860: Naval Administration
- 11 Feb: Topic: Antebellum Technology
- 13 Feb: **EXAM I** - Essay question on Reid, *Intrepid Sailors*
- 16 Feb: NO CLASS: PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY
- 18 Feb: Topic: Civil War: The Union Navy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 110-142.
- 20 Feb: Topic: Civil War: The Confederate Navy
- 23 Feb: **DRAFT ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE**
Topic: Civil War: The Blockade
- 25 Feb: Topic: Civil War: War in the West
- 27 Feb: Topic: Civil War: The First Ironclads
- 02 Mar: Topic: Professionalizing the Navy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 143-165.
- 04 Mar: Topic: The New Steel Navy
- 06 Mar: Topic: Spanish-American War
- SPRING BREAK**
- 16 Mar: Topic: Technology from 1898-1914
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 166-179.
- 18 Mar: Topic: The Rise of Japan
- 20 Mar: Topic: Roosevelt and the Dreadnoughts

- 23 Mar: Topic: WWI Before US Entry
- 25 Mar: Topic: WWI and the US Navy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 179-192.
- 27 Mar: **EXAM II** - Essay question on Leeke, *Manila and Santiago*
- 30 Mar: Topic: The Treaty Navy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 192-212.
- 01 Apr: Topic: Development of Carrier Doctrine
- 03 Apr: NO CLASS: EASTER BREAK
- 06 Apr: Topic: Development of Amphibious Doctrine
- 08 Apr: NO CLASS: SOCIETY FOR MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE
- 10 Apr: NO CLASS: SOCIETY FOR MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE
- 13 Apr: **FINAL ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHIES DUE**
Topic: WWII: Pre-War Preparations
- 15 Apr: Topic: WWII: Initial Strategy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 213-244.
- 17 Apr: Topic: WWII: Battle of the Atlantic
- 20 Apr: Topic: WWII: US Navy and European Theater
- 22 Apr: Topic: WWII: US Navy and Pacific Theater
- 24 Apr: Topic: Post-War Policy
Assigned Reading: *The US Navy*, pp. 245-271.
- 27 Apr: Topic: Transforming the Fleet, 1950-1962
- 29 Apr: Topic: The Navy in Vietnam
- 01 May: Topic: Decline and Rebirth
- 05 May: **FINAL EXAM** – 5:30-7:30 pm. Essay question on Cutler, *The Battle of Leyte Gulf*

Annotated Bibliography

One of the core functions that an historian does is conduct research. That research requires identifying and considering both primary sources (original records/materials generated at the time of an event or created after the fact by participants) and secondary sources (what others have written about an event since it happened). Good historical research requires diligent searching for appropriate sources and evaluating their usefulness. Only after the historian has done this essential background work can they sit down and write history.

This assignment will focus on that essential first step: identifying and considering potential source materials for a proposed research topic. Your task for the semester will be to create an annotated bibliography on a topic of your choice. You will turn in both a draft bibliography and a final bibliography, earning points for each one.

TOPIC

You may choose any appropriate topic between 1607 and the modern day that is relevant to the class. All topics must be approved by the instructor no later than January 30th. Approval requires a one-on-one consultation during my office hours. I will be as flexible as possible on topics. If you're not sure about a topic, we'll sit down together and find one that interests you.

FORMAT

Your bibliography must have a cover page listing your proposed topic, your name, the class, and the date. It will consist of two main sections: Primary Sources and Secondary Sources. Each section will have subsections based

on the types of sources you find. So, for example, your Primary Sources section might have subsections titled Government Documents, Memoirs and Diaries, Newspapers, Periodicals, Letters and Papers, etc. Your Secondary Sources section might have subsections titled Books, Journal Articles, Web Sites, etc.

Each entry will consist of a bibliographic citation that follows the Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html) and a descriptive paragraph. The descriptive paragraph will briefly summarize the source and explain its potential value for a research paper.

Your bibliography should contain at least 10 primary sources and at least 15 secondary sources. Keep in mind that those are minimum numbers and that your bibliography should convey the full range of sources available on your topic.

DUE DATES AND GRADING

The overall project is worth 75 points, or 20% of your final grade. The first version of your bibliography is worth 25 points and must be turned in through D2L no later than the beginning of class on February 23rd. The final version of your bibliography is worth 50 points and must be turned in through D2L no later than the beginning of class on April 13th.

Freedom in Learning:

Under Board of Regents and University policy student academic performance may be evaluated solely on an academic basis, not on opinions or conduct in matters unrelated to academic standards. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled. Students who believe that an academic evaluation reflects prejudiced or capricious consideration of student opinions or conduct unrelated to academic standards should contact Dr. John Dudley, Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, to initiate a review of the evaluation.

Disability Services:

Any student who feels s/he may need academic accommodations or access accommodations based on the impact of a documented disability should contact and register with Disability Services during the first week of class. Disability Services is the official office to assist students through the process of disability verification and coordination of appropriate and reasonable accommodations. Students currently registered with Disability Services must obtain a new accommodation memo each semester.

Ernetta L. Fox, Director
 Disability Services, Room 119 Service Center
 (605)677-6389
 Web Site: www.usd.edu/ds
 E-mail: dservices@usd.edu

Diversity Statement:

The University of South Dakota strives to foster a globally inclusive learning environment where opportunities are provided for diversity to be recognized and respected.

College of Arts & Sciences Plagiarism Policy:

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the "Conduct" section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook. No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. A student found to have engaged in any form of

academic dishonesty may, at the discretion of the instructor, be:

- Given a zero for that assignment.
- Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- Dropped from the course.
- Failed in the course.

KEEP THIS SYLLABUS AND REFER TO IT OVER THE COURSE OF THE SEMESTER.
WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK QUESTIONS.

Updated 1 January 2015