

Conflict in World History

HSS201b

FALL, 2017

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10am to 12noon and 2:20pm to 3:30pm; *OR BY APPOINTMENT* (Please do feel free to contact me to find a time to come by as needed!)

Course Description:

This course will examine the role of warfare as a transformational force in world history. The causes of conflict range from the personal, to the ideological, to the political, to the economic, and reflect on the very nature of power in all its forms. Further, warfare often serves as a catalyst for significant technological, social and political transformation. The course will seek to understand conflict at various points in world history and in various areas of the globe. The study of conflict is therefore the study of each culture's approach to understanding itself and its place in the global community. Finally, we will be meeting the Content Standards for World Studies as developed at IMSA.

Course Objectives:

1. Analyze and compare Western and non-Western applications of force and the institutional structures (government and military) that support it. This topic will inherently reflect powerful cultural differences that existed.
2. Analyze the complex relationships between material conditions and cultural constructs, and their impact on conflict within and between societies.
3. Analyze the origins, application and justification of "power" in different cultural settings. The student will get at the "why" inherent in the rise of states and the intentional use of military force.
4. Develop such analytical skills as critical reading, the interpretation of maps, art, and visual evidence.
5. Analyze and compare economic structures and their influence on conflict and the development of military systems.
6. Construct clear, effective, written and oral arguments, supported with appropriate evidence.

Assessment Practices, Procedures, and Processes:

Grades will be based on the following assessments:

Class participation (25%)

Quizzes (25%)

Papers/Projects (20%)

Short Responses (30%)

FYI: Class Participation: This category represents two potentials for a grade. The first is the traditional effort to demonstrate knowledge of materials by verbal answers to questions or additions to discussions. If you have read the material this can even be seen from offering effective questions. But you will be required to speak during class. The second opportunity will come in a number of short, often written assignments that are due in class and will be graded for this category and will include timelines, maps, or notes.

Student Expectations:

Absences and Lateness (Tardy):

Class is mandatory (as per the Handbook). Any unexcused absence will result in “no credit” for that class period. Anyone late up to ten minutes will receive a “tardy” report and after ten minutes, an “absent” one. Please, as is humanly possible, do not be late. If you have a good reason for being more than ten minutes late, still come to class and we can discuss it after the period, but *never* during. If you do not have a good excuse, be honest about it.

There is also no automatic right to make-up a quiz or hand in a late assignment. Make-ups will be allowed, and late assignments accepted, only with a valid excuse. All work missed due to illness must be finished within a week of your return or will not count. Example of a valid excuse: An illness requiring medical care, a family crisis, a pre-arranged/approved attendance at a school function, or in the case of accidental dismemberment.

Assignment Policy:

All assignments are due in class the day assigned. Period. There really are *no* good computer excuses. All short assignments that fall under class participation must be turned in that class period, no later. Failure to have materials in hand will result in no credit. Papers and projects are due in class or will suffer a late penalty. Any paper turned in by the end of the day will lose one full letter grade. If turned in by the end of the second day, they lose another full letter grade, and after the third day the

assignment will not be accepted at all (you receive a zero). This rule is not negotiable except in the case of recognized illness or having to leave IMSA for an emergency. Finally, for all late work, it is your responsibility to find me and give it to me, not just to “leave it on my chair.”

Class Room Decorum:

Each student is expected to behave in a civilized and scholarly fashion toward his or her peers. Respect will be shown for those speaking and in addressing differences. Also, *no headgear* (i.e. baseball caps or bandanas) will be worn during the class period. Phones will not be permitted (if you have it, turn it off and put it away). If your phone or device goes off during class, I will take it, and you can get it from me the following day, in my office. Finally, sleep is an issue at IMSA. Don’t do it in my class or you will be told to stand, or worse, leave.

If you are caught “IM”ing in *any* fashion, so Facebook, Tumblr, etc, you will be given a “0” for the day. That is a “first” warning. The second time you will be asked to leave the classroom and be given an “unexcused absence.” Please take this seriously, as three unexcused absences will result in withdrawal from the course. *Seriously*. The best solution for this is that you close all non-class associated windows on your screen.

Assigned Readings, etc:

The reading assignments are given in detail and are listed on the day they are due. Failing to read them will undermine your ability to participate and undermine your grade on pop quizzes. Projects and written assignments will be injected into the schedule and are therefore not listed. However, all assignments will be given with ample time to complete.

Academic Dishonesty:

Due to the limits of time here at IMSA, there will be the temptation to pass off other people’s work as your own. In a culture where the value of ideas is rarely in their value for their own sake, it is crucial to appreciate them at an institution that thrives on developing new ones. All of the work you turn in for this course should be your own. Wayne C. Booth, Gregory G. Colomb, and Joseph M. Williams in their book *The Craft of Research*, 2d ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003) explain:

“You plagiarize when, intentionally or not, you use someone else’s words or ideas but fail to credit that person. . . . You plagiarize even when you do credit the source but use its exact words without using quotation marks or block indentation. . . . You [also] plagiarize when you paraphrase a source so closely that anyone putting your

work next to it would see that you could not have written what you did without the source at your elbow.”

Claiming as your own the work of others, in whole *or in part*, will result in an immediate failure (here no credit) for the assignment and referral for disciplinary action. See the IMSA Student Handbook for specific details and be sure to refer to the IMSA [Chicago Style](#) website for written assignments. Such activity can result in being dismissed from IMSA, so if you are in doubt, come see me.

On-line (Moodle), Unit Preparations:

Two things to remember:

1. Each unit/week will be preceded by your engagement in the materials that we will cover for that unit. This means a combination of the chapters from the text or the readings assigned. You need to read these and work at getting to the main ideas presented, maybe take notes.
2. Having read what is assigned; you will then go the course Moodle page and engage the PPT/visual material that is given for the unit. In going through this material you will gain a greater understanding, visual and textual, of what the main ideas are. This course is very much on the “why” of conflict, but we need to understand the “how,” and that is very physical (chariots, armor, etc.).
 - a. With the PPT visual and text there will be four (4) questions (I will call this the 4x4 part of the week) embedded in the presentation that you must answer. Since we meet first on “B” day of each week, these short answer assignments that will demonstrate your understanding of the material will be due by the noon of the day before (I will return them in that first class.)

Text:

Morillo, *War in World History*. Volumes I and II (below as chapters – CH)

Homer, *Iliad*.

ABC-CLIO Research Lists as assigned (on Moodle Page)

Hand-outs (Seen as scanned documents on the Moodle Page)

A/C/D: Schedule (Key: T=tactical, O=Operational, S=Strategic)

SCHEDULE:

Please remember this can and will shift as needed. As Napoleon said, “No plan survives after contact with the enemy.”

August

Week 1:

Unit 1: Introduction/Bronze Age

Understanding Conflict 101: Terms/ideas/meanings.

(Read Volume 1, p. ix-7)

Week 2:

The Bronze age and the Iliad

The Iliad as “Heroic” Warfare

O/T: The Iliad, Books 1 and 16

September

Week 3:

Unit 2: Hellenic/Hellenistic

CH: 3/5: T: Battle of Gaugamela

Week 4:

Unit 3: Rome – Republic and Empire

CH: 4/5: O/S: Second Punic War

Week 5:

Unit 4: Han China/Asoka India

CH: 2/9: S/O/T: Red Cliffs

Scheidel, Rome and China.

Week 6:

Unit 5: A Medieval World

CH: 7/11/12: O/T: Battle of Hastings

October

Week 7 & Week 8:

Unit 7: Age of Gunpowder

CH: 16/17/18: O/T: Siege of Vienna (1683)

Week 9:

Unit 8: French Revolution and Napoleon

CH: 21/22: S/T: Battle of Waterloo

Week 10:

Unit 9: Age of Imperialism and Technology

CH: 23/24: O/T: B of Isandlwana and Rourke’s Drift

Week 11:

Unit 10: Naval Technology and Conflict

CH: 15/20/25

November

Week 12:

Unit 11: First World War

CH: 26: O/T: Battle of the Somme

Week 13:

Unit 12: World War II: Europe

CH: 27/28: S/O: Operation Market-Garden

Week 14: **Thanksgiving** (Catch up time)

Week 15:

Unit 13: World War II: Pacific/Asia

CH: 28: S/T: Battle of Midway

December

Week 16:

Unit 13: Cold War World

CH: 29: O/S: Nuclear Strategy

Week 17:

Unit 14: Post-9/11

CH: 30: O/S: Modern Insurgency and Terrorism

Week 18: 19th – 21st: **EXAMS**