Course Synopsis

**Course Description:** This course examines how Americans organize, think about, and fight war on land, sea, and in the air, from the earliest colonial militias to the latest hi-tech weapons systems. The course also explores the influence of nationalism and professionalization on military policy, and vice versa. It additionally analyzes social and cultural attitudes towards war, peace, and the military, including anti-war, peace, and disarmament movements.

**Course Texts:** The following books are required reading. They can be purchased from the campus bookstore, or special ordered from your local bookstore or Internet bookseller.


Students will also read regularly journal articles posted to the course Sakai site.

**Assignments:** Students will be evaluated on three take-home essay quizzes, each worth 10 percent of the course grade; three written assignments, also worth 10 percent each; and a course paper, worth 20 percent. Class attendance and participation will comprise the remaining 20 percent.

*Quiz* questions will be posted to Sakai approximately 24 hours before they are due. Each student will take a quiz on Unit I, and another on Unit IV. The third quiz will be on a unit of the student’s choice.

*Written assignments* will be between 4 and 6 pages in length, and seek to address a topic provided by the instructor. Students will choose to answer topics concerning any three of Units II, III, V, VI, and VII.

Quizzes and written assignments are due at the beginning of the class following the unit under examination (e.g. quizzes on Unit III will be turned in the day Unit IV begins). It is anticipated that an assignment will be completed approximately every two weeks.
The *course paper* will be 6 to 10 pages in length, and address whether military needs and/or social and cultural factors demand the 21st century armed forces return to conscription. It will be due one week after the lectures conclude.

There are no in-class examinations in this course.

**Tentative Course Schedule**

Course Introduction – September 1

NO CLASS September 8 (Monday Classes)

Unit I, American Attitudes Towards War, Peace, and the Military – September 15
Schedule of quizzes and papers must be turned in today.

Unit II, The Colonial and Revolutionary Heritage – September 22 & 29
All students must turn in Unit I quiz today.

Unit III, Civil War – October 6 & 13

Unit IV, Constabulary – October 20

Unit V, Worlds at War – October 27 & November 3
All students must turn in Unit IV quiz on October 27.

Unit VI, Cold War – November 10 & 17

Unit VII, Since 1989 – November 24 & December 1

Course Conclusion – December 8

Course Papers due at 3:00pm on December 15; no late papers will be accepted

**Questions?**
Interested students with further questions are encouraged to contact the instructor.