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History 753: Readings in Transnational Military Culture & Thought  
a.k.a. “Classics & Culture”

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Spring 2021  
UW-Madison  
Thurs., 11:00 – 1:55 PM  
Humanities 1131

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- 1) COURSE OBJECTIVES. This course will introduce students to the seminal works in military thought from antiquity to the nuclear age and from a geographical breadth reflecting the War in Society and Culture Program’s core areas of emphasis. Students will also receive an introduction to the most current and important scholarship on “cultures of war.” By the conclusion of the course, students will:
  - a) Demonstrate a foundational knowledge of transnational military thought and theory from the last two and a half millennia.
  - b) Critically evaluate and contextualize signal, recent scholarship in the subfield of military cultures, communicating their evaluations orally and in the form of an academic review article.
  - c) Apply critical course concepts to an extended written project that furthers their own scholarly interests.
  - d) Be prepared to apply the knowledge acquired to more focused studies within the War in Society and Culture Program.
  - e) Demonstrate a command of the course materials and concepts that qualifies them for employment opportunities requiring an expertise in military history.
  
- 2) EXPECTATIONS / REQUIREMENTS.
  - a) Students may take this course for 1-3 credits. The credit standard for the course is met by an expectation of at least 45 hours of student engagement with the course’s learning activities for each credit (1 credit = at least 45 hours; 2 credits = at least 90 hours; 3 credits = at least 135 hours). For all students, these activities will include group seminar meetings of 115 minutes per week. Other course activities and assignments (dedicated online time, reading, writing, field trips, individual consultations with the instructor, etc.) will vary depending on the number of credits for which a student is enrolled.
    - i) Students enrolled for 1 credit are only required to meet expectation/requirement 2b.
    - ii) Students enrolled for 2 credits will meet expectations/requirements 2b and 2c.
    - iii) Students enrolled for 3 credits will meet all expectations/requirements of this paragraph.
  - b) Students must attend all meetings of the seminar and participate actively in discussion. Participation will be evaluated for quality and consistency.

- c) Students will select one recent, historiographically significant book-length work on cultures of war that furthers their individual research agenda. All reviews should be critical, analytical, and thoughtful. Assess the book as a work of individual scholarship and locate it in the larger body of literature. Consider and address at least three published, scholarly reviews in your own. At a minimum, reviews should provide:
  - i) Information on the author and his or her qualifications.
  - ii) A brief, *general* description of the organization and contents of the book.
  - iii) A statement of the purpose of the book and its thesis.
  - iv) Your critical evaluation of how successful the author is in achieving his or her goals and in persuading you of the thesis. The emphasis in each review should be on **critical** reading and evaluation. No book is perfect and none is worthless. The objective is to discern the strengths and weaknesses in the books you read and to place them in the context of the kinds of literature being done in the field and approaches to the various topics.
  - v) **The book review will not exceed 800 words and is due in hardcopy or email (to Prof. McDonald) and via email (to Prof. Hall) at the beginning of the week 12 class meeting.**
- d) Students will prepare *either* a research paper *or* a mock dissertation prospectus on a subject of their own choosing, contingent on instructor approval. In either case, a two-page project proposal is due at the beginning of the week 5 class meeting and the completed project is due at the beginning of the week 13 class meeting.

### 3) COURSE TEXTS.

- a) See “COURSE SCHEDULE/READINGS” (below) for weekly reading assignments.
- b) Read the assignments in the sequence indicated.
- c) Use the edition indicated when where full publication information is provided. Any edition is acceptable where only the original year of publication in English is given. Core texts for weeks 8 and 9 are available in a single, budget-priced compendium:

Jablonsky, David, ed. *Roots of Strategy: Book 4*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 1999.

- d) Essays are available on Canvas except for those from:

Paret, Peter, ed. *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

- e) Finally, students may wish to read an excellent companion to this course in parallel with the assigned readings:

Heuser, Beatrice. *The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

#### 4) COURSE SCHEDULE/READINGS.

<b>Week 1, 28 January</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
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No assignment.

<b>Week 2, 4 February</b>	<b>Ancient Greece</b>
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Hanson, Victor Davis. *The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece*. 2nd ed. Berkley: University of California Press, 1989.

González García, Francisco, and Pedro López Barja de Quiroga. "Neocon Greece: V. D. Hanson's War on History." *International Journal of the Classical Tradition* 19, no. 3 (2012): 129-51.

<b>Week 3, 11 February</b>	<b>Ancient China</b>
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Evans, Michael. "Sun Tzu and the Chinese Military Mind." *Quadrant* 55, no. 9 (2011): 62-68.

Sun Tzu. *The Art of War*. Edited by Ralph D. Sawyer New York: Basic Books, 1994.

<b>Week 4, 18 February</b>	<b>The Romans</b>
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Caesar, Julius. *The Landmark Julius Caesar: The Complete Works* Translated by Kurt A. Raaflaub. Landmark Series. Edited by Robert B. Strassler New York: Pantheon Books, 2017.

\*\*Read *Gallic War* and the "War in Caesar's Time" [web essays](#)\*\*

<b>Week 5, 25 February</b>	<b>Renaissance Italy</b>
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***Interim writing requirement due.***

Gilbert, Felix. "Machiavelli: The Renaissance of the Art of War." In *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, edited by Peter Paret, 11-31. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Machiavelli, Niccolo. *The Essential Writings of Machiavelli*. Translated by Peter Constantine. New York: Modern Library, 2007. \*\*Read either *The Art of War* or *The Prince*\*\*

<b>Week 6, 4 March</b>	<b>Early Modern Laws of War</b>
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Solis, Gary D. "Rules of War, Laws of War." In *The Law of Armed Conflict: International Humanitarian Law in War*, 3-30. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Grotius, Hugo. *Hugo Grotius on the Law of War and Peace*. Translated by Stephen C. Neff. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. \*\*[eBook](#) available\*\*

<b>Week 7, 11 March</b>	<b>The Napoleonic Revolution</b>
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Paret, Peter. "Napoleon and the Revolution in War." In *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, edited by Peter Paret, 123-42. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Clausewitz, Carl von. *On War*. Edited by Michael Howard and Peter Paret Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1984.

**Week 8, 18 March****Prophets of Seapower**

Chapters 8 and 9 of Heuser, Beatrice. *The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Mahan, Alfred Thayer. *The Influence of Seapower Upon History*. 1890.

or

Corbett, Julian. *Some Principles of Maritime Strategy*. 1911.

**Week 9, 25 March****Prophets of Airpower**

MacIsaac, David. "Voices from the Central Blue: The Air Power Theorists." In *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, edited by Peter Paret, 624-47. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Douhet, Giulio. *The Command of the Air*. 1921.

or

Mitchell, William. *Winged Defense*. 1925.

**Week 10, 8 April****The Atomic Age**

Freedman, Lawrence. "The First Two Generations of Nuclear Strategists." In *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, edited by Peter Paret, 735-78. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Schelling, Thomas C. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Revised ed. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1980.

**Week 11, 15 April****Revolutionary Warfare**

Shy, John, and Thomas W. Collier. "Revolutionary War." In *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, edited by Peter Paret, 815-62. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1986.

Zedong, Mao. *On Guerrilla Warfare*. 1937.

**Week 12, 22 April****Cultures of War**

*Book reviews due.*

**Week 13, 29 April****Ending War**

*Writing requirement due.*

Howard, Michael. *The Invention of Peace: Reflections on War and International Order*. London: Profile, 2001.