



CID 2301: War and the Human Experience
TR 11:00-12:15 p.m
AGET 255
COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2025

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Robert DeBoard
Office Location:
Office Hours: By appointment

University Email Address:
Robert.deboard@tamuc.edu
Preferred Form of Communication:
TAMUC email

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

Required Course Books: (hyperlinks to Amazon included)

[Sun Tzu's The Art of War: A Graphic Novel, illustrated by Pete Katz](#)

[Steven Pressfield, *Gates of Fire: An Epic Novel of the Battle of Thermopylae*](#)

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War* Books 1 and 2 (will be provided online; No purchase necessary)

Films to See in Class:

This list is subject to change but possibilities include:

300
Red Cliff
The Pacific
Twelve O'Clock High
The Thin Red Line
Downfall
All Quiet on the Western Front

Course Description

CID 2301 War and the Human Experience

Course Description CID 2301: The Human Experience introduces students to humanities-based inquiry by guiding students through an exploration of important humanistic questions across all elements of the human experience. Through the deep focus on a connecting theme, students will engage in holistic discussions of topics addressing fundamental questions about human life and human interactions, develop the skills of humanistic inquiry (including critical thinking, research, literacy skills, and communication skills), and learn to apply their knowledge to their personal, professional, and academic goals.

This course is the foundational course for the Humanities Certificate program, a grant-funded, TAMU System-wide initiative designed to create an intentional connective pathway through the core curriculum to infuse the humanities and humanities-based inquiry (critical thinking, research, communication, ethics, morality, cultural awareness, empathy, etc.) into student degree pathways and encourage students to see the relationships between larger questions of the human experience and their own lives and goals. The course is based on Transformative Texts.

Our theme War and Conflict will have a special focus on the the impact of war on society . During this course, we will will consider the nature of war through two primary Transformational Texts, Sun Tzu's *The Art of War* and Carl von Clausewitz's *On War*. We will use these texts as an analytical framework to analyze historical case studies such as the first campaigns of the First World War, the European theater of the The Second World War, and the Arab Israeli Conflict. We will also consider the experience of war from the soldiers perspective. Finally, we will examine how societies remember wars, considering popular culture such as the use of films and other media

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Critical/Integrative Thinking: Students will apply insights from the humanities (i.e., examinations of human history, culture, language, ethics, and aesthetics) to problems or questions that intersect with other areas of inquiry, including STEM and professional disciplines. (Core Outcome Alignment: Critical Thinking)
2. Communication: Students will communicate ideas effectively through writing and, where appropriate, through oral communication, visual communication, or creative performance. (Core Outcome Alignment: Communication)
3. Ethical Reasoning: Students will engage with multiple perspectives in exploring the human dimensions of real-world situations and problems. (Core Outcome Alignment: Personal Responsibility; Critical Thinking)
4. Cultural Awareness: Students will demonstrate an appreciation for social and cultural diversity while engaging in critical analysis of various forms of literary, artistic, or cultural expression. (Core Outcome Alignment: Social Responsibility; Critical Thinking)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

GRADING

This course is based on the 100-point system. All assignments are worth 100 points. The final exam is weighted the same as the other two exams. I do not round up. If you earn an 89.9 you will receive a B for the course.

Final grades are determined on the following scale:

100 –90 = A, 89 –80 = B, 79 –70 = C, 69 –65 = D, 65 and below = F

Assessments: There will be several assessments of your progress in this course including your college professionalism and course engagement

Values of major assignments and examinations for this course are as follows:

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|----------------------|-----|
| • Attendance | 20% |
| • Participation | 20% |
| • Author Bio papers: | 10% |
| • Reading Responses: | 20% |
| • Film Responses: | 20% |
| • Final Exam | 10% |

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

- Week 1- Introductions
 - Tuesday, January 14- Course Introductions
 - Readings: Review Syllabus for next class
 - Thursday, January 16- Why Study War?
 - Readings:
 - Victor Davis Hanson, “Why Study War?”
 - <https://www.city-journal.org/article/why-study-war>
 - Michael Howard, “The Use and Abuse of Military History”
 - <https://press.armywarcollege.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1251&context=parameters>
- Week 2- Thucydides
 - Tuesday, January 21- Intro to Thucydides
 - Readings:
 - Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*
 - Book One, Just Chapter 1
 - <http://classics.mit.edu/Thucydides/pelopwar.1.fIRST.html>
 - Questions for Thucydides reading

- How does Thucydides describe his approach to writing a history? What are his sources? What does he intend with this narrative?
 - What were the policies of Athens and Sparta (Lacedaemon), which led to conflict?
 - What are the wars Thucydides references in the lead up to the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta?
- Thursday, January 23- Thucydides Continued
 - Readings:
 -
- Week 3- Thermopylae Introduction
 - Tuesday, January 28- *300* screening
 - Readings:
 - Begin Pressfield, *Gates of Fire*
 - Thursday, January 30- *300* Screening and discussion
 - Readings:
 - Continue Pressfield, *Gates of Fire*
- Week 4- Thermopylae and Ancient Warfare
 - Tuesday, February 4- Pressfield Book Discussion
 - Readings:
 - Finish Pressfield, *Gates of Fire*
 - Thursday, February 6- *Gates of Fire* and *300* Discussion
- Week 5- Ancient Warfare Continued
 - Tuesday, February 11- Polybius and Cannae
 - Readings:
 - Read Polybius excerpt
 - Thursday, February 13 Cannae and Intro to Clausewitz
 - Readings
 - Begin *Clausewitz* Book One, Chapter 1
- Week 6- Clausewitz Book 1, Chapter 1
 - Tuesday, February 18- Who is Clausewitz?
 - Readings:
 - Continue *Clausewitz* Book One, Chapter 1
 - Thursday, February 20- What is War?
 - Readings:
 - Clausewitz Book One, Chapter 2
- Week 7- Medieval Warfare
 - Tuesday, February 25- Begin *The King*
 - Readings:
 - Keegan, *Faces of Battle*, Agincourt Chapter
 - Thursday, February 27- Continue *The King*
 - Readings:
 - Continue Keegan Agincourt
- Week 8- Medieval Warfare
 - Tuesday, March 4- *The King* Discussion
 - Readings:

- Thursday, March 6- Medieval Warfare Discussion
 - Readings
 - Begin Clausewitz Book One, Chapter 3
 - Begin Sun Tzu
- Week 9- SPRING BREAK (MARCH 10th-14th)
- Week 10- Genius in Warfare
 - Tuesday, March 18- Discuss Clausewitz, *Genius in War*
 - Readings:
 - Review Book One, Chapter 3
 - Thursday, March 20- Discuss Sun Tzu, *Genius in War*
 - Readings:
 - Review Sun Tzu
- Week 11- Art of War Film
 - Tuesday, March 25 Art of War Film
 - Readings:
 - Finish Clausewitz
 - Thursday, March 27- Art of War Film
 - Readings:
 - Finish Clausewitz
- Week 12- Friction in War
 - Tuesday, April 1- Discussion of Courage and Friction in War
 - Readings:
 - Begin Keegan, *Waterloo*
 - Thursday, April 3 Film *Waterloo* or *Napoleon*
 - Readings:
 - Keegan, *Waterloo*
- Week 13- Napoleonic Warfare
 - Tuesday, April 8
 - Readings: Begin Keegan, *The Somme*
 - Thursday, April 10
 - Readings:
 - Keegan *The Somme*
- Week 14- WWI
 - Tuesday, April 15- *Blackadder Goes Forth*
 - Readings:
 - Thursday, April 17- *1917*
 - Readings:
- Week 15- WWI
 - Tuesday, April 22- *1917*
 - Readings:
 - Thursday, April 24- WWI Discussion
 - Readings:
- Week 16- Final Discussions
 - Tuesday, April 29: Why Study War?
 - Readings:
 - Thursday, May 1 (LAST DAY OF CLASS)

A&M-Commerce Supports Students' Mental Health

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

CHSSA Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam
Director of Research and Instruction Services
Velma K. Waters Library, Room 147F
Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies, and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect college-level professionalism & course engagement. This means putting away cell phones, and any other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed with advance permission of the professor).

Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class.

AI Use in Courses

Texas A&M University-Commerce acknowledges that there are legitimate uses of Artificial Intelligence, ChatBots, or other software that has the capacity to generate text, or suggest replacements for text beyond individual words, as determined by the instructor of the course.

Any use of such software must be documented. Any undocumented use of such software constitutes an instance of academic dishonesty (plagiarism).

Individual instructors may disallow entirely the use of such software for individual assignments or for the entire course. Students should be aware of such requirements and follow their instructors' guidelines. If no instructions are provided the student should assume that the use of such software is disallowed.

In any case, students are fully responsible for the content of any assignment they submit, regardless of whether they used an AI, in any way. This specifically includes cases in which the AI plagiarized another text or misrepresented sources.

13.99.99.R0.03 Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty

13.99.99.R0.10 Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty

In this Class, the Use of AI is completely PROHIBITED

Students are expected to complete readings and do their own work. Any suspected plagiarism or use of AI, and the work will be run through an online AI tracker. If that comes back reporting probable AI use, that work will not be counted and the student will receive a 0 for that assignment. Any repeat offense will be escalated per the student conduct policies.

Late Work

All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted at the discretion of the professor and may be assessed a penalty. If you know you will be away when something is due, please notify the professor *in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early*. I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will be given a grade of zero (0).

Syllabus Change Policy

The syllabus is a working document and a guide. Circumstances and events, including class progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

Statement on Student Grievances

Students who have questions or concerns about the Instructor's course policies or the conduct either of the Instructor or a classmate should first consult with the Instructor. In the event of a lack of resolution or satisfaction on the matter, the student may bring their

concerns to the head of the History Department, Sharon Kowalsky (Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu). If this does not result in a satisfactory conclusion to the matter, students may bring the issue to the attention of the Associate Dean of Students per procedures outlined on pp. 15-19 of the Student Guide Book.

University Specific Procedures

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

- <http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>
- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

[Undergraduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/documents/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyForm.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Form](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/academics/graduateschool/faculty/GraduateStudentAcademicDishonestyFormold.pdf>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

Students with Disabilities - ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin,

disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

- <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS - LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements> LMS

Browser Support:

https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu.

Note: Personal computer and internet connection problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

- <https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>