

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: International History
International Relations

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: Modern Warfare and Social Change

Course Code: HST 6104

Total Hours: 160

Timetabled Hours: 45
Guided Learning Hours: 15
Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course explores the changing nature and history of warfare from the Modern period to the end of the twentieth century. The central premise is that war often reflects the societies and cultures that wage it. This notion is tested by examining several different examples of warfare and society across different cultures, historical periods, and geographic locations. This course will include substantive analysis of the ethos, causes, and socio-political impacts of wars, as well as examine the role of war in the development of nations and 'national identities. We will debate questions arising from topics such as: the most influential military leaders; strategies, tactics, and weaponry; state structures and finance; debates over gender; and technological and ideological clashes between different cultures and social systems, examining the conflicts within and between states. The class will involve some visits to local museums and sites of relevance, and where possible/desirable, some overseas visits might be included.

Prerequisites:

One of the following:

HST 5210 Of Myths and Monsters - A History of History

SCL 5200 Social Research

PLT 5201 Research Methods: Social Sciences

HST 4101 Atlantic Slave Trade and Memory

HST 4105 Versailles to Vietnam

HST 5105 The Rise of the Right - A History of Fascisms

HST 5110 Nationalism and Conflict

Programme Outcomes:

International History: A6(i); A6(iii); B6(i); B6(iv); C6(i); C6(iii); C6(iv); D6(ii); D6(iii); D6(iv)

International Relations: A6(ii), B6(ii), B6(iii), C6(i), C6(iii), D6(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of various debates surrounding the historiography, concepts and theories related to war and society over time
- Demonstrates the similarities and differences between conflict and societies in historical context
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the problems of constructing histories of war and society
- Demonstrates the accumulation of a detailed body of historical knowledge related to war and society across a number of nations, peoples and geographical areas.
- Present research orally in a convincing and accessible manner.
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 6000-level course

Aims and Objectives:

- To develop an advanced understanding of historical events, concepts, theories, and arguments relating to war and its impact on social and political change in the Modern periods
- To critically engage with conflicting interpretations of warfare and different ways of approaching, analysing and writing about them, in both comparative and thematic contexts
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of international history
- To foster the acquisition, development, and consolidation of a variety of historical and transferable skills through the study of particular themes in international history

- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of primary and secondary historical sources, and the development of both a succinct writing style and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Indicative Content:

- The Impact of Gunpowder and the Conquest of the New World
- 'Revolutions' in the C17th and C18th
- The Napoleonic Wars
- World Wars & Wars of Independence
- Cold & Hot Wars; Civil Wars; Guerrilla Warfare
- Themes: Economics; Technology; Militarism; Religion; Gender

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar classes. Where possible the course will make use of guest lectures and class visits.

Indicative Texts:

Matthew S. Muehlbauer, & David J. Ulbrich, The Routledge History of Global War and Society, Abingdon: Routledge, 2018.

Svetlana Aleksievich, Unwomanly face of war, New York, Random House, 2017

Rosa Brooks, How Everything Became War and the Military Became Everything, Tales from the Pentagon, New York, Simon & Schuster, 2016.

Carl von Clausewitz, On War [1832], edited and translated by Michael Howard & Peter Paret, Princeton, Princeton University Press, 2009.

Robin L. Riley & Naeem Inayatullah (eds.), Interrogating Imperialism, Conversations on Gender, Race, and War, New York, Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Michael Howard, Clausewitz, A Very Short Introduction, Oxford, 2002.

John Keegan, A History of Warfare, Random House; London, 1993.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	
