

## COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

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| <b>Academic School / Department:</b> | CASS   |
| <b>Programme:</b>                    | History  |
| <b>FHEQ Level:</b>                   | 6  |
| <b>Course Title:</b>                 | War and Society: Medieval to Modern                  |
| <b>Course Code:</b>                  | HST 6425   |
| <b>Course Leader:</b>                | Dr Michael F. Keating                                |
| <b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>     | 120 (standard 3- credit BA course)                   |
| Lectures:                            | 22.5   |
| Seminar / Tutorials:                 | 22.5   |
| Independent / Guided Learning:       | 75   |
| <b>Semester:</b>                     | Fall, Spring, Summer                                 |
| <b>Credits:</b>                      | 12 UK CATS credits<br>6 ECTS credits<br>3 US credits |

### **Course Description:**

This course explores the changing nature and history of warfare from the medieval era 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:**

HST 4100 or HST 4105 or INR 4100 or INR 4105

### **Programme Outcomes:**

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

6A(i); 6A(ii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 5B(iii); 6C(i); 6C(iv); 6D(ii); 6D(iv)

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/>

**Aims and Objectives:**

- To develop sophisticated information finding, writing and oral skills
- 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 Medieval and Modern periods
- To develop critical analytical skills, the ability to evaluate arguments, and to critically reflect upon the evidence provided for them
- 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 critically assess historical issues and arguments in various sources related to war and society

**Indicative Content:**

- Medieval Warfare
- 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.

**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 Text(s):**

Jeremy Black, *Introduction to global military history: 1775 to the present day* (London: Routledge: 2005)

John A. Lynn, *Battle: A Cultural History of Combat and Culture* (London: Basic, 2003)

Ian Morris, *War: What is it good for?: The role of conflict in civilisation, from primates to robots* (London: Profile, 2015)

Geoffrey Parker, ed., *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Warfare: The Triumph of the West* (revised and updated edition, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008).

Steven Pinker, *The Better Angels of Our Nature: A History of Violence and Humanity* (London: Penguin, 2011)

Beth Bailey, Richard H. Immerman, eds. *Understanding the U.S. Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan*. (New York: New York University Press, 2015)

**Journals**

*Journal of Military History; War in History; British Journal for Military History; Marine Corps Gazette*

**Web Sites**

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/main/alcove9/military/wars.html>

<http://www.historyofwar.org/>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections>

<https://www.militaryhistoryonline.com/>

See syllabus for complete reading list

**Change Log for this CSD:**

| Nature of Change | Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB) | Change Actioned by Registry Services |
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