

Fall Semester
2008

GO 225

Prof. Hoffmann

Political and Military Lessons of World War II

Textbooks: Max Boot, War Made New
James J. Carafano, After D-Day, Operation Cobra and the Normandy Breakout
- Moore and Galloway, We Were Soldiers Once and Young
Mark Bowden, Black Hawk Down

The course will require three pieces of written work. The first two will be take home exams. The third will be a research paper, due during the exam week. Each shall constitute 30% of the course grade. The other 10% will be gauged according to contribution to class discussion.

Dates:

Topics and Assignments

Part I. Understanding Warfare

Sept. 4-11 **Ways to Understand Warfare**

Boot, War Made New, pp. 1-16, 109-115, 127-128, 149-158, 167-169, 196-240, 295-304.

Sept. 16 - **The World War II “RMA” (Revolution in Military Affairs):**
Oct. 7 **Key American “Operations”**

(1) *Operation Cobra*: Example of “Breakthrough” and “Breakout” Operation or “Campaign”

Carafano, After D-Day, pp. 1-7, 11-32, 71-92, 99-121, 127-133, 138-139, 144-146, 160-165, 211-225, 255.

John C. McManus, The Americans At Normandy, pp. 184-188, 243-248, 317-324 (to be distributed in class).

(2) *The Falaise Gap affair*: Examples of Armored “Breakout,” and “Envelopment” Operations

McManus, (see above), pp. 342-347, 350-357, 365-373, 382-386, 388 (where drawn arrow is) – 390, 393 (where the drawn markers are), 399-401, 403 (arrow) 408, 409-415 (to be distributed in class).

Oct. 7 - - - - - First Take-Home Examination Due

Part II. Warfare In Korea, Vietnam and Somalia

Oct. 14-28 Korea, Vietnam: Conventional and Unconventional War

Moore and Galloway, We Were Soldiers Once and Young, pp. xxi-xxv, 1-55, 100-128, 145-170, 367-374.

Oct. 30 - Somalia and Mogadishu
Nov.11

Bowden, Black Hawk Down, pp. 3-67, 83-108, 122-123, 129-135, 146-147, 161-166, 375-382, 390-397, 399-430.

Nov. 11 (Tuesday) - - - - - Second Take Home Examination Due

Part III. The Political/Social/Military Sides of the U.S. Involvement in Iraq

Nov. 11-20 The Iraqi Political Scene and War

Boot, War Made New, pp. 307-351, 385-418.
David Petraeus and James Amos, Counterinsurgency, pp. 1-21 (to be distributed in class).

Part IV. In Our Time – One New RMA or Two?

Nov. 25-
Dec. 9 Competing RMAs in the Middle East

Boot, War Made New, pp. 419-479.

T.X Hammes, The Sling and the Stone, pp. 1-15, 207-223 (to be distributed in class).

Newspaper and other mass media material to discuss.

Last paper due during finals week -----

Some information that students usually find useful during the semester:

The dates listed above show each time-period during which we shall be reading certain material. There is no need to do all of the reading for that section of the course before the start of that time-period, but all of that reading should be finished before we go on to the next section. At the end of some of the classes, the most pertinent readings for the next class will be announced. To keep up to date on the war in Iraq and other military developments the class will also be assigned articles from newspapers, magazines, journals, etc., when they become available, and shall be used for class discussions. Students will then be responsible for those articles on the next exam along with the other assigned readings.

The written work of the class will include two take-home tests and a final examination that sums up the course as a whole, to take place during the scheduled final exam week.

The notes you take from lectures should be detailed, but should not focus on factual material alone. Instead they should cover important concepts, abstractions, nuances, exceptions to rules, non-common sense reasoning, and the great variety of ‘is, ands, or buts’ that are so important in political life. Important and accurate points made in class by your fellow students should be in your notes too, and not just points made by the professor.

The “cut policy” here will be as follows. One or two missed classes will incur no questions or penalties, and will be regarded as your own private matter. But a pattern of cutting will result in loss of credit on the course grade. If you must miss a class for reasons such as illness, a family emergency, a job interview, or an athletic team commitment, please let me know, preferably in advance, and arrangements can be made.

If you find that you are going to be slightly late to a class, please come anyway rather than miss it. People will be glad to see you, although they will want you to slip in unobtrusively.

All private business should be taken care of before or after class. When a class is in session, no one should leave the room for any reason except a genuine emergency. If you think you will have to leave class early on any given day, please let me know before the class starts.