

BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY
SYLLABUS
SEMSTER: Spring 2008
Department of History and Government
History 441 – The Military Experience in America

Instructor: Professor M. Sammye Miller, ext.301-860-3664

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Office Hours:

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines American military history from the fifteenth century to contemporary times. It focuses on major wars significant in American history with emphasis on early colonial wars, the American Revolution, War of 1812, the Civil War, Vietnam War and others. It examines politics, foreign affairs, and domestic relations. Emphasis will be placed on social, political, and cultural events during the periods.

REQUIRED TEXT AND OTHER READING MATERIALS

Chambers/Piehler. Major Problems in American Military History. Boston, Massachusetts: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Allison, William Thomas. American Military History: A Survey from Colonial Times to the Present. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, 2007. First Edition, 2007.

SPECIFIC LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- a. To give students a general overview of U.S. military history since its founding to contemporary times.
- b. To help students appreciate and utilize some of the major techniques and methods historians employ in their field.
- c. To encourage and induce students to exercise and refine their analytical skills.
- d. To give students an opportunity to increase their historical knowledge.

INTRODUCTION:

This course will be one of the most informative history courses focused on events in the United States military history with emphasis on the experiences of its peoples. The course will highlight the experiences and contributions of African-Americans in United States military history. We will study, probe, critique and analyze major aspects of United States military history by focusing on social, economic, political, and cultural factors.

This course will be studied within the context of general American military history focusing on diversity and cultural aspects in American society. It will measure the extent to which the United States has historically dealt with challenges of the time periods. Students will be encouraged to critique, weigh, and assess historical theories to gain a concise understanding of American military history.

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS:

Students are required to read text, hand-outs, and supplemental materials. A term paper 5-10 pages is required. Students must make an oral presentation on selected research topics, take four examinations, and participate in class discussions. Class attendance is required. Failure to complete any major assignment will result in an "F" for that assignment.

THE GRADING SCALE

The final grade will be computed based on the following distribution:

1. Term Paper 10%
2. Oral Presentation 10%

3. Examinations 30%
4. Mid-term Examination 20%
5. Final Examination 30%

The following grading scale will be utilized:

A= 90-100	C=79-70	F= Below 65
B= 89-80	D=69-65	

TEST/SUPPLEMENTAL READINGS

Readings are designed to give students details of relevant and important information discussed in class. It is essential that students do the required readings!

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

This should be between 5-10 minutes and must pertain to an event, person, organization, group, episode in American military history. Students must submit a two page summary of their topic on the day presentations begins. This analysis must be typed and written in the first person. Students must utilize at least four sources during the research stage of the assignment and list these sources on the written analysis page(s).

COURSE OUTLINE