

Fall 2020

HIST 382-001: War and Society

Karl Schweizer

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HIST 382
War, Technology and Society

Fall 2020
Office hours: TBA
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Instructor: Dr. K.W. Schweizer
Federated Dept. of History, NJIT/Rutgers

Class times: Monday and Wednesday
12:30 pm – 1:50 pm

Course Description:

This course will examine important themes in the inter-relationship between warfare, politics, technology, and society from the beginnings of modern warfare until World War I. Primary emphasis will be on the historical connections between violent conflict, the technical means by which this is carried out, the socio-political environment within which war takes place, and the diplomatic context and consequences of armed conflict as well as the evolution of tactical doctrine. It will demonstrate that societies determine the nature of warfare, and war likewise affects the evolution of society.

Among the themes to be explored are the nature and role of technical change, the relationship between military and political developments (via strategy), ideological justifications of power and territorial expansion, the impact of power transitions as well as the rise of a world market economy sustained for long by maritime capability.

Course Goals: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand the intricate connections between international relations and war, tested against historical evidence. This will enhance their understanding of world politics, systemic power distribution as well as economic patterns and trends.
- Appreciate how “Great Powers” have affected world systems’ dynamics by determining the structure, major processes and general evolution of the international system.
- Realize how military strategy has always and continues to translate armed force into intended political effects. This will enable students to better understand the core dynamics behind contemporary global security dilemmas.
- Write effective papers that critically analyze in fluent prose key elements of the recurrent technology/military interface and illustrate its abiding importance today.

Assignments:

On Canvas there will be 7 written assignments throughout the course; each assignment will be 2 to 3 pages in length and will be based on the class lecture, assigned readings, and occasionally online links. The assignments will equal 70 percent of the final class grade.

1. Posted Tuesday, Sept. 8 – due on or before Wednesday, Sept. 16.
2. Posted Monday, Sept. 21 – due on or before Wednesday, Sept. 30.
3. Posted Monday, Oct. 5 – due on or before Wednesday, Oct. 14.
4. Posted Monday, Oct. 19 – due on or before Wednesday, Oct. 28.
5. Posted Monday, Nov. 2 – due on or before Wednesday, Nov. 11.
6. Posted Monday, Nov. 16 – due on or before Monday, Nov. 23
7. Posted Monday, Nov. 30 – due on or before Wednesday, Dec. 7.

Marks:

Written assignments:	70%
Final Quiz:	20%
Class Attendance and Participation:	10%

Grading Scale for Assignments and Participation:

A = 85 – 100	B+ = 80 – 84.5	
B = 75 – 79.5	C+ = 69.5 – 74.5	
C = 65 – 69.5	D = 50 – 64.9	F = 49.9 – 0

Class texts: (required readings)

Michael Howard, *War in European History* (2009)
 William McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force and Society since A.D. 1000* (NY, 2005).
 David Eltis, *The Military Revolution in 16th Century Europe*, (NY, 1995).
 Christopher Duffy, *The Military Experience in the Age of Reason*, (London, 1998).

Semester Schedule:

Wed. Sept. 2, Tues. Sept. 8: Introduction: Medieval Warfare: Apex and Decline

Readings: McNeill, ch. 2; Howard, ch. 1.

Wed. Sept. 9, Mon. Sept. 14: The Advent of Modern War: Technology, Diplomacy and Emergent Capitalism

Readings: Howard, ch. 2; McNeill, ch. 3. Links: K.W. Schweizer, "Diplomacy," [www.mywire.com/Enlightenment/Diplomacy\(April2010\)](http://www.mywire.com/Enlightenment/Diplomacy(April2010)); "Early Modern Warfare," military.wikia.org.

Wed. Sept. 16, Mon. Sept. 21: The Military Revolution, 1560-1660: Evidence Pro and Con Readings: Eltis, intro., ch. 2; Howard, ch. 4.

Wed. Sept. 23, Mon. Sept. 28: Advances in the Age of War: 1600-1789: Aspects of Science, Technology, State-building and Trans-maritime Expansion

Readings: Howard, ch. 4; Eltis, ch. 3; McNeill, ch. 4. Links: "Early Modern Military Theory" www.encyclopedia.com K.W. Schweizer, "Why Did Europe Conquer the World" <https://doi.org/10.1080/2018>

Wed. Sept. 30, Mon. Oct. 5: The New Diplomacy 16th – 18th Century.

Readings: K.W. Schweizer, "Diplomacy," cited above; "Diplomacy: The Spread of the Italian Diplomatic System" www.britannica.com

Wed. Oct. 7, Mon. Oct. 12, Wed. Oct. 14: Neo Classical Warfare: Constraints on Military Change 1660-1789—Technological, Fiscal, Social.

Readings: McNeill, ch. 4; Howard, ch. 4; Duffy, ch. 1.

Mon. Oct. 19: Technology and Naval War.

Readings: Howard, ch. 3.

Wed. Oct. 21, Mon. Oct. 26, Wed. Oct. 28: Military Strategy and Tactics:

i) Theory and Practice

ii) Political Contexts

Readings: Duffy, ch. 6; McNeill, ch. 5. Link: K.W. Schweizer, "Clausewitz Revisited," <https://doi.org/10.1080>

Mon. Nov. 2, Wed. Nov. 4, Mon. Nov. 9: Warfare in the Age of Napoleon and the French Revolution.

Readings: McNeill, ch. 6; Howard, ch. 5.

Wed. Nov. 11, Mon. Nov. 16: Wars of the Nations

Readings: Howard, ch. 6; McNeill, ch. 7.

Wed. Nov. 18, Mon. Nov. 23: War, Society and the Industrial Revolution 1815-1900.

Readings: Howard, ch. 6; McNeill, ch. 7.

Mon. Nov. 30, Wed. Dec. 2, Mon. Dec. 7: The Prelude to World War I: Warfare of the Technologists.

Readings: McNeill, ch. 8; Howard, ch. 7.

Wednesday, December 9: Final Quiz

Course Requirements:

- Hist 382 requires students to prepare 7 brief, written assignments submitted on Canvas at intervals as the course progresses. Each assignment will be 2 to 3 pages in length and each will be worth 10 marks totaling 70 percent of the final class grade.
- Each assignment is based on the class lectures, assigned readings and occasional links.
- There will also be a final quiz worth 20 percent of the final class grade and will be given on the last day of class, December 9.
- Students are expected to virtually attend class in order to hear the lectures and participate in discussion. Class attendance and participation will be worth 10 percent.

Policies:

- This is an **intellectually demanding course** and all students will be expected to do all the readings listed in the syllabus and start work on their written assignments as soon as they are posted.
- Attendance will be taken during each class and attendance and class participation will be worth 10 percent of the final class grade.
- It is the **student's** responsibility to ascertain that all assignments have been duly submitted and all required term work completed **prior** to the end of the semester.
- There will be no "make-up" final quiz. If you miss the final quiz you will have to supply medical proof through the Dean of Students' office.

"Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

*Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. **Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university.** If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu*"