

History 3752
War and Society in Western History
Dr. John Morrow
Fall Semester, 2010

Introduction: Approaches to the Study of Modern Warfare and Society
Class Meeting: WK I, T R 8/17, 19

Part I. A Comparison of Three Books on Modern Warfare

A. Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*

Class Meetings: WK II, T R 8/24, 26
WK III, T R 8/31, 9/2

B. William McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power*

Class Meetings: WK IV, T R 9/7, 9
WK V, T R 9/14, 16

C. Jeremy Black, *War and the World*

Class Meetings: WK VI, T R 9/21, 23
WK VII, T R 9/28, 30

D. Overview

Class Meetings: WK VIII, T R 10/5, 7 [Mid-Semester]

E. Written Assignment on Part I: Paper (12 pp., type-written, double-spaced, 12 font) comparing and contrasting the approaches of Kennedy, McNeill, and Black to the subject of war and society.

Due WK IX, T 10/12

Part II. War and Society in the Contemporary United States

Introduction

Class Meeting: WK IX, R 10/14

A. Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire*. Documentary Film, *Why We Fight*

Class Meetings: WK X, T R 10/19, 21
WK XI, T R 10/ 26, 28 [Fall Break, F 10/29]

B. Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*

Class Meetings: WK XII, T R 11/2, 4
WK XIII, T R 11/9, 11

C. Jeremy Scahill, *Blackwater*

David Finkel, *The Good Soldiers*

Class Meetings: WK XIV, T R 11/16, 18
WK XV, T R 11/23, 25 [No Classes – Thanksgiving]
WK XVI, T R 11/ 30, 12/2

E. Written Assignment on Part II: Paper (14 pp., type-written, double-spaced, 12 font) on war and society in the contemporary United States based on the books and the documentary.

Due T 12/14 at the final examination period

F. Final Examination Period. T, 12/14, 12noon-3pm. **Attendance** at the final examination session is **MANDATORY**. The course closes with a final overarching discussion; there is no final examination.

Required Books:

Paul Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*

William McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power*

Jeremy Black, *War and the World*

Chalmers Johnson, *The Sorrows of Empire*

Andrew Bacevich, *The New American Militarism*

Jeremy Scahill, *Blackwater*

David Finkel, *The Good Soldiers*

Grade: Your grade will be based on the assignments in the following fashion:

Paper, Part I 46%

Paper, Part II 46%

Class Discussion 8%

Turn your papers in **on time**. The penalty for late papers will be **5 points a day**. After a week you will receive a **0** for that grade unless you have presented to me a prior legitimate excuse that I have accepted. A strong record of intelligent and consistent participation in class discussion will help your grade.

Come to class prepared and participate in discussion so that we can make the course as interesting and enjoyable as possible. If you have problems or want to discuss further issues raised in the course, take the initiative and come to see me in my office hours.

Good luck!

Dr. John Morrow