**War Studies Primer -- First Year Seminar 420:029:022 -- Fall 2011 Syllabus – Final Version 09/12/2011**

**Professor** - Michael P. D’Alessandro, M.D. [michael-dalessandro@uiowa.ed](mailto:michael-dalessandro@uiowa.ed)u

**Office Hours** - 3879 John Colloton Pavilion (JCP) from Noon - 1 pm on Tuesday - Friday and by appointment

**Physical Location** - E226 Alder Journalism + Mass Communication Building (AJB)

**Time** - 8:30A - 9:25A Mondays

**Credits** – 1

**Online Location** - War Studies Primer <http://www.facebook.com/groups/warstudiesprimer> **Twitter hashtag** - #wsp11

**Textbook Required** – War Studies Primer – <http://www.warstudiesprimer.org>

**Politico-military Simulation** – Axis and Allies (via TripleA <http://triplea.sourceforge.net/> ) or Making History II (<http://making-history.com/>)

**Educational Philosophy**

I wish to challenge you, make you responsible for your own learning, and encourage engagement amongst you

I support the Iowa Challenge – Excel ~ Stretch ~ Engage ~ Choose ~ Serve

There is no such thing as a bad question

**Goal of the Course**

Equip you with an intellectual toolkit for the multi-disciplinary study of war that will allow you to:

Understand war from the micro to the macro levels - from the soldier in the foxhole to the emperor and their empire

Understand the role of war in the rise and fall of civilizations

Undertake meaningful discussion and debate as your country considers going to war

Embark upon a course of lifelong learning regarding war and its role in society

As a survey course, it is designed to encourage broad horizontal thinking across the discipline of war studies rather than vertical (silo) thinking

**Learning Objectives of This Course**

How do you provoke a war?

How do you avoid a war? / How do you prevent a war?

How and why do wars start? / What are the causes of war?

How and why do wars end?

Why do people fight?

Can wars be just?

Why do people surrender?

How do you win a war?

How do you lose a war?

Is it always clear who won a war?

What happens after wars?

How were wars fought in the past?

How will wars be fought in the future?

In what ways can war be conducted in a moral manner? / Are there rules to the conduct of war?

How will the new challenge of peacekeeping affect the armed forces?

How will the information revolution affect the use of armed force?

How have developments in modern society affected the military profession?

Can lessons from history facilitate our understanding of contemporary conflicts and assessment of future risks?

How has the character of warfare changed over time?

Are there basic principles which should shape the conduct of war if it is to be successfully prosecuted?

**What you need to do to succeed in this course – What are my expectations for you**

I have high expectations for you as students in this course. By the end of this course I expect you to accomplish the Goal of This Course. To do so I expect you to do the following:

Attend every class

Come to class prepared to discuss the day's topic by reading the assigned chapter of the War Studies Primer before class

Participate in class in a challenging yet respectful manner

Participate online in discussions and the simulation in a challenging yet respectful manner

Turn in essays on time

**Grading – Plus and minus grades will be used**

Student's attendance / preparation / participation in class and online discussions and the simulation – 60%

Topic presentation – 10%

Two short essays – 30%

**Administrivia**

Administrative home of the course is the University College

I would like to hear from anyone who has a disability which may require seating modifications or testing accommodations or accommodations of

other class requirements, so that appropriate arrangements may be made. Please contact me privately.

Please contact me at any time with any feedback, problems, or questions about the course

**Syllabus**

**Date Topic and Chapter to read in War Studies Primer and [Leader]**

August 22 1 - In the Beginning… (Introduction) **[D’Alessandro]**

August 29 27 - Art in War **[SB**]

September 12 2 - Why We Fight **[DL]**

and 7 - Planning and Logistics **[AL]**

September 19 5 - Follow Me! (Leadership and Personnel Training) **[JB]**

and 4 - Almost as Good as the Sims (Tools for Studying War / Wargaming) **[MP]**

September 26 6 - Poor Bloody Infantry (Weapons, focusing on armies) **[AS]** **+ {Early Course Feedback Form}**

October 3 Philosophers of War **[JV]**

and 8 - Intelligence **[MV]**

October 10 10 - Up in the Air, Junior Birdman (Aerial Warfare) and 11- Tom Corbett, Space Cadet (Space Warfare) **[ZM]**

October 17 12 - Information Warfare **[RM]** **+ {First essay due}**

October 24 15 - How To Win a War (A Discussion of Strategy) **[JT]**

and 16 - Is That All There Is? (How do Wars End?) **[TF]**

October 31 17 - Wars That Never End (Guerilla Wars) **[HZ]**

November 7 20 - Lest We Forget (Heroism in War) **[BB]**

November 14 21 - Rise and Fall (Empires) **[CL]**

November 28 22 - Future Wars and Geopolitics **[KE]**

and 24 - There Will Be No Fighting in the War Room (Lawfare) **[BM]+ {Second essay due}**

December 5 26 - All We Are Saying - Is Give Peace a Chance (How to Keep the Peace / Prevent Wars) **[IG]**

December 12 28 – Conclusion **[D’Alessandro] + {Final Course Feedback Form}**

**Topics we will not cover**

9 – Naval Warfare, 13 – How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb (Weapons of Mass Destruction), 14 – Graceful Degradation (C4I – Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence), 18 – Rosie the Riveter (The Home Front), 19 – Collateral Damage (Civilians and War), 23 – Future War Technology, 25 – Corpsman Up! (Military Medicine)