Course Description

Goal: This course examines the theory, experience, and memory of American wars in the twentieth century.

Content: Upon successful completion of this course students will understand the American experience with armed conflicts in the twentieth century and the factors that account for the different ways the country thought about and waged war during this period. They will analyze how a variety of factors—including gender, race, socioeconomic status, and geographical origin—shaped individual and collective experiences of war. They will also understand and be able to analyze and discuss the different ways in which Americans have remembered their wartime experiences, and how and why memorialization and commemoration of war have changed over time.

Prerequisites: None, although successful completion of an introductory course on US history in the twentieth century is helpful.

Course Learning Objectives

Through successful completion of this course, students will demonstrate proficiency in:
1. articulating an intermediate knowledge of the American experience with war in the twentieth century and the factors that account for the different ways the country thought about and waged war during this period.
2. analyzing and discussing how a variety of factors—including gender, race, socioeconomic status, a geographical origin—shaped individual and collective experiences of war.
3. analyzing and discussing the different ways in which Americans have remembered their wartime experiences, and how and why memorialization and commemoration have changed over time.
4. using the theoretical ideas presented during class meetings to write original analyzes of objects that memorialize and/or commemorate Americans’ twentieth century wartime experiences.
5. navigating an online environment, using online resources, and working independently.

Important Notes About the Technology and Time Commitments for this Course and Its Content
Please Read This Section Very Carefully

To complete this course, you must have access to a certain minimum level of technology; specifically, you will need access to a computer and high-speed Internet connection. You cannot complete this course using a cellular phone and cellular data. The College has worked diligently to provide you with
technological resources, including a nearly wireless environment in dorms and classrooms and many computer labs. Because of this, only clearly documented cases of College-wide technology breakdowns will be accepted as an excuse for not accessing assigned readings, watching online films, and completing course assignments. If you travel away from campus near or during when an assignment is due, it is YOUR responsibility to ensure continued connectivity and complete all assignments on time. Also, please be aware that the Portal does not always “play nicely” with mobile hotspots, some browsers, and some Apple products, including iPads. Ensure in advance that your technology will work. Throughout the semester, I will send out messages containing important information about assignments, schedule changes, and other announcements. Like most Wesleyan instructors, I use the email addresses listed on the Portal when sending messages. Please make sure this e-mail address is correct.

The fact that this is an online course does not mean it is “easier” than the classroom version, or that you must devote more time to completing the work for it. On average, you should plan on spending a minimum of eight (8) hours each week on the work for this course, plus additional time on the weekend. On average, you will have between 50 and 75 pages of reading each week (less when you must watch a film, more when the reading is of a popular nature). I also expect that you will spend at least three (3) hours a week on the discussion-based assignments (i.e., contributions to the discussion forums). This amount is in addition to the time you need to complete the written assignments. Additionally, you must plan on completing assignments regularly throughout the course. Assignments are due weekly and will not be accepted late. Therefore, it is imperative that you create a weekly schedule for your week, and you stay on track each day!

Finally, a brief note about the course content. At times this semester we may discuss historical events that may be disturbing, even traumatizing, to you. If you enroll in this course I expect you to engage its challenging material. If, however, you are aware of specific course material that may be traumatizing to you, I am happy to discuss your concerns before it comes up in class. I’m also happy to discuss your personal reactions to such material afterwards. (Of course, all discussions would be confidential.)

Course Instructor

I’m Dr. Nick Steneck, Associate Professor of History at Wesleyan College. My Ph.D. is from Ohio State University, where I specialized in Modern European (specifically German), military, and international business history. I also have an M.A. in international studies from George Washington University and a B.A. (Honors) in History from the University of Michigan. Before joining the Wesleyan faculty this year, I held a full-time faculty position at Florida Southern College, in Lakeland, Florida. I have also taught at several schools in Ohio and was a senior lecturer in Ohio State University’s Undergraduate International Studies Program, where I helped developed the Security and Intelligence Policy concentration. My regular history courses include both halves of world civilization, and upper-level courses in Middle Eastern and East Asian history, European history, and military history. In addition to my teaching commitments I also direct or co-direct the Wesleyan College Confucius Institute and the Center for Global Initiatives. In my free time, I like to work on the 1930s-era house that my wife and I live in here in Macon,
giving belly rubs to our three cats, Antje (who is named after a walrus), Zipper, and Marmalade; two dogs, Zizou and Frieda; and feeding apples to the family horse, Sam (who also enjoys ear rubs). The photograph is of me standing in front of a German bunker at the Omaha Beach, Normandy, France. You can contact me via e-mail at: nsteneck@wesleyancollege.edu.

Required Readings

There are three types of required materials for this course: 1) monographs, 2) journal articles and excerpts from monographs, and 3) streaming content. Wesleyan students receive rented copies of the monographs; non-Wesleyan students should rent, purchase, or borrow copies by the first day of class. Links to electronic copies of journal articles and excerpts from monographs are found in the weekly plans, as are links to streaming content hosted by YouTube, Kanopy, or Films on Demand. The required monographs for this course are:


Required Assignments

There are four types of required assignments for this course. They are:

1. contributions to class discussions, which will take the form of weekly posts to the course discussion forum, are collectively worth 25% of your final grade. You will be responsible for about 26 contributions. (Assesses CLO #2 and #5)
2. quizzes on the assigned readings are collectively worth 20% of your final grade. There is a total of 11 quizzes. (Assesses CLOs #1 and #3)
3. two exams, a midterm and final. Collectively, they are worth 30% of your final grade. (Assesses CLOs #1, #3 and #5)
4. a semester-long research project. This project requires you to analyze a local war memorial and present your analysis to the class. You will complete the project in stages. You will receive detailed information about this assignment during the second week of the course. The project is worth 25% of your final grade. (Assess CLO #4 and #5)

Assignment deadlines are found on the "Coursework" and weekly plan pages.

Grading Policies

I use the grading scale listed below. Please note that normal rounding rules apply and that I do not grade on a curve or (usually) offer extra credit. In the case of borderline grades (generally defined as within one half of one percentage point of a higher grade), excellent attendance, substantial improvement in the course, and sustained, meaningful class participation MAY result in your receiving a higher grade.
A = 89.6+; B = 79.6-89.5; C = 69.6=79.5; D = 59.6-69.5; F = 59.6 and below

You may not submit contributions to the discussion forums or quizzes late. Late exams and research papers are subject to the following rules.

- Unless otherwise stated, officially “turning in” an assignment means uploading or posting it to the Portal.
- I penalize late assignments are the rate of one letter grade per day late (including weekends), unless otherwise noted.
- You are always responsible for turning in assignments on time even if you miss the class the day they are due.
- Without advanced permission, I will not accept assignments via e-mail.

Student privacy is important and is protected by federal law. Therefore, I will not discuss your grades with anyone other than you or others who have a legitimate educational interest in such information – even if you have signed a waiver allowing others access to your records under FERPA.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

Please reading this section very carefully!

A community of scholars depends on the integrity of its members. At Wesleyan College respect for this principle is embodied in the Honor Code, which all students have pledged to uphold. Students are presumed to know their obligations under the code and are responsible for fulfilling those obligations. In practical terms, this means I expect all work you turn in to be your own. Attempting to pass off someone else's work as your own, or using another person's work without proper citation (i.e., copying from a textbook, the internet, or other source, including humans) constitutes plagiarism. Students who commit academic misconduct of any sort will receive a failing grade for the course and be referred to the Provost of the College and Honor Council for additional sanction. Ignorance (i.e., "I didn't know...") is no excuse for academic misconduct and will not be accepted as such. If you ever have any questions about proper citation format, what constitutes plagiarism, or academic misconduct in general please talk to me.

Non-Wesleyan College students enrolled in the course are expected to abide by the Wesleyan College honor code.

Reproduction of Course Content

To promote an internet environment in which ideas may be freely expressed, all online forums are private spaces. The unauthorized reproduction of comments from these spaces is disruptive behavior, which may result in a student’s removal from class per the instructor’s discretion. The distribution of any such reproductions of students or faculty without the express written permission of the College is strictly prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action by the Provost of the College.

Statement on Disabilities

Wesleyan College is committed to equal education, full participation and access to facilities for all
students. Any student who requires reasonable academic accommodations, use of auxiliary aids or facility access for a class must first register with Disability Resources by contacting Christy Henry, Assistant Dean of Academic Resources at chenry@wesleyancollege.edu or (478) 757-5219. If reasonable accommodations are established, students should request Accommodation Letters from Disability Resources then schedule an appointment to meet with the professor to determine how the accommodations will be implemented for each class as early in the semester as possible. Accommodations require notice to implement and will not be retroactively administered for the semester. Accommodations that decrease the integrity of a course will not be approved.

Adding and Dropping Courses

Students should exercise great caution in making changes to their course load during the drop/take period of any term, as changes to course schedules may affect both tuition charges and financial aid. Consultation with the Financial Aid staff is strongly advisable before making any adjustment to a course schedule. After the drop/take period of any term, no adjustment of tuition will be made, although adjustments to financial aid may be made. Please see the Wesleyan Catalogue for additional details. Non-Wesleyan College students are expected to familiar with their home institution’s policies regarding changes to course loads.

Attendance

As this is an online course, attendance at regular class meetings is not required. However, as noted below, regular attendance in the form of regular contributions to the class discussion forum is essential.

Other Course Policies

First, I expect all students to treat their colleagues and professor with respect in class and out, especially in the public spaces of this course.

Second, please remember that instructors, including myself, have outside lives just as you do. I will respond to messages and requests for information as quickly as possible, but it may take me time to do so, especially if you send your message late at night or early in the morning. Including the course number in the subject line of your e-mail as well as some indication of who you are generally results in a timelier response.

Finally, an important note regarding ESL students. Having studied in a foreign language myself I have some idea of the challenges you face. Accordingly, you are welcome to use a printed dictionary for completing any in-class quiz or assignment. However, because most are now minicomputers, I cannot let you use electronic dictionaries or translators in class to complete in-class assignments.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Two Important Notes

Federal guidelines require that you complete at least one graded assignment during the first ten percent of the course. This means you must complete the first three discussion posts and Reading Quiz #1 by the assigned deadlines. If you do not, you will be dropped from the course. Because this is a federal requirement, neither the course instructor nor the College can make an exception to it.
Please refer to the online discussion forum and coursework pages of the Portal for additional information about the due dates for readings and assignments. This schedule is subject. Changes will be announced via e-mail and be noted on the course schedule page of the Portal.

**Unit #1: Course Introduction and Review of Key Methodologies (Weeks of 1/9 and 1/16)**

**Assigned Reading(s)**

- Paul Getty Museum lessons on the elements of art and principals of design. These lessons are available at: http://www.getty.edu/education/

**Assignment(s)**

Discussion Posts (as detailed in weekly plans); Reading Quiz #1.

**Module Two: World War I (Weeks of 1/23 and 1/30)**

**Assigned Reading(s)**

- Virden, *Americans and the Wars of the Twentieth Century*, chapters one and two.

**Assignment(s)**

Discussion Posts (as detailed in weekly plans); Reading Quizzes #2 and #3.

**Module Three: The Second World War (Weeks of 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, and 2/27)**

**Assigned Reading(s)**

- Virden, *Americans and the Wars of the Twentieth Century*, chapters three and four.
• John Bodnar, *The “Good War” in American Memory* (all)
• Hass, *Sacrificing Soldiers on the National Mall*, chapters three and four.

**Assignment(s)**

Discussion Posts (as detailed in weekly plans); Readings Quizzes #4-6

**Midterm Exam (Week of 3/6)**

**Assigned Reading(s)**

• None

**Assignment(s)**

Midterm Exam (opens on 3/4 and closes on 3/12)

**Module Four: The Korean War (Weeks of 3/13 and 3/20)**

**Assigned Reading(s)**

• Virden, *Americans and the Wars of the Twentieth Century*, chapter five.
• Hass, *Sacrificing Soldiers on the National Mall*, introduction and chapter one.

**Assignment(s)**

Discussion Posts (as detailed in weekly plans); Readings Quizzes #7-8


**Assigned Reading(s)**

• Virden, *Americans and the Wars of the Twentieth Century*, chapters six and seven.
• Robert C. Post, *Who Owns America’s Past? The Smithsonian and the Problem of History* (all)
• Hass, *Sacrificing Soldiers on the National Mall*, chapter three.
• Susannah Radstone, “Screening Trauma: Forrest Gump, Film and Memory,” in *Memory and

Assignment(s)

Discussion Posts (as detailed in weekly plans); Reading Quizzes #9-11

Presentation of War Memorial Project (Week of 4/24)

Assigned Reading(s)

None

Assignment(s)

Presentation (due 4/24)

Final Exam (Week of 5/1)

Assigned Reading(s)

- Jenny Edkins, “Conclusion: the return of the political—the memory of politics,” in Trauma and the Memory of Politics (Aberystwyth: University of Wales, 2003), 215-233.

Assignment(s)

Final Exam (opens 5/1; closes on 5/4)