History 235: Military History I

Country Study Research Project

The capstone project for this course is a structured research paper (min. 2000 words) on one military culture, focusing on key aspects of military history as defined in this course. You are required to turn in both a paper copy and a digital copy. All papers will be submitted to Turnitin to verify academic honesty and originality. This paper will account for 25 percent of your class grade.

DEADLINES
See deadline date in syllabus. If either the hard copy or the digital copy is late, one letter grade per day will be deducted. Papers more than 48 hours late will receive an F.

Learning Objectives

• teach you how to conduct research in scholarly historical sources
• promote your understanding of one historical setting in depth
• improve your writing and analytical skills

Format

• Use a cover page and create a title for your paper.
• Put your name only on the cover page.
• Double space, use a standard font and standard margins, number your pages, and be sure your paper is clean and easily readable.
• Use your computer’s word count function to determine the exact number of words in the body of your paper (footnotes and bibliography don’t count) and type in the word count at the end of the paper.

Style, Spelling, Grammar
Norwich students are expected to write with clear, correct grammar and proper spelling. Use a spell checker—but be aware that the computer won’t catch mistakes like loose/lose or it’s/its. Sloppy or poorly written papers will be graded down. Consider consulting the Academic Achievement Center to improve your work.

The Paper

Choose one country or region of the world, so long as it is not the United States. You may limit your study to a particular war or timeframe, if you can find sufficient sources. If there are not enough sources, you must broaden your timeframe and/or region.

This is a research project, not a full research paper. The focus is on developing your skill at finding good sources and analyzing the worth of those sources.

Introduction. The first page or two of the paper should provide an overview of the main points you intend to make about your country’s experience of war. What kind of sources are available to study the military history of this country? How recent are they? Are there more books, or more articles? Are there many sources that focus specifically on your chosen country or region, or is it only covered in more general histories? Identify 2-3 general sources that are relevant to your topic. Then summarize some general characteristics of the military history of your subject.
Body. Choose five of the eight modules covered in class this semester.

1. Mobile Warfare
2. Children at War
3. Urban Warfare
4. Experience of War
5. War in the Air
6. Civilians in the Path of War
7. Women and War
8. Unintended Consequences

Divide your paper into five sections corresponding to the modules you've chosen. Each section should start with a numbered subheading (1-5) and title.

For each module, identify at least one scholarly book and one scholarly (peer-reviewed) article, plus any additional relevant sources you may find. (See the "What is a "scholarly" or "peer-reviewed" source?" handout on Noodle for more guidance.) If you have trouble finding sources, be sure you are using good search techniques; ask the Social Science research librarian for help. "Unintended Consequences" is the most difficult to research, and grades will reflect this (students who do well on this module will earn higher grades).

In the numbered sections of the paper, discuss the kind of sources you found and summarize the content of those sources. Comment on the content, date, and quality of the information. Cite the sources according to Chicago style.

Then write at least one paragraph analyzing your country's military history in this aspect of warfare. Was this a prominent or minor aspect of war? Was it a strength or a weakness for your country?

You can earn a higher grade if you also:

• Comment on coverage of the topic in the Parker textbook
• Refer to other course readings, as they relate to your topic
• Use interlibrary loan to review relevant books that aren't available in the library (attach proof, such as copy of ILL list from Iliad)
• Evaluate how many and what kind of sources are available in your country's native (non-English) language

Conclusion. Did your research provide new insights into this culture? What were your own preconceptions and assumptions regarding the subject? What are your overall conclusions?

Works Cited. On a new page, create a Works Cited page of all sources cited in this paper, in proper Chicago format.

Sources

Start by finding good general military histories of your country and time frame. Look within those books for the specific module subjects. These will be your "fall back" resources for when you can't find books or articles that are focused on a module. You can search for books and articles at the same time, without separate searches in JSTOR or EBSCO. From the library home page, go to Advanced Search. Click on Add/Remove Databases, select Worldcat.org, click Save Selections. Then enter a keyword or subject heading.

Your research should concentrate on two search engines: the library catalog and the Oxford Military History Bibliography, linked from Noodle. One or two good sources or authors can lead you to others. Once you find a good book or article, check the sources used in that work to identify more sources, and check for more works by the same author. Chapters in edited books
count as scholarly articles (assuming the book itself is scholarly). Check book reviews to get information about the usefulness of a book.

You must demonstrate that you tried to find both a scholarly book and a scholarly article on each module. If you don’t find one of each, talk about how you searched and attach copies of search results that didn’t work, to show that you made a good effort to find relevant sources. If you can’t find both a book and an article, try for two scholarly books, or two scholarly articles. If you still can’t find relevant sources, try a web search to see what you find.

You can use the same source for more than one module, if you truly cannot find other sources. However, the point of this project is to demonstrate your research skills. If you use the same sources over and over, you have either chosen the wrong topic, or you are not using good research strategies.

Using reviews/books not at NU:

Do not limit your book searches to the Norwich library! Identify all books that might be useful. Use interlibrary loan as necessary. To find book reviews: From the library home page, go to Advanced Search. Click on Add/Remove Databases, select Worldcat.org, click Save Selections. The enter the book title in the Title area. Select "Only return peer-reviewed articles."

Don’t forget to check the resources on Noodle under "Country Study Project" and "General Resources.

Research Tips

Be sure to check your class notes for definitions of what constitutes mobile warfare, urban warfare, etc. This is a military history course, and your sources should focus on the military aspects of each topic. For example:

1. Mobile Warfare:
   Focus on mobile combat operations, not mobilization.
   You won't always find sources using "Mobile Warfare" as a search term. Try using terms for your country/war plus "armor," "armored warfare," or "cavalry"

2. Urban Warfare
   Focus on fighting in which there is active combat in cities. If you can't find such examples, search on sieges.

3. Children at War
   Focus on child soldiers in the army of the country you're studying. If you can't find information on child soldiers, try to find the youngest ages that were recruited.
   If you can't find anything about children in military roles, discuss what you find on children and war in your country.

4. Experience of War
   Follow the research tips given in the Experience of War assignment guidelines.

5. War in the Air
   Try the search terms "Aeronautics, Military" or "Air warfare -- History "plus your country/war.
   War in the Air is the only topic that will not apply at all to most pre-20th century topics; if this is true of your project, state this in your paper.
6. Civilians in the Path of War
   Focus on the actions of your country's military against civilians, not on your civilians or the home front in wartime.
   Try the search terms "Civilian war casualties," "atrocities," "War victims" or "Bombing, aerial" plus your country / war.

7. Women and War
   Focus on women in your country who played military roles.
   Be sure to check the bibliographies on NUoodle and the reference work Amazons to Fighter Pilots, as discussed in class.

8. Unintended Consequences
   The library catalog won't find much; a Google search might be better here. Search on your country / war plus "consequences" or "lessons learned."
   Check the conclusions of good general military histories of your country or war.
   Check the assigned book; chapters on the same time frame as your study may give you some ideas.

Footnotes and Citations

One of the key features of a history paper is that you cite the sources of your information. It must be absolutely clear which words and ideas are your own analysis and which were someone else's. Good citation shows that your work is open to verification and declares that you are intellectually honest. Use footnotes to cite sources in the body of the paper. See the History Citation Guide on NUoodle for details.

Book review citation format: The Citation Guide doesn't include an example, so if you cite book reviews, use this format:

footnote:
   Author's Last Name, "Title of Review," page(s) cited.
   OR (if review is not titled):
   Author's Last Name, review of Short Title of Book, page(s) cited.
   EXAMPLE: Pennington, Reina. Review of Dragons on Bird Wings, 772.

works cited:
   EXAMPLE:

Avoid things that can make you fail!

1. Any paper that does not include citations will automatically receive a D or F; if citations are inadequate in quantity or format, a ten percent penalty will be incurred.
2. Any paper that is below the minimum length or does not meet the minimum requirements above will automatically receive a D or F.
3. Any form of plagiarism will result in failure.
4. Failure to email a digital copy of your paper will result in a ten percent penalty on the overall exam grade.