

Common Course Outline
HIST 211
Social and Cultural History of American Warfare: 1775-1902
3 Credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

HIST 211 – 3 credits - Social and Cultural History of American Warfare: 1775-1902 explores the social and cultural history of American warfare from the American Revolution through the Spanish-American-Filipino War. This is **NOT** a traditional military history class. It analyzes the impact of war on average Americans, examining the war-time experiences of soldiers, nurses, doctors, and spies, as well as civilians on the home front. It also analyzes the impact of war on American society in general, paying particular attention to the challenges that war poses to democratic principles and institutions and to the ways in which war is represented and remembered in our public spaces and popular culture. Topics include the treatment of prisoners; war-time propaganda; changes in military technology and medicine; civil liberties during war-time; and the treatment and role of women, minorities, draft-resistors and opponents of war.

3 Credits

Prerequisites: History 111 or permission of the department chair.

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. identify the military conflicts that America has taken part in between 1775 and 1902;
2. defend oral and written arguments regarding the social and cultural impact of war on various individuals/groups and on American society generally;
3. explain, orally and/or in writing, the factors and principles that have shaped America's response to war;
4. analyze various forms of propaganda;
5. discuss the ways in which religion, race, class, and gender have shaped the wartime experiences of various Americans;
6. describe and differentiate the impact of various wars on civilian populations;
7. evaluate the impact of advances in technology on American warfare;
8. critically assess primary and secondary sources;
9. compare and contrast the battle experiences of soldiers who fought in various American wars; and
10. analyze the ways in which various wars have been represented in popular culture.

Major Topics

- I. Major American Military Conflicts
 - A. The Revolutionary War
 - B. The War of 1812
 - C. The Mexican War
 - D. The Civil War
 - E. The Spanish-American-Filipino War
- II. The Combat Experience and Military Life
 - A. Changing experiences of battle
 - B. Recruitment, the draft and camp life
 - C. The role and treatment of women and minorities in the military
 - D. Military medicine
 - E. Military discipline and justice including treatment of prisoners
 - F. The role of Native Americans in various wars
- III. War and Society
 - A. The impact of war on civilian populations
 - B. Critics of war and their treatment
 - C. Representations of war in the media and popular culture
 - D. The impact of war on race, class and gender hierarchies
 - E. Civil liberties and the impact of war on democratic principles and institutions
 - F. The use and abuse of war-time propaganda

Course Requirements

Grading/Exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

1. At least one exam that includes a significant essay component.
2. At least two papers (of 2,000 words or more) that require students to conduct historical research and/or analyze primary and secondary sources.
3. At least two quizzes, class presentations, or class debates.
4. Participation in class discussion and/or group activities.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is an elective in the U.S. history program.