History 464S – Capstone Seminar: Geopolitics of War and Empire
Fall 2016

West Duke 108A
Mondays, 3:05 – 5:35 PM

Dr. Andrew Byers
jab63@duke.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2-3 PM, before and after class, and by appointment in Carr 301

Course Overview:
This course examines the pursuit of military force, war, and empire and the making of global politics across the past two centuries. Focusing on the ever-changing global world of military politics, geopolitical confrontation, and imperial rivalry, our explorations will begin with the French Revolution and the rise of Napoleon, then range from the wars of nation, industry, and empire in the mid-nineteenth century to the intercontinental great power wars and Cold War confrontations of the twentieth century, concluding with a look at twenty-first century geopolitics in an increasingly globalized age. We will pay special attention to the strategies of global ordering and power projection pursued by the political and military elites of the major powers in an age of war, empire, and globalization.

Assignments and Evaluation:
- **Class Participation (25% of final grade):** You are expected to attend all class sessions, do the assigned reading for each session, and participate actively in class. I will take attendance at each class meeting and evaluate your participation, assigning daily participation grades. See below for participation grading rubric.
- **Reading Response Papers (25% of final grade):** Because this is a seminar course, we are relatively few in number, and we only meet once per week, your engagement with the readings is absolutely critical to the success of the course. You will turn in a 500-word response paper analyzing the readings for the week every Sunday by 9 PM on Sakai.

- **Research Paper (50% of final grade):** You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice that explores either a key geopolitical event or development (such as a war, an arms race, a particular antagonism, etc.), or a national pursuit of grand strategy and military force. See separate sheet for example topics. I will assist you in selecting a topic that is both interesting and manageable. You will complete, separately, a paper proposal; a bibliography and outline; a rough draft; a podcast discussion; and a final draft for the paper. You will also provide feedback on two of your colleagues’ papers. Each of these assignments will be graded separately.
  1. **Paper Proposal (5%):** Due Saturday, September 10 by 5pm. The paper proposal should describe your proposed research project (approximately 500 words). You should thoroughly describe the concept for your project, go into a little detail on the kind of argument that you plan to make, and include a few notes on the sources you think you will use. I will provide feedback on your topic and make comments on suggested refinements and sources.
  2. **Paper Bibliography and Argument Outline (10%):** Due Saturday, October 1 by 5pm. The bibliography should contain at least six sources and include both primary (government documents; personal narratives such as memoirs, diaries, interviews, published first-person accounts; magazine and newspaper articles; etc.) and secondary works (scholarly books or articles, etc.). The outline must provide a clear thesis, argument, and structure, and be as fleshed out as possible (750 words minimum). The more thought-out and organized your outline, the more I can help you refine your ideas.
  3. **Paper Rough Draft (required but ungraded):** Due Saturday, November 5 by 5 pm. The rough draft should be as polished as possible and approximately 2500-3500 words. I will provide feedback on the rough draft that you can use to improve your final draft (as will two of your peers, see below). The rough draft will be ungraded, but if you do not submit a rough draft, I will take ten points off your final draft’s grade.
  4. **Commentary on Two Peers’ Research Papers (5%):** Due Saturday, November 12 by 5 pm. You will be assigned two of your peers’ rough drafts to comment and provide feedback on.
  5. **Podcast Discussion of Research Project (10%):** Due in the last three weeks of the semester (we will do individual sessions outside of class time by individual appointment), by Friday, December 9, at the latest. In conjunction with the professor, you will do a 15-20 minute podcast
discussion of your research project that will be made available as part of a digital humanities/public history podcast on iTunes.

6. **Paper Final Draft (20%)**: Due Friday, December 9 by 5pm. The final draft should be 6000-7500 words.

- **Late Assignments**: You are expected to turn in your assignments on time. Late assignments will be penalized by ten points for each day (or fraction of a day) they are late. Please do not ask for an extension on any assignments; it would be unfair to the other students who are also under the same time pressures.
- **Grading Scale**:
  
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<td>93 – 100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86</td>
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**Other Course Policies:**

- **Attendance**: For each class, you will receive a grade of 0-4, according to the following rubric. Your lowest grade will be dropped; in other words, you can miss a single class for any reason without penalty. Any other class absences—for any reason—will be penalized. I appreciate you notifying me if you will have to miss a class, but it is not required. Note that even if you miss a class, you are still required to write the reading response paper for that week.
  
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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Did not attend class for any reason (excused or unexcused).</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Present in class, but did not participate in discussion.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Slight to moderate level of participation; demonstrated some preparation and knowledge of readings.</td>
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<td>Active participation throughout the class session; clearly demonstrated familiarity with readings.</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Active, creative, and thoughtful participation in discussions; engaged with other students’ comments and the readings.</td>
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- **Quizzes As Needed**: I reserve the right to distribute unannounced quizzes on the reading or lecture material. These quizzes will affect your participation grade. Quizzes may not be made-up if you are absent or are tardy.

- **No Electronics in Class**: Please do not use laptops, cell phones, or other electronic devices during class. However, if you require an accommodation involving an electronic device, I am happy to help; please go through the Student Disability Access Office. We might occasionally so some in-class activities that would use laptops—I will let you know in advance about those.

- **Plagiarism and Cheating**: You are expected to adhere to the Duke University Community Standard at all times. You will receive a zero on any exam or paper assignment in which cheating or plagiarism has occurred. Violators will also be referred to the Associate Dean of Students in the Office of Student Conduct.

**Required Reading**:

- No textbooks will be used in the course. All assigned readings are carefully selected materials available electronically on the class Sakai site.
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<td>October 10</td>
<td>FALL BREAK</td>
<td>None—no class meeting</td>
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• Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe’s Twentieth Century* (New York, 1999),138-181.  
• Evan Mawdsley, *World War II: A New History* (Cambridge, 2009), 10-44. |
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