

HH104: American Naval History
United States Naval Academy
Roger Bailey - Spring 2022

Section 5004
M/W/F-5, PR211



Dr. Roger Bailey
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PURPOSE

Today the United States possesses the most powerful navy in the world. But for much of American history the Navy and Marine Corps have been a comparatively small force. An officer in the War of 1812 would hardly recognize or understand the service in 1900 to say nothing of today's large, technologically complex force made up of women and men from diverse places.

In this course we will trace the rise of the US Navy and Marine Corps and examine how these institutions affected American society and international relations. We will study the broad themes of American naval history from the colonial era to the present day and the historical context in which these events occurred.

This course also seeks to expose you to the way historians think: the questions they ask, the methods they employ, and the way they analyze their findings. Students will learn to identify and explain continuity and change over time. We will also develop your ability to express yourself clearly in writing.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate historical competence. Midshipmen will be able to identify factors that shape change over time; to explain historical narratives; and to analyze historical evidence as well as apply it to historical questions.
2. Demonstrate communications competence. Midshipmen will be able to express their ideas in writing clearly, precisely, and in an organized fashion.
3. Describe, explain, and apply to historical examples basic concepts inherent to the profession of arms, such tactics, doctrine, strategy, technology, logistics, and civil-military relations.

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4. Summarize and explain factors contributing to America's growth to world power status.
5. Analyze and explain the causes, conduct, and consequences of major wars the United States Navy has fought.

TEXTS

Bradford, James, ed., *America, Sea Power, and the World*
Symonds, Craig L. *The U.S. Navy: A Concise History*
Additional readings provided in Blackboard

ASSIGNMENTS

Journals and Other Assignments	20%
Class Participation	5%
First Paper (2-3 pages)	5%
Midterm Exam	10%
Second Paper (3-4 pages)	15%
Research Proposal (1-2 paragraphs + bibliography)	5%
Final Research Paper (6-8 pages)	20%
Final Exam	20%

Detailed instructions for written assignments will be provided in class and posted on Blackboard in advance of the due date. All written assignments will be submitted digitally through Blackboard unless otherwise specified.

Readings

Reading assignments will be posted on Blackboard the week before they are due. Students are responsible for completing readings in time to complete their journal entries and participate in class discussion

Journals and Participation

You will be expected to answer the journal questions posted on Blackboard for each night's assigned readings (note that some "readings" will be videos). Entries are due by noon on the day of class. Responses will be short, but to receive credit they must demonstrate that you have done the reading and thought seriously about it. There will occasionally be other small class assignments that will be included in this portion of your grade as well.

Participation

I expect students to be awake and participating in discussion. This includes asking and answering questions and participating in class activities and discussion. Students should strive to make at least a couple comments per class on average.

Papers

You will write three papers for this class, each one growing in complexity. The first one will focus simply on constructing a compelling argument in response to a prompt, the second one will add the use of secondary sources and citations, and the final research paper will incorporate the use of historical documents to craft an original argument.

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For your final research paper, you may choose to write about any subject in American naval history (subject to my approval through a paper proposal). As we go through the material, pay attention to topics that pique your interest. We will discuss how to narrow the scope of your interest and identify sources in the weeks leading up to the submission of proposals.

Exams

You will have two exams. The midterm will consist of one essay asking a thematic question which you will need to answer drawing material from throughout the first portion of our course. The final exam will consist of two closed-note, handwritten essays. One will answer a question about the second half of the course, and the other will answer a cumulative question about the entirety of American naval history.

I will provide a bank of possible questions to prepare for both exams, and we will have a review session in our last class to prepare for the final.

POLICIES

Covid-19

The ongoing pandemic is likely to throw a few curveballs at us this semester. Please follow all official guidelines as far as masks, vaccines, and virtual attendance, and we will have to be flexible with assignments and scheduled lessons if there are any changes. Classes may move all or partially online at some point.

Classroom Policies

At times, we will discuss sensitive issues in this class about which students may have strong personal opinions. Students are expected to address their peers with courtesy and civility.

Closed beverages are permitted in class. Unless otherwise specified, students may not use laptops in class. Studies demonstrate that people retain information significantly better when they take handwritten notes.

Section Leaders

I will designate a section leader, and that section leader will choose an alternate who will perform his/her duties if the section leader is absent. The section leader will take attendance at the beginning of each class (he or she may use a laptop for this) and report the names of those who are absent to me.

In the event I have not arrived by the start of the class period, the section leader will maintain order in the classroom until I arrive. If I am more than fifteen minutes late, the section leader will go to the 3rd Deck of Sampson Hall to see if I am in my office (Room 329) and then report my absence to the History Department office for further guidance. The section leader will not dismiss the class early without direction from the department.

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Blackboard

Our primary methods of communication outside the classroom will be Blackboard and email. You are responsible for any information announced on the site or passed via email. Check the “Announcements” regularly and ensure that you are looking ahead to notice changes to reading assignments and due dates that may occur. (I will bring these changes to your attention in class as well.)

Academic Integrity

I take plagiarism and cheating very seriously, and students caught doing either will be referred to the honor board. I would much rather you turn in an assignment late or submit one that is subpar than submit work that is dishonest.

We will discuss citation practices, but students are required to complete their assignments themselves and cite any ideas or words that are not their own. The one exception is that within the confines of this class, students do not need to cite our class lectures.

Please see the Nimitz Library’s website for further information on plagiarism, its definition, and its consequences: <http://libguides.usna.edu/content.php?pid=344689&sid=2819857>

Attendance and Late Work

Unless you are SIQ or already have a pre-approved absence (approved movement orders, for example), you will attend each class meeting. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to acquire and review a copy of the day’s notes from a classmate. Even if it was not assigned, I recommend you read the relevant section in your Bradford textbook to help you connect the lecture notes with the broader course trends as well.

I expect that you will submit assignments on time, though I may grant extensions under special circumstances to students who contact me at least 24 hours before an assignment is due. Late assignments will be penalized one half-letter grade per day. Journal posts are designed to help you prepare for class. Journals submitted after the deadline but before class will receive half credit. I do not accept late journals submitted after the beginning of class except in the event of a documented emergency.

Extra Instruction

If you have any questions about course materials, assignments, etc. feel free to drop by during office hours or email me to set up a dedicated time to meet.

I am happy to consult on written assignments, and students may also email me thesis statements, paper outlines, or intro paragraphs to get feedback before submitting a paper. Note that the earlier you submit these, the more likely I will be able to read them before you submit your assignment and the more useful the feedback will be to guide your work.

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Final Grades

Final grades for the course are at my discretion. Failure to hand in an assignment or academic dishonesty may result in failure in the class. Failing the final exam will result in a grade no higher than a C in the class.

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SCHEDULE

This schedule is subject to change.

WEEK 1-Intro and Background	1/11 – 1/14
WEEK 2-Broad Themes and Colonial America	1/19 – 1/21
WEEK 3 The American Revolution	1/24–1/28
WEEK 4 Early Wars	1/31 – 2/4
Fri. 2/4-First Paper due	
WEEK 5 Early Wars and Antebellum Era	2/7 – 2/11
WEEK 6 Antebellum Era	2/14 – 2/18
WEEK 7 The Civil War	2/23 – 2/25
Friday 2/25-Midterm Exam	
WEEK 8 The Postbellum Period and the “New Navy”	2/28 – 3/4
WEEK 9 Spanish American War and American Empire	3/7 – 3/11
Fri. 3/11-Second Paper due	
SPRING BREAK	3/12 – 3/20
WEEK 10 World War I	3/21 – 3/25
WEEK 11 Interwar period & World War II	3/28 – 4/1
Fri. 4/1-Research Proposal due	
WEEK 12 World War II	4/4 –4/8
WEEK 13 The Cold War Navy & Korea	4/11 – 4/15
WEEK 14 Vietnam	4/18 – 4/22
Fri. 4/22-Research Paper due	
WEEK 15 The End of the Cold War	4/25 – 4/29
WEEK 16 The Modern Navy and Review	5/2 – 5/4