

# United States Naval Academy

HH 104: American Naval Histor  
Fall Semester, 2011

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Sampson Hall, Room 309  
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**Grades:** Grades will be determined based on the following:

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|--|-----|
| Periodic Quizzes                         | 10% |
| FIRST EXAM                               | 15% |
| SECOND EXAM                              | 15% |
| FINAL EXAM                               | 30% |
| Essays: ten percent each, for a total of | 30% |

**Quizzes:** Will be given at the beginning of the class period; in general, there will be one quiz a week. The quiz items will consist of five items (people, places, things) drawn exclusively from THAT DAY's reading assignment. Each student will be asked to choose three of these five and write a very short paragraph on each of the three that places it in history and shows its historical significance. Each student will get one "mulligan."

**Exams:** Will be essay type, and will generally ask the student to choose one of two (or two of three) questions and write an essay that (1) answers the questions directly; (2) places the issue in a clear historical context; and (3) offers specific examples to underpin the argument being made. Each exam will also generally ask the student to write short identification paragraphs on five of seven IDs.

**Writing Assignments:** Over the course of the semester, each student will submit three papers, each of them typed and double-spaced, and each four to five pages in length. You are free to choose any three of six possible "PAPER OPPORTUNITIES" all drawn from the book *Decision at Sea*. The due dates are indicated in the lesson schedule below. You can choose to write on the first three, or the last three, or choose any combination you like, but you must complete three of them, and submit them IN CLASS on the due dates indicated. Late papers will not be accepted.

In assembling these papers, students are expected to explain (1) Why this engagement marked a milestone in naval history by providing historical context; (2) indicate who were the principal individuals whose decisions both led to, and helped decide, the engagement; (3) assess those decisions; and (4) explain what were the major factors in deciding the outcome? These are not simply questions to be answered in essay form, but themes that you should work into a comprehensive essay. The papers will be graded not only on content, but on clarity, style, and presentation. Footnotes are not required, but any quoted material should indicate source and page number parenthetically.

## Lesson Schedule

### **Week of 22 August**

Tues: Course Introduction: Expectations and requirements;  
Challenges to British dominance at Sea, 1500-1763

Thurs: The British Heritage and the Seven Years War: Reader, Ch. 1  
Naval design, ordnance, and combat in the age of sail;  
The Seven Years War; Origins of the American Revolution

### **Week of 29 August**

Tues: The American Revolution, Part I: Atlas, 3-13  
The Continental Navy, guerre de course, and Q&B: Hopkins  
Local efforts

Thurs: The American Revolution, Part II: Atlas, 14-21  
The U.S. as part of an alliance; Q&B: J.P. Jones  
John Paul Jones; the Yorktown campaign  
FIRST PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, Prologue

### **Week of 5 September**

Tues: LABOR DAY: NO CLASS

Thurs: The U.S. Finds a Navy (1783-1807): Atlas, 23-31  
The Quasi War; the First Barbary War; Q&B: Decatur  
And naval policy issues

### **Week of 12 September**

Tues: The U.S. caught in the middle (1807-1812): Atlas, 32-41  
Jefferson, Madison, and the War in Europe Reader, ch. 3 OR 4

Thurs: comp time for evening lecture

### **Week of 19 September**

Tues: The War of 1812: Battles and Leaders Atlas, 42-55  
SECOND PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, chap. 1 Q&B: O.H. Perry

Thurs: EXAM # 1

### **Week of 26 September**

Tues: The Era of Good Feelings (1815-1845):  
The Barbary War renewed; piracy in the Caribbean;  
Diplomats, explorers, slavers, and mutiny

Atlas, 57-67  
Reader, Ch. 6 OR 7

Thurs: War with Mexico (1846-1848):  
The Opening of Japan; Origins of the Civil War

Atlas, 68-79  
Q&B: M.C. Perry

### **Week of 3 October**

Tues: The Civil War, Part I:  
Blockade and coastal Operations;  
Fort Hatteras, Port Royal, New Orleans;  
The Peninsular Campaign  
THIRD PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, Chap. 2

Atlas, 68-79  
Reader, ch. 8

Thurs: The Civil War, II:  
The River War (Fort Henry to Vicksburg);  
Closing the Ports; Chasing Rebel "Pirates"

Atlas, 88-103  
Q&B: Farragut

### **Week of 10 October**

Tues: Retrenchment and Renaissance (1865-1899):  
Post-war "doldrums"; A.T. Mahan and Revival;  
The Spanish-American War  
FOURTH PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, chap. 3

Atlas, 105-115  
Q&B: Mahan

Thurs: Theodore Roosevelt & the Big Stick (1900-1917):  
Counter-insurgency; The Great White Fleet;  
U.S. intervention in Central America  
The Panama Canal; American Neutrality in World War I

Atlas, 119-125  
Reader, ch. 11

### **Week of 17 October**

Tues: The U.S. Navy and World War I (1917-1922):  
Jutland; convoys; the Marines;  
Post-war adjustments and the Treaty Navies

Atlas, 126-133  
Q&B: Sims

Thurs: EXAM # 2

### **Week of 24 October**

Tues: The Origins of World War II (1922-1941):  
The causes of war in Europe; American

Atlas, 134-141  
Q&B: Moffett

Isolationism; War planning; The origins of War in the Pacific; Pearl Harbor

Thurs: War in the Pacific, 1942:  
The Coral Sea and Midway  
FIFTH PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, chap. 4  
Atlas, 142-151  
Q&B: Nimitz

### **Week of 31 October**

Tues: War in the Atlantic, 1942-43:  
The U-Boat War; TORCH  
(movie: "Wolfpack")  
Atlas, 156-157  
Reader, ch 16

Thurs: The War in the Pacific, II (1943-1945):  
Guadalcanal; the Central Pacific Drive  
Atlas, 152-155  
and 162-169

### **Week of 7 November**

Tues: Critical Battles of the Pacific War (1944-1945):  
The Philippine Sea and Leyte Gulf  
Atlas, 170-171  
and 176-183  
Q&B: Halsey

Thurs: The End of the War:  
D-Day; Iwo Jima; Okinawa; The Atomic Bomb  
(movie: "The Pacific")  
Atlas, 172-175  
and 184-189

### **Week of 14 November**

Tues: The Cold War Navy (1945-1953):  
Revolt of the Admirals; the Korean War  
Atlas, 191-199  
Reader, ch 20 and 21

Thurs: The Navy and the Soviet Threat (1954-1964):  
Suez; Lebanon; the Cuban Missile Crisis  
Atlas, 200-205

### **Week of 21 November**

Tues: The Vietnam War (1954-1973)  
Atlas, 206-215  
Reader, ch 23

Thurs: THANKSGIVING

### **Week of 28 November**

Tues: Leadership and Responsibility in the Cold War Era:  
Burke, Rickover, and Zumwalt (choose one)  
Q&B, chaps  
18, 19, or 20

Thurs: The Pax Americana (1980-1991):  
Grenada; Libya; the Persian Gulf  
SIXTH PAPER OPPORTUNITY, Decision at Sea, chap. 5

Atlas, 217-229  
Reader, ch. 25

**Week of 5 December**

Tues: Nine/Eleven and the War on Terror (2001-2011):

D@S, Epilogue

Thurs: Course Review