SCHOOL OF DIVINITY, HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

ACADEMIC SESSION 2014-2015

HI 355F: A Military Revolution? War, State and Society in Early Modern Europe, 1500-1800

30 Credits : 11 Weeks

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY:

The full set of school regulations and procedures is contained in the Undergraduate Student Handbook which is available online at your MyAberdeen Organisation page. Students are expected to familiarise themselves not only with the contents of this leaflet but also with the contents of the Handbook. Therefore, ignorance of the contents of the Handbook will not excuse the breach of any School regulation or procedure.

You must familiarise yourself with this important information at the earliest opportunity.

COURSE CO-ORDINATOR

Course Coordinator: Professor Robert Frost. Office hours: Thursdays 11:00-12:30 and by appointment. Room CA 112. Telephone number: 01224-272453.

E-mail: robert.frost@abdn.ac.uk

Discipline Administration:

Mrs Barbara McGillivray/Mrs Gillian Brown

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TIMETABLE
Please refer to the online timetable on MyAberdeen

Students can view the University Calendar at
http://www.abdn.ac.uk/students/13891.php

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This course looks at the development of warfare in early modern Europe in the light of the theory, first proposed by Micheal Roberts, that Europe in this period saw a military revolution that had profound effects not just on the way wars were fought, but on European state formation and social development. It analyses the views of supporters and opponents of the theory, the technological changes seen in warfare in this period, and examines the conduct of war at the tactical and strategic levels, before going on to consider the changing culture of war and its impact on state and society. The course will cover a range of military conflicts across the whole continent of Europe, and will also consider the impact of European warfare outside Europe in the first great age of European imperial expansion.

INTENDED AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES
- To secure a firm understanding of the nature and significance of war in the development of early modern Europe
- To give students detailed and critical insight into the central problems and issues of the Military Revolution theory
- To enhance and develop presentational skills through a formal presentation.
- To provide an understanding of the main developments in warfare in the early modern period.
- To encourage the development of a critical understanding of the major scholarly debates about military change and its impact in early modern Europe, and of the impact of European military change on the wider world.
- To equip students with the means to analyse critically the connections between military developments and social, cultural and political change in the period.
- To use the example of military history to develop an understanding of the problem of continuity versus change in historical processes.
SEMINAR PROGRAMME

Week 1:
19 January: Introduction to the Course; Organisation of Presentations.
22 January: Michael Roberts and the Military Revolution.

Week 2: READING WEEK: NO CLASSES.
Week 3: START OF PRESENTATIONS.

2 February: Military Technology: the coming of gunpowder
(1) the battlefield.
5 February: Military Technology: the coming of gunpowder
(2) siege warfare.

Week 4:
9 February: Military Technology: (3) warfare at sea.
12 February: Military Organisation (1) Raising an army.

Week 5:
16 February: Military Organisation (2) Supplying an army
19 February: Military Society & Military Institutions.

Week 6:

Week 7:
2 March: War and the State (3): the military state: Sweden & Denmark.
5 March: War and the State (4): the military state: Brandenburg-
Prussia.

Week 8:
9 March: Russia and the Military Revolution.
12 March: War and the State: consensual systems (1) The Dutch
Republic.

Week 9:
16 March: War and the State: consensual systems (2) Poland-Lithuania.
19 March: The British State and the Military Revolution.

Week 10:
23 March: Celtic Warfare (the Scottish Highlands & Ireland).
26 March: Non-State Military Organisations: Cossacks, Uzkoks, Bandits
& Privateers.

Essays to be handed in BY NOON ON THURSDAY 26 MARCH

Week 11:
2 April: The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars.

Week 12:
27 April: Revision (1)
30 April: Revision (2) Was there a Military Revolution? (Class Debate).
READING LIST

General Texts

These three books provide introductions to the themes to be explored in the course, and should acquaint themselves with their main arguments. Copies can be bought at Waterstones.


All students should prepare for the week’s class by reading texts designated as essential. Some suggestions for further reading are also provided as an introduction to each theme for those writing essays and giving presentations. A fuller bibliography is posted on MyAberdeen.

Week 1:

Essential


Additional Reading

Read also the essays by Parker and Parrott in Rogers, The Military Revolution Debate.

Introduction

Week 2:

Read at least ONE of the following

Parker, G.: The Army of Flanders and the Spanish Road, 1567-1659. (1972)
Introduction

Week 3:
Warfare at Sea

Essential Reading
Parker, Military Revolution, chapter three.

Additional Reading
Rogers, N. Essays in Naval History, from Medieval to Modern (2009)

Military Organisation: Raising an Army

Essential Reading

Additional Reading
Redlich, F.: The German Military Enterpriser and his Workforce, 13th to 17th Centuries 2 vols.(1964-5)
Dow, J.: Ruthven’s Army in Sweden and Esthonia (1965)
Ingrao, C.W.: The Hessian Mercenary State Ideas, Institutions and Reform under Frederick II, 1760-1785 (1987)

Week 4:
Supplying an Army & Military Institutions

Essential Readng

Additional Reading
Redlich, F.: ‘Contributions in the Thirty Years War’ *Economic History Review* 12 (1959-60)
Donagan, B.: ‘Codes and conduct in the English Civil War’ *Past and Present* 118 (1988)
Lynn, J.A. (ed.): *Feeding Mars: Logistics in western warfare from the Middle Ages to the present* (1993)

**Week 5:**

**War and the State (1): Spain: Imperial Overstretch?**

**Essential Reading**

Stradling, R.A.: ‘Catastrophe and recovery: the defeat of Spain 1639-1643’ *History* 64 (1979)

**Additional Reading**

Parker, G.: *The Army of Flanders and the Spanish Road* (1973)

**War and the State (2) France**

**Essential Reading**

Parrott, D. *Richelieu’s Army. War, Government and Society in France, 1624-1642* (2001) (see review on [http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/277](http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/review/277)

**Week 6:**

**War and the State (3) the military state: Sweden & Denmark**

**Essential Reading**


**Additional Reading**

Frost, R.I. *The Northern Wars* (2000). Chapters 5, 8 & Conclusion


**War and the State (4): the military state: Brandenburg-Prussia**

**Essential Reading**

Frost, R.I. *The Northern Wars*. (Chapter on Brandenburg-Prussia).


**Additional Reading**


Chapters by Scott & Showalter in Dwyer, *Rise of Prussia*


**Week 7:**

**Russia and the Military Revolution**

**Essential Reading**


**Additional Reading**

Frost, R.I.: *The Northern Wars*


Dunning, C., Smith, N.S. ‘Was early modern Russia a fiscal-military state?’ *Russian History* 33 (2006), 19–44.


Hellie, R.: *Enserfment and Military Change in Muscovy* (1971)

**War and consensual systems (1) The Dutch Republic**

**Essential Reading**

**Additional Reading**

**Week 8:**

**War and consensual systems (2): Poland-Lithuania**

**Essential Reading**

**The British State and the Military Revolution**

**Essential Reading.**

**Additional Reading**
Gentles, I.: ‘The choosing of the officers for the New Model Army’ *Historical Research* 67 (1994)
Kishlansky, M.: ‘The case of the army truly stated: the creation of the New Model Army’ *Past and Present* 81 (1978)

**Week 9:**

**Celtic Warfare (the Scottish Highlands & Ireland)**

**Essential Reading**

**Additional Reading**


**Hybrid War and Non-State Military Organisations: Cossacks, Uzkoks, Bandits & Privateers**

**Essential Reading**


**Additional Reading**


**Week 10: READING WEEK. NO CLASSES.**
Week 11:
The Military Revolution and the Wider World

Essential Reading
Parker, *The Military Revolution*, chapter 4

Additional Reading
Parry, V.J. & Yapp, M.E.: *War, Technology and Society in the Middle East* (1975)

The Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars

Essential Reading

Additional Reading

ASSESSMENT
- One written examination: three questions (60%);
- One 3,000-word essay (30%)
- One presentation (10%) (5% mark of course coordinator, 5% marked by peer assessment)

Resit: One three-question examination (100%)
Feedback on all assessment should be timely and *normally* provided within a maximum of three working weeks (excluding vacation periods) following the deadline for submission of the assessment.

*Click to view the University Level Descriptors (ANNEX A).*

*Click to view the University Assessment Scale Band Descriptors (ANNEX B).*

**ESSAYS**
The course requires the preparation of one 3,000-word essay, the title of which is to be chosen in consultation with the course co-ordinator. All written work should adhere to the stipulated word limit. It should include quotations and footnotes. Students should note that they will be penalised for work which is either too long or too short.

**PRESENTATIONS**
Presentations should be 10–12 minutes in length. They are intended as an introduction to the problems to be discussed, not a descriptive account of the topic. Students may—but do not have to—use PowerPoint. Presentations are an assessed part of the course, and will be given at the start of each class. Students should inform the course co-ordinator in advance if they are unable to give their presentations for any reason. In such a case, the class may be rearranged for Reading Week.

**ASSESSMENT DEADLINE**
Essays to be handed in by NOON on THURSDAY 26 MARCH 2015

**SUBMISSION ARRANGEMENTS**
The Department requires **TWO** hard and **ONE** electronic copy of all assignments, as follows:

**Hard Copies:** Two hard copies together with an Assessment cover sheet, typed and double spaced – this copy should have your ID number **CLEARLY** written on the cover sheet, with NO name and NO signature but **EVERYTHING ELSE** filled in – and should be delivered to the History Department [Drop-off boxes located in CB008, 50-52 College Bounds].

**Electronic Copy:** One copy submitted through Turnitin via MyAberdeen.
EXAMINATION

The examination will be structured as in previous years, and students should consult past papers for guidance. General exam guidance will be given in the Student Handbook. Past exam papers can be viewed at http://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/learning-and-teaching/for-students/exam-papers/.