

The University of Western Ontario  
Department of History  
2012 - 2013

**HISTORY 2173 (001) UW**  
**WAR IN THE ANCIENT AND MEDIAEVAL WORLD**

Thursday 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Room: SSC 3006

Dr. B. Murison, Lawson Hall 1220  
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Office hours: to be announced

**COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:**

History 2173 examines warfare in pre-industrial societies. It begins with a brief discussion of its major characteristics, followed by an analysis of military practices in the ancient Near East. The three major sections of the course are concerned with the Greek world of the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic periods, the Roman world from its origins, through the Republican and Imperial phases, to its eventual collapse with the coming of the barbarians, and the mediaeval world from the period of the barbarian invasions to the fifteenth century. The course concludes with the introduction of gunpowder and its effects. The main objectives of the course are to introduce students, both historians and non-historians, to a variety of military topics in this very long period and to stimulate their interest in the areas studied, whether it be the careers of outstanding military leaders such as Caesar or the evolution of castle design.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Successful students will, by the end of the course, have understood the interconnections between how wars are fought and the political, economic and religious features of the societies which fought them. They will be able to comment intelligently on themes which have emerged during the millennia covered by the course, such as geographical constraints on warfare and the ever-changing relationship in the balance between defence and offence. They will have noted that the passage of time does not necessarily result in technical improvements in the art of war.

Students will have acquired knowledge of the physical locations of theatres of war through the study of numerous maps and will have had the opportunity to examine, both in class sessions and in their texts, plentiful visual depictions of the paraphernalia of warfare. In tests and exams they will have demonstrated the critical faculties they have developed in handling these various types of evidence.

**PRESCRIBED TEXTS:**

General Sir John Hackett (ed.) Warfare in the Ancient World (M4686)

Maurice Keen (ed.) Medieval Warfare: A History (Oxford University Press)

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

History 2173 is a non-essay course. Students are required to write two tests (to be held in class time: see lecture schedule) and a final examination. Both the tests and the exam will include questions based on the lectures and the whole of the prescribed texts. Grades will be calculated as follows:

First Test	30%
Second Test	30%
Final Examination	40%

The final examination will be based on the lectures and readings for the whole course.

**NOTES TO STUDENTS**

1. Since the tests are given in class time, there can be no conflicts. **More than one test on the same day does not constitute a conflict.** Plan your schedule ahead of time.
2. The final grade is calculated on the basis of your performance on the tests and exam **only**. **You cannot do an extra assignment to make up for poor performance on an exam.**
3. If you miss a test or exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, **you must contact the instructor within 48 hours. If you do not, the grade of 'F' will stand.** Please read the accompanying information on faculty policy regarding absences and missed tests and exams **very carefully**. Accommodation on medical grounds can in most cases **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website:  
[https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. Further details on this policy can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

Office hours will be announced during the first class; students are encouraged to discuss any aspect of the course with the instructor.

**LECTURE SCHEDULE: HISTORY 2173**

(N.B. This schedule is subject to revision if necessary.)

**TERM ONE**

<u>LECTURE TOPIC</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
Week 1      SEP 6 Introduction: Warfare in pre-industrial societies.	Hackett, 7-14
Week 2      SEP 13 The ancient Near East: Mesopotamia.	Hackett, 15-53
Week 3      SEP 20 The ancient Near East: Egypt.	
Week 4      SEP 27 Bronze Age Greece. Catastrophe, Dark Age, Revival.	Hackett, 54-81
Week 5      OCT 4 Hoplites and phalanxes The challenge from the east: the Persians.	Hackett, 82-103
Week 6      OCT 11 The Persian Wars and Ancient Naval Warfare. Athens versus Sparta: the Peloponnesian War.	
Week 7      OCT 18  <b>TEST (room to be announced).</b>	
Week 8      OCT 25 The decline of Sparta and the ascendancy of Thebes. Philip of Macedon.	
Week 9      NOV 1 Alexander the Great Hellenistic Warfare.	Hackett, 104-135

Week 10	NOV 8	
	War and society in ancient Rome: the evolution of the legion.	Hackett, 136-168
	The Roman army in action: the expansion of Rome and the conquest of Italy.	
Week 11	NOV 15	
	The Punic Wars.	
Week 12	NOV 22	
	Roman imperialism in the second century B.C.	Hackett, 169-191
	The rise of the professional army: Marius.	
Week 13	NOV 29	
	Background to the Civil Wars.	
	The ravages of the Civil Wars.	
<b>CHRISTMAS VACATION</b>		
<b>TERM TWO</b>		
Week 14	JAN 10	
	The Civil Wars concluded.	Hackett, 192-221
	The army of the empire.	
Week 15	JAN 17	
	<b>TEST (room to be announced).</b>	
Week 16	JAN 24	
	The Empire: crisis, recovery, collapse.	Hackett, 222-249
Week 17	JAN 31	
	Barbarian Europe	Keen, chs. 1-2
Week 18	FEB 7	
	The Vikings	Keen, ch. 3
Week 19	FEB 14	
	Warfare in the West in the High Middle Ages.	Keen, chs.4, 9
	The battle of Hastings.	

**FEB 18-22: READING WEEK**

- Week 20      FEB 28  
The Scottish Wars of Independence.  
Case Study: Bannockburn.
- Week 21      MAR 7  
The road to Agincourt. Keen, chs 6, 7
- Week 22      MAR 14  
Organising war in the Middle Ages. Keen, chs. 10, 11
- Week 23      MAR 21  
Castles and siege warfare. Keen, chs. 5, 8
- Week 24      MAR 28  
New trends: condottieri, pikemen, gunners. Keen, chs. 12, 13
- Week 26      APRIL 4  
Review

**APRIL 14 - 30 Final examination period**

*If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.*

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

PLAGIARISM

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

#### MEDICAL ACCOMMODATION

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. Please go to <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf> to download the necessary form. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation is warranted. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once a decision has been made about accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for term tests, assignments, and exams.

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Rebecca Dashford, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84962 or [rdashfo@uwo.ca](mailto:rdashfo@uwo.ca)