This seminar investigates war from prehistory to the present, spending much of the time on the period since 1800 and paying special attention to the consequences of twentieth-century warfare. Topics include: the transformative impact of technology on military tactics and strategy as well as on the concept of a “just” war; war and human rights (particularly the problem of war crimes and non-combatant deaths); international law and war; the problem of representing and remembering wars past; women and gender in the context of war; war in an era of globalization; war and genocide; and the war on terror. Our scope will be global and a range of conflicts will be considered, if not exhaustively covered. We will draw on a diverse array of sources, including social and military history, literature, movies, war memoirs, and international human rights reportage.

Course Requirements:
* Active, thoughtful participation in class discussions of assigned readings and films, along with regular attendance. Assigned readings will be discussed on the dates listed in the syllabus.
* Four essays, due on the dates noted in the syllabus. Please note that extensions will be granted only for emergencies, and only if requested at least 24 hours in advance of the due date. Late papers will be marked down.
* Short written projects, to be assigned during the course.
* Participation in the group debate project for Thursday, November 15. Please note that this is the Thursday before Thanksgiving break. If you do not appear in class you will fail that assignment.

Intellectual Honesty
Plagiarism, paper-buying, and improper attribution of ideas are serious breaches of academic honesty. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism or about how to provide proper citations (notes or footnotes), please speak to your professor. In addition, the college maintains a website that discusses these issues: www.amherst.edu/plagiarism.

Books
The following books are required for the course. Copies are available at the Jeffrey Amherst College Store. A few copies are also on Reserve at Frost Library.
Barbara Ehrenreich, Blood Rites: Origins and History of the Passions of War (1998)
Tim O'Brien, The Things They Carried (1990)
Geoffrey Roberts, Victory at Stalingrad. The Battle that Changed History (2002)
James Stuart Olson, Randy Roberts, My Lai: A Brief History with Documents (1998)
Readings Packet
The course packet is available in the History Department office (Chapin 11). The packet contains required readings, and you will need it before the fourth meeting of class. Some additional readings are available online; links are noted in the syllabus or will be distributed in class.

Week 1: Thinking about War
Tuesday, September 4
Introduction to course.

Thursday, September 6

Week 2: Rationality or Instinct?
Tuesday, September 11

Thursday, September 13
2. John Keegan, A History of Warfare, pp. 3-24 (in the packet; note that this material is not from the Keegan book that you are buying).

**Monday, September 17, FIRST PAPER DUE, by 5 p.m. Topic will be circulated in advance.

Week 3: War Fought by a Band of Brothers (and Sisters)
Tuesday, September 18
3. Anonymous, Agincourt Carol (packet)
4. William Shakespeare, excerpt from King Henry V (packet)
   Movie clip in class from King Henry V

Thursday, September 20
2. Benjamin Harris, Recollections of Rifleman Harris, ed. by Christopher Hibbert (pages will be handed out the previous week)

Week 4: War and Memory: The Civil War and the “Lost Cause”
**Brief Assignment Due, Monday September 24 by 5 pm
(Confederate Flag editorials)

Tuesday, September 25
   Movie clip in class from Glory

Thursday, September 27
1. Tony Horwitz, Confederates in the Attic: Dispatches from the Unfinished Civil War, pp. 6-17, 125-144 (packet)
2. Confederate Flag editorials (handed out in class on Tuesday).

**Week 5: War, Technology and the Human Face of War: the World Wars**

**Tuesday, October 2**
2. Siegfried Sassoon, “Counter-Attack” (packet)
   Movie clip in class from *Gallipoli*

**Thursday, October 4**
2. George Blau, *The German Campaign in Russia – Planning and Operations (1940-1942)* (packet)

**Fall Break, October 6-9** (Saturday through Tuesday)

**Weeks 6 and 7:**

**Thursday, October 11**

Movie: *Russia's War, Blood upon the Sand. The Cauldron Boils*. Watch via on-line streaming by Tuesday’s class.

**Tuesday, October 16**
2. “Night Witches,” pp. 1-5 (packet)

**Thursday, October 18**
2. Geoffrey Roberts, “Victory on the Volga” (packet)
4. Thomas Luther, *The Strategic Implications of the Battle of Stalingrad*,” pp. iii, 1, 14-22 (packet)

****Friday, October 19: SECOND PAPER DUE BY 5 PM; topic will be circulated in advance.

**Week 8: Raining Destruction from the Skies**

**Tuesday, October 23**

**Thursday, October 25**
2. World War II Poster collection on-line: [www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/collections/wwii-posters/background.html](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/govpub/collections/wwii-posters/background.html)

**Weeks 9 and 10: Vietnam—A Different Kind of War?**

**Tuesday, October 30**

**Thursday, November 1**


*Video: See *Platoon* via streaming video by class-time on Tuesday, November 6.*

**Tuesday, November 6**


**Thursday, November 8**


*Guest speaker in class from Veterans Education Project*

****Friday, November 9, THIRD PAPER DUE BY 5:00 PM; topic will be circulated in advance.****

**Week 11: The Congo: Arms and the Imagined State**

**Tuesday, November 13**


**Thursday, November 15**

**CLASS DEBATE** (Attendance and participation required; arrangements announced in class on Tuesday)

1. Weak States in Africa—U.S. Policy Options in the Democratic Republic of the Congo—Hearing before the Subcommittee on African Affairs of the Committee on Foreign Relations, United States Senate, April 9, 2002 (packet).

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

November 17-25

**Weeks 12 and 13: Wars—Present and Future**

**Tuesday, November 27**


*Video: See *Frontline: The Dark Side* by class on Thursday, November 29.*

**Thursday, November 29**


**Tuesday, December 4**

Final Paper Due, Friday, December 21 by 5 PM