
HIST 355: History of American Military Affairs

Dr. Jonathan Lande

Fall 2020 | Monday, Wednesday, Friday | 10:30-11:20am | WALC 2088



This course will explore the history of the United States from its colonial origins to the present by looking at issues of war and defense. We will ask a number of questions about the history of American military affairs. How have Americans confronted threats to their national security? In what ways have Americans used military force to advance foreign policy objectives? How have America's military institutions changed over time? How has technology affected the conduct of of war? How has war influenced American culture? How have American values and assumptions about war evolved? While we will explore questions of peacetime defense, this course will concentrate on armed conflict. We will examine domestic strife and foreign invasions, rebellions and civil wars, imperial and world wars, and finally terrorism and counterinsurgency in order to assess the role of war in American history. In so doing, we will question whether there is, or has ever been, an American way of war.
