Historical Studies 545.11/Strategic Studies 609
Winter 2009

Course Description:
This seminar will explore WWII officer leadership in the Canadian military. First, students must read: *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence* (Book), *Warrior Chiefs* (Chpts. 4-8), and *The Generals* (Chpts. 1-7, Conclusion). *(These required texts are located at the University of Calgary bookstore, history area.)* Once students have read and discussed these readings, providing a contextual foundation for what it is that makes a successful commander, the course will begin by critically analyzing the legacy left by the Canadian Corps and General Sir Arthur Currie. Next, students will focus on subjects such as officer selection, education, and training prior to and during WWII. By investigating Canadian organizational, tactical and operational successes and failures, students will ultimately determine if Canada produced any actual or potential “Arthur Curries” during the Second World War. Throughout the seminar and specific to the presentations, students should assess:
- What is it that “makes” a successful commander?
- How should leadership be measured?
- What is the relationship between a leader and subordinates?
- What is the difference between management and leadership?

This is a senior level undergraduate and graduate seminar. It involves considerable reading and self-study as well as active class discussion. **Students who feel themselves unable to engage in such seminar discussion should carefully review their grade expectations in this course.**

The grade performance expectations are high. Students are advised to read this outline/syllabus carefully and to be thoroughly familiar with its contents. If you have questions, ask.

Grades

**Grads STST 609**

1) Class Presentation/Discussion 25%
2) Class Essays 25%
3) Major Course Essay 25%
4) Historiography 25%

**Undergrads HTST 526**

1) Class Presentation/Discussion 35%
2) Class Essays 25%
3) Major Course Essay 40%
Explanation of Grades:

1) Class Discussion
This grade will be assessed on the basis of quality and frequency of seminar interventions.

2) Class Essays
Each student will prepare one essay on one of the course themes to be read in class and submitted for grading. Topics will be selected during the first class. The essay will be no more than 1750 words (7 double spaced pages). Students will distribute their class essay to the instructor and to all other students on Monday, prior to class. This can be done via e-mail or “Blackboard.” The essay will be based on as many readings as possible from the weekly topic. Students will list the readings used in a bibliography (not part of the 1750 words) at the end of the class essay. Reading of essays will be followed by discussion. Essays must be neat, well written, and follow proper style for a history essay. They need NOT be footnoted. They must NOT be narratives, but “think pieces.”

3) Major Course Essay
Maximum length for the Major course essay is 2500 words or about 10 double-spaced and typed pages. If possible, primary sources should be used. The essay must be written in strict conformance with the Department of History Essay Guide. (See http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/EssayHandbook.pdf.) An analytical paper of a very high quality in layout, organization and presentation is expected. Late papers will not be accepted without a written medical excuse. The essay is due March 20.

4) Graduate Student Historiography
All graduate students are required to write a 5000 word (approximately 20 double-spaced and typed pages) historiographical paper on one of themes or military leaders discussed during the course in addition to the major course essay. The historiography must analyze the major trends in the literature. It is expected to be very high quality in layout, organization and presentation. Late papers will not be accepted without a written medical excuse. The essay is due March 20.

NOTE:

ANY STUDENT WHO HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY TAKEN A COURSE IN CANADIAN MILITARY HISTORY IS EXPECTED TO PURCHASE AND READ GRANATSTEINS Canada’s Army: Waging War and Keeping the Peace BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS. ANY STUDENT WHO HAS NOT HAD A GENERAL HISTORY OF CANADA FROM 1867-1945 IS EXPECTED TO PURCHASE AND READ ANY STANDARD UNIVERSITY LEVEL TEXT ON POST-CONFEDERATION CANADA BEFORE THE FIRST CLASS.

Please note that Theses and Dissertations are available from the library’s document delivery department as are articles from journals that are not part of the UofC collection. Allow 3 weeks for delivery and note that there are no renewals on borrowing. Standard borrowing time is 2 weeks. Please consult the librarian in charge of military collections during your search. Please give The Military Museums at least a five-day notice if you
wish to receive articles/books from their library. If you intend to visit their library, give the library staff at least 24 hours notice.

14 January:
CLASS ONE:
Introduction

21 January:
CLASS TWO: Required Assigned Readings (All Students)

- Norman Dixon, *On the Psychology of Military Incompetence*
- Bernd Horn and Stephen Harris (eds), *Warrior Chiefs: Perspectives on Senior Canadian Military Leaders* (Chpts. 4-8).

28 January:
CLASS THREE: The Development of the Canadian Officer Corps


James Eayrs, *In Defence of Canada: From the Great War to the Great Depression*, ("Educating Officers")


4 February

**CLASS FOUR: Selecting the Canadian Officer Corps in WWII**


- Stephen J. Harris, *Canadian Brass*, 210-212 (Epilogue)

- C.P. Stacey, *Six Years of War*, 127-132.


- Terry Copp and Bill McAndrew, *Battle Exhaustion: Soldiers and Psychiatrists in the Canadian Army, 1939-1945* (psychiatric qualifications and standards for military leaders).


- Allan English, *The Cream of the Crop: Canadian Air Crew, 1939-1945*.


**11 February**

**CLASS FIVE: A.G.L. McNaughton: Engineer as Army Commander – Innovator or Tinkerer?**

• John Swettenham, *McNaughton, Volume 2*, entire book but especially 271-287 (The Shoals of Politics’).
• *Field Marshal Lord Alanbrooke War Diaries: 1939-1945*, ed. Alex Danchev and Daniel Todman, throughout – refer to index.
• B. Nolan, *King’s War: Mackenzie King and the Politics of War, vol. II*, refer to index.
• C.P. Stacey, *Arms, Men and Governments*, 210-247.
• Coleman, R.C. *General A.G.L. McNaughton and the Command Control of the Canadian Army, 1939-1943*.

**18 February**

Reading Week.

**25 February**

**CLASS SIX: Army Commander Harry Crerar**

• Terry Copp, *Fields of Fire: The Canadians in Normandy*, throughout – see index.
• Bill McAndrew, *Liberation: The Canadians in Europe*, 125-144.
• R.W. Thompson, *The Battle for the Rhineland*, see index.
• Dean Oliver, “In the Shadow of the Corps: Historiography, Generalship, and Harry Crerar,” in *Warrior Chiefs*, ed. Horn and Harris, 91-106.
• Denis and Shelagh Whitaker, *Rhineland: The Battle to End the War*.
• Carlo D’Este, *Decision in Normandy*, 352-369 (Operation ‘Goodwood’).
• Jon Guttmann, “Closing the Falaise Pocket,” *World War II* 16:3 (Sep 2001), overview.
• Mark Zuehlke, *Juno Beach: Canada’s D-Day Victory, June 6, 1944*.

4 March

**CLASS SEVEN: Two Corps Commanders: Guy Simonds and E.L.M. Burns**

• Lt. Col. Burns, “A Division that can Attack,” in Canadian Defence Quarterly, 3 April 1938; Captain GG Simonds, “An Army that can Attack- A Division that can Defence” in CDQ, 4 July 1938, 413-417; Burns, “Where do Tanks Belong?” in CDQ, 1 October 1938, 28-31; and Captain GG Simonds, “What Price Assault without Support?” in CDQ, 2 January 1939, 142-147. (NOTE: 1938-1939 copies are missing from the UofC library stacks but are available at the front desk.)
• Lt.Col. Roman Jarymowycz, “General Guy Simonds: The Commander as Tragic Hero” in Warrior Chiefs: Perspectives on Senior Canadian Military Leaders, 107-142.
• Terry Copp, Fields of Fire: the Canadians in Normandy. Throughout.
• Terry Copp, Cinderella Army: the Canadians in northwest Europe, 1944-1945. Throughout.
• John English, A Study of Failure in High Command, 289-304 (Operation ‘Tractable’).
• Horn and Wyczynsk, “ELM. Burns Canada’s Intellectual General” in Warrior Chiefs, 143-164.
• J.L. Granatstein, The Generals, 116-144.

• McAndrew, “Eighth Army at the Gothic Line: The Dog-Fight,” *RUSI Journal* 131 (June 1986). (NOTE: UofC library does not have RUSI 1986. See Front Desk.)

• Brian Reid, *No Holding Back: Operation Totalize, Normandy, August 1944.*

11 March
CLASS EIGHT: Chris Vokes and Bert Hoffmeister


• Lee Windsor, “Quansem ilep, I Canadian Corps breaks the Gothic line: Summer 1944,” MA Thesis, Wilfried Laurier University, 1996. ILL.


• J.L. Granatstein, *The Generals.* pg. 179-203

• E.L.M. Burns, *General Mud.* Throughout.

• Chris Vokes with John MacLean. *Vokes: My Story.*


• Rowland Ryder. *Oliver Lease.* 188, 265 290-291


• Sydney Frost, *Once a Patricia: Memoirs of a Junior Infantry Officer in WW II.*

• Sheldorf Bidwell and Dominick Graham, *Tug of War: The Battle for Italy.*


• W.J. McAndrew, *Canadians and the Italian Campaign,* 1943—45. Throughout.


• Mark Zuehlke, *Ortona: Canada’s Epic World War II Battle.* Throughout.

• J.L. Granatstein, *Canada's Army: Waging War and Keeping the Peace.* See

**18 March**

**CLASS NINE: Percy Nelles and L.M. Murray**

• Michael Whitby, *The Admirals: Canada's Senior Naval Leadership in the Twentieth Century,* Ch.s 3 and 4.
• M. Milner, *North Atlantic Run: The Royal Canadian Navy and the Battle for the Convoy.*
• M. Milner, *U-Boat Hunters: the Royal Canadian Navy and the Offensive against Germany's Submarines.*
• R. Sarty, *Canada and the Battle of Atlantic.*
• M. Milner, *Canada’s Navy: The First Century.*
• Michael Hadley, *U-Boats against Canada: German Submarines in Canadian Waters.*
• James Boutilier, *The RCN in Retrospect, 1910-1968.*
• J. Eayrs, *In Defence of Canada: Appeasement and Rearmament.*
• James Lamb, *On the Triangle Run.*
25 March
CLASS TEN: G.E. Brookes, and Mike MacEwan

- Historical Section, *The RCAF Overseas; the Sixth Year*. See Index.

1 April
CLASS ELEVEN: Megill and Rockingham

NB: The Military Museums Archive houses interviews with Megill.

- Terry Copp, *Cinderella Army*, throughout (see index).
- Terry Copp, “Opening up the Channel Ports” (Part 31); “Canadian Participation in the World War Two Battle to Win the Breskens Pocket” (Part 351); “The Start of the Rhineland Offensive” (Part 42). All parts can be attained from the [LegionMagazine.com](http://www.wlu.ca/lcmsds/cmh/cmhindex.html)
- Paul Hutchinson, *Canada’s Black Watch: The First Hundred Years, 1862-1962*.
- W. Denis Whitaker and Shelagh Whitaker, *Tug of War: The Canadian Victory that Opened Antwerp*, 178-211.
- Consult also the individual regimental archival holdings at the Military Museums.
8 April
CLASS TWELVE: Innovation and Leadership in a Reserve and a PF Battalion: Ross Ellis (Calgary Highlanders) and Cameron Ware (PPCLI).
NB: The Military Museums Archive houses the Ross Ellis Papers, the Cameron Ware Papers, interviews with Ellis and War and evaluative studies of Operation Spring and Verrières Ridge.

- Terry Copp, *Cinderella Army*, See Index.
- Terry Copp, *Fifth Brigade*, Throughout.
- G.R. Stevens et al., *Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry, 1919-1957* (among other regimental histories).