**U.S. Military Culture**

**Description and Syllabus**

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| Instructor | Réka Fehér | E-mail | Feher.reka.d@gmail.com |
| Office | Room 439 | Office Hours | Tuesday 1300-1500 |

**Course Description:** We will be examining American military culture. We will look at the various issues the military faces in society and we will investigate how American society deals with the American military.

**Attendance:** Come to every single class. The university allows you to miss three (3) classes, if you miss four (4) you fail for the entire semester. I take a note of all late students. Three (3) late occasions equals one (1) missed class. It adds up very quickly, so arrange you matters accordingly. It is your responsibility to know how many classes you have missed and how many times you have been late. I will not remind you at every class.

If I see you using your phone in class you will be marked as absent. That includes taking notes. Please refrain from checking your email or Facebook/Twitter/Instagram etc during class. If I find you not paying attention during class and looking at other stuff on your chosen piece of technology you will be sent out of the room. If your mind is not on the class there is no reason for you to be there, bothering others who want to pay attention and learn.

**Expectations:** This class is structured around conversation. If you do not choose to take part in the conversation, you will be deducted points from your semester grade. The more people who do not speak during class, the stricter the exam will have to be at the end of the semester.

One of the criteria to pass the class will be to lead a discussion. Everyone will sign up for one reading assignment. Your job will be to bring 3-5 questions about that reading and moderate a discussion among your peers. You will need to submit those questions to me ahead of time, the deadline is the day before class, in an email to get an ok.

You will also need to hand in an essay at the end of the semester. This will be due the last week of classes. The essay needs to be 6-8 fully written pages, formatted according to MLA. The topic of the essay will be one movie of your choice where the military is featured, but does not contribute to the plot. In the essay, your job will be to analyze the role of the military and how it is portrayed in the movie of your choice.

How to fail the class:

1. Gather four (4) absences. This can either be by not showing up to class four times or a combination of not showing up and being chronically late.
2. If you choose to not take part in any of the discussions, you will fail the class. The structure of the class is built around in-class discussions.
3. If you do not do the discussion leading during the semester, you will fail the class.
4. If you do not approve your essay topic with me before writing the essay, I will fail you for the semester.
5. If you plagiarize your essay, you will automatically fail for the entire semester. I am providing you with two (2) different guides on how not to plagiarize. Plagiarism is a serious offence and will have serious consequences. If you still do not understand what plagiarism is, please follow this link: <http://seaswiki.elte.hu/studies/plagiarism>

**Evaluation:**

Active in-class participation: 30%

Discussion leading: 10%

Essay: 60%

**Final Course Grades:**

*All* of the above will need to be completed and not more than three missed classes for the following grades to be assigned.

100% to 91% = 5

90% to 81% = 4

80% to 71% = 3

70% to 60% = 2

**Rules of the class:** No off color language will be tolerated (I can joke, you can joke, but we will not put someone down, we will not make anyone feel uncomfortable). You should turn your mobiles off when you enter the classroom. If you are late, do not knock, just come in as unobtrusively as possible and take a seat.

**Important link:**

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xzJjZ5XVKsS11l1H2Q53HyOWEZw8XmT2?usp=sharing>

Schedule Spring 2019

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Class | Subject | Reading |
| 1 | Feb 13 | Introduction | Syllabus |
| 2 | Feb 20 | Military structure basics | 1) https://psmag.com/news/the-u-s-military-needs-a-major-makeover - Vojtkovszky Anett  AND  2) <http://www.businessinsider.com/how-the-us-military-spends-its-billions-2015-8> - Polgár Ramóna  AND  3) <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2011/01/why-our-best-officers-are-leaving/308346/> - Ezeala Vera |
| 3 | Feb 27 | Military and politics | 4) <https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2010/12/why-some-veterans-hate-it-when-you-say-thank-you/339407/> -  AND  5) <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-tragedy-of-the-american-military/383516/> -  AND  6) <https://www.militarytimes.com/news/pentagon-congress/2019/02/12/trump-says-planning-underway-for-july-4-parade-or-gathering-after-cost-scuttled-proposed-military-parade/> - Sólya Anna |
| 4 | Mar 6 | Military recruitment | 7) “The Suburban Revolution” – Molnár Réka  AND  8) <https://progressive.org/dispatches/how-african-american-wwii-veterans-were-scorned-by-the-g-i-b/> - Kovács Bence  AND  9) <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/05/29/study-profits-raise-tuition-post-911-gi-bill-benefit-grows> - |
| 5 | Mar 13 | Military recruitment continued | 10) <http://www.militarytimes.com/articles/the-us-military-has-a-huge-problem-with-obesity-and-its-only-getting-worse> - Amer Faris  AND  11) <http://www.businessinsider.com/army-changing-recruiting-standards-to-attract-more-soldiers-2017-10> - Szennay Éva  AND  12) <https://www.stripes.com/news/as-women-make-strides-in-military-battle-remains-to-address-retention-recruitment-gaps-1.517910> - Kovács Viktória |
| 6 | Mar 20 | Military advertising |  |
| 7 | Mar 27 | Military and the media | 13) <http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/7/29/hollywood-and-thepentagonarelationshipofmutualexploitation.html> - Sudár Dániel  AND  14) <https://socialwebtactics.com/government-social-media/how-the-us-military-uses-instagram/> - Filep Ádám  AND  15) <https://www.americanheritage.com/media-and-military> - Saidaer Duolikun |
| 8 | Apr 3 | Military and sports | 16)<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2010/09/drill-and-kill-how-americans-link-war-and-sports/63832/> - Kristofóri Botond  AND  17) <https://www.si.com/more-sports/2017/01/19/sports-us-military-connection> - Tóthová Barbara  AND  18) <https://sports.vice.com/en_us/article/nzx95m/us-citizens-paid-68-million-to-pro-sports-teams-for-military-ads> - Nagy Áron |
| 9 | Apr  10 | Military and race | 19) <http://freakonomics.com/2008/09/22/who-serves-in-the-military-today/> - Tóth Viktória  AND  20) <https://www.thebalance.com/gang-activity-in-the-u-s-military-3354199> - Bódis Laura |
| 10 | Apr 17 | Spring Break | Enjoy! |
| 11 | Apr 24 | No class | Student conference |
| 12 | May 1 | No class | National holiday! |
| 13 | May 8 | Military veterans | <http://www.businessinsider.com/veterans-face-a-huge-problem-most-people-dont-understand-2015-11>  AND  <http://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/having-served-u-s-military-immigrants-fight-deportation-orders-n718031> |
| 14 | May 15 | No class | Class cancelled |