**Military History Syllabus**

**Course Description and Objectives:** This course will survey world history through the lens of conflict and military tactics, beginning with pre-history through modern times. Students will study the basics causes of conflict and apply these continuities to specific conflicts through history. Students will evaluate consistent principles of war as they apply to specific conflicts. Students will analyze change and continuity to military conflict. Several overarching themes will be emphasized: 1. How war influenced the society during particular periods, 2. How has technology impacted warfare, and how warfare has impacted technological advancements, 3. How individual soldiers experienced warfare, 4. How warfare has impacted the course of human events, 5. Develop an understanding of historical chronology by studying conflict. Students will develop analytical skills by working with primary and secondary resources especially as they apply to the disciplines of history and geography.

**Course Rationale**: Armed conflict is one of the most enduring and unfortunate features of human history. The continuity of conflict throughout the human experience makes it a particularly important aspect of historical study. Additionally, the changes and impact of conflict on the human condition make it doubly important to study. This class will promote an interest in the study of history that a normal world history class simply does not. This course is offered not only to gain an understanding of human conflict, but to develop the historical analysis skills required in other social studies courses. This course is not designed to glorify war and will emphasize the horrors and terrible impact of conflict.

“With 2,000 years of examples behind us we have no excuse when fighting, for not fighting well.” T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia).

**Unit One**

1. Causes of War

2. Earliest examples of War (human character?)

3. Weaponology, Warrior class, development of the professional soldier.

4. “Art of War” Sun Tzu

5. Formation and Maneuver.

**Unit Two**

1. Bronze Age Warfare, Egypt, Battles of the Bible

2. Persia and Greece

3. Shield Wall Practice Experiment

4. Alexander the Great. River Crossing vs. enemy held bank

**Unit Three**

1. Roman War Machine

2. Hannibal of Carthage, and the 2nd Punic War

3. Cesar in Gaul

4. Germanic tribes

5. Campaign Analysis (Ancient Battles)

**Unit Four**

1. Dark Ages, Feudal military contract

2. The Mongols… the world’s greatest war machine.

3. The Castle: Defenses and reduction of

4. Vikings… nomads of the seas

**Unit Five**

1. Europe, the Crucible of the Modern Military 1500-1850

2. Agincourt,

3. Gun powder and the gun.

3. English Civil War.

**Unit Six**

1. Napoleon, and the linear Firing line.

2. Naval Warfare… Europe’s projection of power. Battle of Trafalgar

3. American Civil War… seeds of Industrial application to Warfare.

4. Campaign Analysis.

**Unit Seven**

1. World War One (the Great War).

2. Trench Warfare and Technological advances.

**Unit Eight**

1. WWII: Blitzkrieg and Mobilized Armor.

2. WWII: Airpower

3. WWII: Pacific Theater

4. WWII: Atomic Bomb

**Unit Nine**

1. Cold War Conflict… Limited War.

2. Korea, and Vietnam.

3. Guerrilla Warfare.

**Unit Ten**

1. 1st Gulf War, and Single Superpower imbalance.

2. Terrorism, Afghanistan and Iraq.

3. Future of War

**Grading**: Grades will divided into two categories: Goal Four assignments, and Evaluative Assessments. Goal Four assignments will include: bell ringers, short assignments, participation, small group work, progress checks, and various other assignments… this category will be worth 20% of your grade. Evaluative Assessments will include: tests, quizzes, debates, and presentations, and will be worth 80% of your overall grade. Evaluative assessments will be categorized in one of five social studies skill sets: History, Civics, Economics, Geography, and Social Studies