

## **HIST 274: History of Warfare Final Exam (Take-home essays)**

On Monday, April 25, I will post on E-Racer a total of **five** essay questions in two categories: “war and society” and “military techniques.” You will answer **two** questions (one from each category). The questions will be designed to cover the broad themes of the class and enable you to demonstrate connections between different parts of the course.

Answer **each** of the questions with an essay that makes an **argument** with a strong thesis statement using historical **evidence**.

Your answers should draw upon evidence from different eras; that is, you should demonstrate your engagement with the readings and discussions **over the whole semester**.

You **must give citations** using either footnotes or parenthetical citations. If you do not give a citation, you will not receive credit for the information. To cite a primary or secondary source, include at least author, title and page number. (publication information is not required for this assignment). To cite a class lecture or discussion, write: (Class lecture, [date of class period]).

Your essays should be 600-1200 words **each** (2-4 double-spaced pages each). (Write them as two separate essays, but put them in one Word document).

Your answers must be **typed** and should be in “**formal English**.” (I.e. don’t use slang or text-message spelling)

Clearly **identify which question you are answering** for each essay.

Submit your essays via turnitin.com by 11:30 am on Monday, May 2.

Early submissions are appreciated. Late submissions will be penalized **2% per hour late, including overnight**. After Tuesday, May 3 at 11:30, I will not accept submissions at all.

Grading: You will be graded on how well your essays make a **persuasive argument** in answer to the question asked and the use of **specific historical evidence** from the course materials to support that argument.

The final exam (I.e. both essay questions together) will be worth 25% of your course grade.

**HIST 274: History of Warfare**  
**Final Exam (Take-home essays)**

*War and Society:*

Choose **one** of the following examples of **differences in culture** and explain how it has influenced warfare: perceptions/treatment of enemies from other cultures; the use of allies and/or techniques from other cultures; differing expectations or “victory conditions”.

How has warfare been **shaped or influenced by non-military aspects** of the societies that participated? **or** how has warfare shaped or influenced society more broadly?

(Note: by “non-military” I mean that your answer should not focus on maneuvering and managing an army in the field, but rather on what is “back home”, on the actions, concerns, etc. of the larger society.)

Consider (again) Hanson’s concept of a “**Western way of war,**” including an emphasis on decisive battles, the importance of precise training, and the prominence of “civic warfare” (I.e. a connection between military service and political participation). What are the strengths **and** weaknesses of this conceptualization of the history of warfare?

*Military Techniques:*

Consider the principles of ancient warfare—primarily the **principles of Sun Tzu** and/or the **phalanx** (I.e. a “unified front” type of infantry formation). In what ways have these persisted throughout the history of warfare? How have they been changed? (Note: you are **not** required to cover both Sun Tzu and the phalanx in your answer.)

Agree or disagree with the following statement: **weapons technology** is the single most important factor in predicting success in warfare.

**Note** that a successful essay will discuss in detail several **other factors**, whether to explain why they are more important than weapons technology or to explain why weapons technology is more important.

**Note** that a successful essay will make an argument that incorporates the premodern, early-modern, and twentieth century eras.