REQUIRED TEXTS (all paperbacks)
*(Either the May or Johnson book is required. Students can choose either one. The book not chosen is strongly recommended but is not required.)

WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS
1/25 Introduction
Course objectives and requirements will be detailed (see IMPORTANT NOTES, p. 3); student expectations and questions will be voiced; and the first of many documentary films about 20th and 21st-century wars and the Cold War will be viewed and discussed.

2/1 Documentary and Nondocumentary Films on War and Cold War: Praise and Criticism

2/8 Sources of International Conflicts and Origins of World War I
Nye, pp. xi-xviii, Chapters 1-3, and pp. 289-292.

2/15 NO CLASS (President’s Day)
World War II, Cold War, and Post-Cold War Conflicts
Nye, Chapters 4-6.

2/22 A New Global World Order
Nye, Chapters 7-9.
3/1 Overview and Analysis of 20th and 21st-Century Wars: The Great Train Crash

3/8 Empire-States
Ferguson, Chapters 6-10.

3/15 Killing Space
Ferguson, Chapters 11-14.

3/22 A Tainted Triumph
Ferguson, Chapters 15-16, Epilogue, and Appendix.

3/29 NO CLASS (Passover)
No additional readings.

4/5 NO CLASS (Easter)
Initiating War; OR Initiating Militarism and Imperialism
May, Introduction and Chapters 1-6; OR Johnson, Prologue and Chapters 1-2.

4/12 Waging War; OR Waging Militarism and Imperialism
May, Chapters 7-11; OR Johnson, Chapters 3-5.

4/19 Ending War; OR Ending Militarism and Imperialism
May, Chapters 12-15; OR Johnson, Chapters 6-7.

4/26 EMAIL (STANDARD MICROSOFT WORD ONLY) A DETAILED OUTLINE OF YOUR FINAL PAPER TO THE INSTRUCTOR (eph@albany.edu) FOR FEEDBACK; SEE WEEK 5/3 INSTRUCTIONS
No additional readings. Write final paper.

5/3 FINAL PAPER DUE
Your paper is to be an essay that presents and defends YOUR VIEWS on the most important and contentious ISSUES raised in this entire course. Your essay should COMPARE and EVALUATE almost all of the course readings and films. Your essay should be creative, reflective, and comprehensive and well-argued, well-organized, and well-documented (this is not to be a research project, narrative history, or descriptive summary of class materials). Papers are to be a minimum of 20 pages, typewritten, double-spaced, and numbered with simple footnotes (e.g., Ferguson, p. 354). NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED (unless you have a medical or family emergency, you notify the instructor and dean before 5/3, and you provide documentation to the dean soon thereafter).
IMPORTANT NOTES

Course Objectives: The instructor’s chief objective is to develop students’ analytical and interpretive skills and students’ knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of modern wars (e.g., global, regional, civil, proxy, and nonstate wars). To achieve this objective we will explore the interplay between war and film. We will focus on documentary films about World Wars I and II, the Cold War, and the post-Cold War conflicts. We will compare the intent and content of diverse documentaries and experience their visual and aural and intellectual and emotional effects. We will have postfilm discussions, occasional lectures, and ample reading and writing assignments. This is a writing intensive course.

Course Requirements: One analytical and interpretive essay paper based on the readings, lectures, documentaries, and postfilm discussions (see week 5/3 for specifics). The paper will count 67% and class participation 33% of a student’s course grade. There will not be a final or midterm examination.

Regular and prompt class attendance is expected and essential to benefit from and contribute to this course. Class attendance will not be taken, but class participation is a significant component of this course and of a student’s course grade.

Keeping up with the readings on a weekly basis is also expected and essential. Students who are well prepared for class will benefit much more from the documentary films and will contribute much more to class discussions. Also, students will be expected to incorporate into their papers key information presented and discussed in almost all classes. And students will be expected to view some additional documentaries outside of class.

All required texts should be purchased from Mary Jane’s or elsewhere as soon as possible. Remember that bookstores often return unsold books to the publisher before the semester ends. If necessary, split the expense with a fellow student.

It will be a VERY FIRM POLICY NOT TO GIVE “INCOMPLETES” in this course (except for medical, personal, or family emergencies reported to and approved by the Dean).

On the nature and consequences of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism), read and heed the important UAlbany booklet, COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, 2007-2010, especially Appendix C.

The instructor’s email is eph@albany.edu and his office hours are: Mondays, 1:15-2:30 (uptown); Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 (downtown); and by appointment. The uptown office is the Rockefeller College contact office, Humanities 016 (call 442-3112 for an appointment); the downtown office is Richardson 284 (442-5376). If you cannot visit or call during these hours, simply talk to the instructor before or after class and arrange a mutually convenient time to get together—quite possibly over coffee or lunch. No calls at home, please.