Sea Power
NS 1323
Spring 2027

Instructor:
LCDR Bridgid Silberstein
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Course Description:
This course surveys U.S. Naval history from its European origin to the present with emphasis on major developments and the geopolitical forces shaping these developments. The course also covers present-day concerns in seapower and maritime affairs, including the economic and political issues of maritime commerce, the law of the sea, and the rise and decline of the Soviet Navy. The core competencies in this area include but are not limited to maritime strategy, missions and functions of the Navy, geography as related to maritime strategy, the evolution of sea power, and the history of the U.S. Navy and USMC.

Guidelines for Completing and Submitting Homework Assignments
- All assignments shall be typed on a computer and submitted electronically via Canvas or via email.
- You must work on *all* of your assignments independently, unless specifically directed to work in a group. Think of each assignment as an open-book, open-note exam.
- All assignments are to be turned in at 0730 on the date designated in the class schedule.
- One **full** grade level will be deducted from assignments for each day the assignment is late.
- If you are sick, out of town, or for any other reason unable to turn in an assignment notify the instructor as soon as possible. Be prepared to provide documentation supporting the reason you were unable to turn in the assignment.

Texts and Reference Material
- America, Sea Power, and the World. James C. Bradford (provided)

Description of Graded Components
- PARTICIPATION: You will be expected to actively participate in each class. Class discussion is key to enabling a better understanding of the material covered. The determination of the grade value of your participation will be at my discretion and will not be up for debate. Attendance is required for active participation; however, students will not be penalized for authorized absences.
- QUIZ: A short (no more than 5 questions) test of knowledge about the required reading, previous lesson, or discussion.
- PRESENTATION: An oral history presentation followed by a question and answer period. You should demonstrate your ability to explain a historical topic clearly, place it in context, and communicate its significance to the class. Details, topics, and presentation dates will be discussed in class.
- MIDTERM: A comprehensive examination evaluating your understanding of the topics covered in class, assigned readings, and previous discussions through the midpoint of the course. The examination may include multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or other objective questions designed to assess both knowledge and comprehension of course material.

- FINAL: A comprehensive examination evaluating your understanding of the major concepts, topics, and material presented throughout the course. The final will assess your ability to recall, understand, and apply knowledge gained from lectures, discussions, readings, and other assigned course materials.

At Georgia Tech, final course grades are awarded on a scale of A-F with no +/- grades permitted.

Grading Breakdown
Participation: 10%
Quizzes: 15%
Midterm: 25%
Presentation: 25%
Final: 25%

Attendance
Attendance is required for all class sessions. This course is designed around classroom instruction, discussion, and participation, and regular attendance is essential to achieving the course learning objectives. Students are expected to arrive on time, be prepared for class, and remain for the duration of the scheduled class period.

Students who are unable to attend class are responsible for notifying the instructor as soon as possible and, when appropriate, providing documentation for an excused absence. Being absent does not relieve a student of responsibility for material covered in class, assignments due, or announcements made during the missed class period. Students are responsible for obtaining missed notes, materials, and information from a classmate or Canvas.

Participation
Participation is an important component of this course. Students are expected to actively engage in lectures, discussions, activities, and other classroom exercises. Effective participation includes asking and answering questions, contributing thoughtfully to discussions, listening respectfully to classmates, and demonstrating preparation for class.

Participation also includes professional conduct. Students are expected to remain attentive throughout class, refrain from using electronic devices for non-course-related activities, and demonstrate the professionalism, maturity, and respect expected of a future naval officer.

Academic Integrity
Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review Georgia Tech's Honor Code and the student Code of Conduct.
Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.
Any NROTC midshipman suspected of cheating or plagiarism will be subject to a Performance Review Board and potential disenrollment.

Use of Super Intelligence (SI) Tools
You may use generative SI programs, e.g. ChatGPT, to help generate ideas and brainstorm. You should be aware that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete,

biased or otherwise problematic. Also, use of these tools may stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.
Super Intelligence derives its output from previously created texts from other sources that the models were trained on yet doesn't cite sources. Per Geogia Tech's Honor Code, you may not submit any work generated by an SI program as your own. If you include material generated by an SI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). When/if you use SI platforms in your assignments, please write a note to clarify where in your process you used SI, include the prompt used to generate the material, and which platform(s) you used. See this article for how to cite SI properly: How to cite ChatGPT https://apastyle.apa.org/blog/how-to-cite-chatgpt

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement
At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. The Student-Faculty Expectations articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Academic Support
Academic Success and Advising (a unit in the Office of Undergraduate Education & Student Success) provides free support for your courses. Students can attend scheduled supplemental review (PLUS) sessions, stop by Drop-In Tutoring, or schedule a one-on-one appointment through Knack. To explore what options work best for you, please visit us online at success.gatech.edu/tutoring, email us at tutoring@gatech.edu, or come see us at Clough Undergraduate Learning Commons, Suite 283.

Student Well-Being
At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A comprehensive list of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being.

Professional Disposition
My goal as your instructor is to provide you opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to succeed in a professional environment. **Don’t wait until you graduate to start acting like a professional. Start now.**

Just as you evaluate your instructors at the end of the semester, I will evaluate your professional performance throughout the semester. I will observe your conduct and provide feedback as appropriate. I will be looking for the following:

- **Attendance**: Attendance is required. Be responsible and communicate with the instructor when circumstances prevent you from attending class.

- **Punctuality**: If you arrive at the scheduled start time, you are late. Arrive a few minutes early, settle in, and be prepared to begin class at the scheduled time. You are expected to remain attentive and engaged until I dismiss the class. Do not begin packing up your materials in anticipation of the end of class.
- **Attention**: Pay attention in class. Sleeping, side conversations, reading material unrelated to class, texting, and working on unrelated material are not acceptable. When another student asks a question or makes a comment, listen carefully. Your fellow students deserve the same respect and attention that you expect from the instructor.
- **Participation**: Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. If you have an opinion or question, contribute it to the discussion rather than discussing it privately with a neighbor. Do not be afraid of being wrong. Learning requires taking intellectual risks, asking questions, and being willing to recognize when your understanding is incomplete or incorrect. If you do not understand something, ask.
- **Maturity**: Take responsibility for your decisions and obligations. Do not make excuses or request extensions unless there is a legitimate reason. The standards established in this syllabus apply to all students.
- **Responsibility**: You have the syllabus. Many questions about course requirements, deadlines, and expectations can be answered by reviewing it. Develop the habit of finding information and solving problems independently whenever possible.
- **Communication**: Use a professional tone in email correspondence. You should start with "Ma'am." Spelling, grammar, and punctuation are important. Be direct and to the point. Military acronyms are acceptable. You should close with "Respectfully" or "Very Respectfully."
- **Honesty and Integrity**: This is absolutely the wrong class in which to attempt to cheat. I work hard to provide every student with an equal opportunity to succeed. The consequences for academic misconduct at Georgia Tech can be significant. For students participating in the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps, violations of academic integrity may also have professional consequences to include a Performance Review Board and potential disenrollment from the program with forfeiture of all benefits.

Submitted by:

Bridgid Silberstein

LCDR B. C. SILBERSTEIN

Approved by:

CAPT H. S. VASQUEZ

	SCHEUDLE
12 Jan	Introduction and Syllabus Review
14 Jan	American Revolution
19 Jan	Napoleonic Era
21 Jan	Power Projection and the Technical Revolution
26 Jan	Civil War (Part 1)
28 Jan	Civil War (Part II)
02 Feb	Technology and Infrastructure
04 Feb	Imperialism
09 Feb	World War I
11 Feb	Naval Strategy and Policy
16 Feb	MIDTERM REVIEW
18 Feb	**MIDTERM EXAM**
23 Feb	World War II (Atlantic Campaign)
25 Feb	World War II (Pacific Campaign)
02 Mar	**KSU SPRING BREAK (GT & GSU Only) –** Early Cold War
04 Mar	**KSU SPRING BREAK (GT & GSU Only) –** Containment
09 Mar	**GT SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**
11 Mar	**GT SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**
16 Mar	**GSU SPRING BREAK (KSU Only) –** Early Cold War
18 Mar	**GSU SPRING BREAK (KSU Only) –** Containment
23 Mar	Vietnam War
25 Mar	Retrenchment and Soviet Collapse
30 Mar	Student Presentations
01 Apr	Student Presentations
06 Apr	Student Presentations
08 Apr	Student Presentations
13 Apr	Student Presentations
15 Apr	Student Presentations
20 Apr	FINAL EXAM REVIEW
22 Apr	**FINAL EXAM**