



## Department of History

HTST 486  
History of Air Power  
Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. David J. Bercuson

**Teaching Assistant:** Ms. Victoria Sotvedt ([vmmcgowa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vmmcgowa@ucalgary.ca)).

**Email:** bercuson@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours and Location/Method:** 12:30 – 13:30 Mondays and Wednesdays SS642

**Class Room Location, Days and Times:** SS 109, MWF  
1100-1150.

### Description

Through an examination of the historical development of airpower from ancient myths to modern air combat, students will be given an opportunity to follow the development of air warfare from the use of balloons beginning in the 18th century to powered flight beginning with the Wright Brothers through two world wars up to the use of precision guided munitions in the 1990s. The impact of airpower on politics and diplomacy will be followed. Technological change will be outlined. The impact of airpower on war, on land and at sea, will be developed.

### Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, students will

- have been given the opportunity to understand the impact of airpower on modern war.
- Have further developed their formal writing skills

### Reading Material

Budiansky, Stephen – *Air Power: The Men, Machines, and Ideas that Revolutionized War, From Kitty Hawk to Iraq*. This book is available at the University of Calgary Bookstore. Kindle and e-versions are acceptable as are earlier editions.

### Grading Policies

Letter grades will be given for all assignments and then converted for a weighted calculation in conformity with the departmental grading system table below.

Midterm Examination	February 15 (4:00 pm)	30%
---------------------	-----------------------	-----

Term Paper	March 10 (4:00 pm)	30%
Take Home Final Examination	April 19 (4:00 pm)	40%

**There is no registrar-scheduled final exam.**

### **Details on Methods of Assessment**

**Mid-term:** A take home examination will be distributed by email on Wednesday, February 8. There will be three questions, students will answer one question. The exam answer must be returned by email to the Teaching Assistant by Wednesday, February 15, 2023 1600 hours (4:00 PM) ([vmmcgowa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:vmmcgowa@ucalgary.ca)). Exam answers must be limited to 750 words.

**Research Paper:** A research paper complete with bibliography and footnotes must be completed and emailed to the instructor as outlined below ([bercuson@ucalgary.ca](mailto:bercuson@ucalgary.ca)). Essays must be written in STRICT CONFORMITY with The History Student's Handbook (<https://arts.ucalgary.ca/history/current-students/undergraduate/student-handbook>). Deadlines are strictly enforced. Students may only ask extensions in the case of illness or emergency and should contact the instructor to make alternate arrangements. Class lectures are not to be used to cite information. Textbooks are not to be used to cite information. The essay will be due on March 10, 2023 at 1600 (4:00 pm). Please do not ask for extensions.

Students will select paper topics in consultation with the instructor or TA. All topics must be approved.

**ALL ESSAYS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL IN WORD FORMAT.**

**Final examination:** this will be a “take-home” exam with questions to be distributed by email Wednesday, April 5, 2023 and returned to the instructor by email by 1600 (4:00 pm) on April 19, 2022. All written assignments will be assessed based on completeness, depth of analysis, and writing style. Contributions to online discussions will be assessed based on quality and quantity of the contributions.

### **Learning Technologies Requirements**

There is a D2L site for this course that contains relevant class resources and materials. In order to successfully engage in learning experiences in this class, students will need reliable access to the following technology: internet access and a computer, tablet, or other device to access D2L.

### **Details on Methods of Assessment**

Letter grades will be given for all assignments (A,B,C, etc). The final grade will be calculated from the grades for (1) take-home mid-term, (2) term paper and (3) take-home final. The letter grade will in each case be assigned a numerical value as follows: a mid-term grade of “B” will be assigned 21 points. A similar grade on the research paper will be assigned a similar value of 21. A final exam grade of “A” is assigned a value of 40. Adding up the three values gives a final grade of 82 which is a B+. A table of values is available on request.

### **Lecture Topics**

An examination of the history of air power around the world from before the advent of heavier-than-air craft to the mid 1990s. Topics include technological evolution, strategy, operations and tactics, the political uses of air power, air power in the world wars and the Cold War and air power doctrine and utilization in the post-Cold War era.

1. Early airpower thought in literature, art and religion
2. From Kittyhawk to 1914.
3. Rise of the fighter plane in the First World War
4. Strategic, tactical and naval air power in the First World War
5. Inter-war air power theorists
6. Inter-war aircraft design and procurement
7. “The bomber will always get through.”
8. Eagles over Europe: The *Luftwaffe*’s early successes
9. The Battle of Britain and the Blitz
10. RAF Bomber Command at war
11. Film: *Night Bombers*
12. The United States Army Air Forces and the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force
13. Film: *Memphis Belle*
14. Air power and the Battle of the Atlantic
15. Tactical air power in the Second World War
16. Inter-war air craft carrier development and the Second World War
17. Strategic bombing in the Pacific theatre
18. Dawn of the jet age, Soviet Air power in the Cold War Era
19. USAF and Strategic Air Command
20. The Korean War
21. Air power on the high seas, 1945-1995
22. Vietnam and after

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF  
HISTORY COURSE OUTLINES**

**Departmental Grading System**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Description</b>
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

**Please Note:** Students are expected to reach the grade range to receive that letter grade (ie. to receive an A- a student will have earned an 80 or 3.7 in the course). Assume that there will be no rounding up unless a faculty member announces otherwise.

### **Program Advising and Student Information Resources**

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the [Arts Students Centre](#) (ASC).
- For questions about admissions, student awards, common registration issues, financial aid and student fees, contact [Enrolment Services](#)
- Sometimes unexpected circumstances may affect your schedule. You can change your registration during the course change period. Please see the [Registration Changes and Exemption Requests](#) page.

**Attention history majors:** *History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take this course in your second year.*

### **Writing**

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in [The History Student's Handbook](#).

### **Academic Misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For more information, please see the University of Calgary [Student Academic Misconduct Policy](#) documents, and visit the [Academic Integrity Website](#).

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism occurs when students submit or present the ideas and/or writing of others as if they were their own or when they submit their own work to two different classes. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#) for more details, but to summarize, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers

- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in [the university calendar](#).

### **Academic Accommodation**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the [Student Accommodations policy](#). Students needing an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) in accordance with the [Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#). Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than Disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [Student Accessibility Services](#).

### **Research Ethics**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the [CFREB Ethics](#) website before beginning the assignment.

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **Copyright Legislation**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on [Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright](#) and requirements of [the Copyright Act](#) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under [the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#).

### **Copyright of Educational Materials**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that

instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. Please see the [University of Calgary copyright page](#).

### **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard.

### **Media Recording**

The instructor may use media recordings to record the delivery of a lecture for various reasons, including lecture capture and self-assessment. Students will be informed of media recordings in advance and the recording device will be fixed on the instructor. In the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent from identifiable students, before making a recording available to the class.

### ***Media Recording for the Assessment of Student Learning***

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students, by prior arrangement. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **Sexual Violence Policy**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the [sexual violence policy](#).

### **Other Useful Information**

Please see the Registrar's [Course Outline Student Support and Resources](#) page for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

