

HISTORY 4400 (DHA)
HISTORY OF AVIATION AND AERONAUTICS
Fall Semester 2005

Professor Tim Wolters (twolters@hass.usu.edu; 7-1295)

UTF Jordan Pitcher (jpitcher@cc.usu.edu)

Class: MWF, 9:30 - 10:20 am, Business 218

Office hours: MWF, 2:30 - 3:30pm, Old Main 323F, or by appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

This course serves as an introduction to the history of aviation and aeronautics. It examines selected topics on flight within the earth's atmosphere from an international perspective, with particular emphasis on the United States. The course explores the history of flight and the science of flight within the context of culture, economics, society, politics, technology, and military/naval conflict. Major topics covered include lighter-than-air flight, government support of aviation, the emergence of aeronautical engineering as a professional discipline, military air power doctrine, theory, and practice, the manufacture and design of specific aeronautic technologies, commercial aviation, flight in popular culture, the experiences of women and minorities, rotary-wing aircraft, and civil aviation.

The objectives of this course are: (1) to provide students with a basic understanding of the history of aviation and aeronautics from the origins of flight to the present, (2) to expose students to a wide range of historical sources, including but not limited to contemporary articles, movies, memoirs, and work by professional historians, (3) to teach students how to analyze these types of sources, and (4) to improve students' analytical abilities and written communication skills.

Required Reading:

Tom D. Crouch, *Wings: A History of Aviation from Kites to the Space Age*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2004 [hereafter referred to as *Wings*].

Tom D. Crouch, *The Bishop's Boys: A Life of Wilbur and Orville Wright*, 2nd edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2003 [529 pages].

Richard Overy, *The Battle of Britain: The Myth and the Reality*, 2nd edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2002 [167 pages].

OR

John Lukacs, *Five Days in London: May 1940*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001 [219 pages].

Curtis Peebles, *Dark Eagles: The History of Top Secret U.S. Aircraft*, revised edition. Novato, California: Presidio Press, 1999 [384 pages].

Jill D. Snider, “‘Great Shadow in the Sky’: The Airplane in the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921 and the Development of African American Visions of Aviation, 1921-1926,” 105-146, in Dominick A. Pisano, ed., *The Airplane in American Culture*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 2003.

John S. Thach, “A Beautiful Silver Waterfall,” 49-65, in E. T. Wooldridge, ed., *Carrier Warfare in the Pacific: An Oral History Collection*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1999.

Thomas Petzinger, *Hard Landing: The Epic Contest for Power and Profits that Turned the Airlines into Chaos*. New York: Random House, 1997 [in this class we will be reading chapters 4 and 13 only (37 pages total)].

All books are available at the campus bookstore and will be placed on reserve at the Sci-Tech Library. If you buy your books (recommended for all but Pisano, Wooldridge, and Petzinger), earlier editions are fine with the exception of Peebles (i.e., you must have his revised edition).

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Although it should go without saying in an upper-level class like this one, *required readings are not optional*. If you wish to take a course in which you can “get-by” on lecture notes alone, this is not the class for you. Students who fail to do the required readings, *by the assigned due date*, will have great difficulty achieving a passing grade.

Requirements and Grading:

Final Exam (cumulative) – 25%

Two Response Papers (3-5 pages) – 30% (i.e., each paper counts 15%)

Six Quizzes (lowest dropped) – 25% (i.e., each quiz counts 5%)

Mid-Term Exam – 15%

Class Participation – 5%

Quizzes will be given randomly throughout the semester and are based on the assigned readings. Your lowest quiz grade will be dropped. Missed quizzes cannot be made up. If you have done the assigned reading, you should score very well on these quizzes.

Examinations will be a combination of short answer and/or essay questions. They will be based both on required readings and class lectures.

The response papers will be based on assigned readings. Electronic submissions (in either MSWord or RTF format) are preferred. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances, and only if requested at least 48 hours prior to the due date. Delinquent papers will receive a one-letter grade reduction for every class period they are late.

Numeric scores will be given for all quizzes and exams. These may be converted to letter grades according to the following scale: 97-100 = A+, 93-96 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C, 70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, and <60 = F. For the papers and class participation, a letter grade will be assigned. In calculating a final grade for the course, each letter grade will be converted to the highest number on the scale above. For example, an “A+” paper will receive 100 points, an “A” paper 96 points, an “A-” paper 92 points, a “B+” paper 89 points, and so on down to an “F” paper, which will receive only 50 points. Failure to take a test or turn in response papers will result a score of zero points.

Disability Resource Center:

If accommodations for the course are needed, students should contact the Disability Resource Center, located in the University Inn, Room 101 (7-2444). The Center can provide a copy of this syllabus in a suitable alternate format.

Miscellaneous:

Any cheating, falsification, or presentation of another’s work as your own without proper credit being given (i.e., plagiarism) is a violation of Section V-3 of “The Code of Policies and Procedures for Students at Utah State University” and will lead to one or more of the sanctions described in Section VI-1 of the code. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism, see me BEFORE turning in a given assignment.

University policy states that a student may receive an “I” only for extenuating circumstances, such as serious illness or a death in the family. An incomplete cannot be used to avoid a poor grade or to retain financial aid.

Course Schedule:

MON, AUG 29:	Introduction	
WED, AUG 31:	Aeronautics before the 19th Century	<i>Wings, 19-30</i>
FRI, SEP 2:	Aeronautics during the 19th Century	<i>Wings, 30-53</i>
MON, SEP 5:	No Class – Labor Day	
WED, SEP 7:	How an Airplane Flies: I	<i>Handouts Provided</i>
FRI, SEP 9:	How an Airplane Flies: II	<i>Handouts Provided</i>
MON, SEP 12:	Invention of the Airplane: The Wrights	<i>Crouch, 1-272</i>
WED, SEP 14:	Early Development of the Airplane: I	<i>Wings, 85-118</i>
FRI, SEP 16:	Early Development of the Airplane: II	<i>Wings, 119-150</i>
MON, SEP 19:	World War I: The First Air War, 1914-1916	<i>Wings, 151-181</i>
WED, SEP 21:	World War I: The First Air War, 1916-1918	<i>Wings, 181-194</i>
FRI, SEP 23:	No Class	<i>Crouch, 273-529</i>

MON, SEP 26:	Discussion Section I (papers due 9/23)	Crouch Due
WED, SEP 28:	Discussion Section II (papers due 9/26)	Crouch Due
FRI, SEP 30:	Discussion Section III (papers due 9/28)	Crouch Due
MON, OCT 3:	The Golden Age: Military Aviation	<i>Wings</i> , 195-204; 222-232
WED, OCT 5:	The Golden Age: Commercial Aviation	<i>Wings</i> , 205-218; 232-238
FRI, OCT 7:	The Golden Age: Women & Minorities	Snider, 105-146
MON, OCT 10:	Mid-Term Exam	
WED, OCT 12:	The Design Revolution	<i>Wings</i> , 316-355
FRI, OCT 14:	Exam Review	
MON, OCT 17:	World War II: Manufacturing & Production	<i>Wings</i> , 356-394
WED, OCT 19:	World War II: European Theater	<i>Wings</i> , 395-442
FRI, OCT 21:	World War II: Pacific Theater	Thach, 49-65
MON, OCT 24:	Discussion Section II (papers due 10/21)	Overy or Lukacs Due
WED, OCT 26:	Discussion Section III (papers due 10/24)	Overy or Lukacs Due
FRI, OCT 28:	Discussion Section I (papers due 10/26)	Overy or Lukacs Due
MON, OCT 31:	Arrival of the Jet Age	<i>Wings</i> , 443-464
WED, NOV 2:	Rotary-Wing Aircraft	<i>Wings</i> , 464-476
FRI, NOV 4:	No Class – Academic Conference	
MON, NOV 7:	The Emerging Aerospace Industry	<i>Wings</i> , 476-499; 505-532
WED, NOV 9:	Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD)	<i>Wings</i> , 537-550; 557-565
FRI, NOV 11:	Korea and Vietnam	<i>Wings</i> , 551-557; 570-582
MON, NOV 15:	Postwar Commercial Aviation: I	<i>Wings</i> , 592-601
WED, NOV 17:	Postwar Commercial Aviation: II	Petzinger, 86-105
FRI, NOV 19:	Postwar Commercial Aviation: III	Petzinger, 317-333
MON, NOV 21:	Aviation in an Era of Global Terrorism	<i>Wings</i> , 633-639
WED, NOV 23:	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
FRI, NOV 25:	No Class – Thanksgiving Holiday	
MON, NOV 28:	Discussion Section III (papers due 11/25)	Peebles Due
WED, NOV 30:	Discussion Section I (papers due 11/28)	Peebles Due
FRI, DEC 2:	No Class – “Catch-Up” Day	
MON, DEC 5:	Discussion Section II (papers due 11/30)	Peebles Due
WED, DEC 7:	Aerospace in the 21st Century: I	<i>In-Class Movie</i>
FRI, DEC 9:	Aerospace in the 21st Century: II	<i>In-Class Movie</i>
MON, DEC 12:	Final Exam	9:30 - 11:20am