This seminar offers students an introduction to and interpretation of American “strategic culture,” that is, the habitual ways and purposes that influence when and how the United States uses its military power. Beginning with pre-Revolutionary British roots and charting the effects of the wars from independence in 1776 and 1812, the fulcrum of the course will be a day-long “staff ride” to Gettysburg, taking a role-play approach to understanding the causes, the conduct, and the consequences of the war that ensured America would be “whole and free.” Following an assessment of the post-World War II “world America made,” the course will conclude with a student-led exercise to formulate a strategy for the 21st century.

Monday, June 28, 2010, 9:00 AM – Noon

High Politics and Strategy

Reading:

• Pericles’ Funeral Oration
• Selections from the New Testament, Augustine, and Aquinas (“Just War”)
• Selections from Hobbes (I, II, III) and Machiavelli
• Henry Kissinger, Diplomacy, Chapter 4, “The Concert of Europe”
• The Declaration of Independence

Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 9:00 AM – Noon

Early American Politics and Strategy

Reading:

• Benjamin Franklin’s Albany Plan
• Selections from the Federalist Papers (No. 4, 10, 24, 70)
• Washington’s Farewell Address
• The Northwest Ordinance
• Peter Maslowski, “To the Edge of Greatness: The U.S., 1783-1865,” in The Making of Grand Strategy, Murray, Knox and Bernstein (eds.)
War and Strategy

Reading:

- Selections from Sun Tzu, Art of War, and Carl von Clausewitz, On War

Wednesday, June 30, 2010, 7:30 AM – Noon

Tour of the Gettysburg Battlefield

Reading:

- Michael Shaara, Killer Angels

Thursday, July 1, 2010, 9:00 AM – Noon

Modern American Strategy

Reading:

- NSC 68
- President Bush, National Security Strategy 2002
- Robert Kagan, Return of History and the End of Dreams (selection)
- President Obama, National Security Strategy 2010

Friday, July 2, 2010, 9:00 AM – Noon

Exercise: Developing a U.S. Strategy for 2010-2020

Reading:

- National Intelligence Council, Global Trends 2025: A Transformed World