To: USD 261 Board of Education & Mr. Jeff Hersh

From: Jonathan Dravis, Campus High School Social Studies Teacher

Re: Military History, new course proposal

Date: December 19, 2022

History/Relevance: World History, history of armedconflict, changing military technology, strategy, tactics, motivations, psychology and ethics.

What: Book study on the psychological effects of combat, chronological history of warfare from ancient to modern history, first-hand presentations from military recruiters, first-hand presentations from combat veterans.

Why: Relevant to good citizenship, making informed decisions as it pertains to foreign policy, relevant to military enlistment.

Where: B-11, Campus High School

When: Starting 2023-2024 school year

How: Offer as a semester elective for juniors and seniors

Who: Mr. Dravis

How much: Approximately $450 for book study

Thank you,

Jonathan Dravis

USD 261
HAYSVILLE
SCHOOLS

Military History

A proposition for a new semester course to be offered at Campus High School

Why add military history?

1. This learning opportunity focuses on the history, technology, tactics, and psychology of war. This content is not extensively taught in any other class.
2. This class would provide an opportunity for students to listen to combat veterans and military recruiters.
3. Roughly 10% of Campus seniors enlist in the armed forces after high school, which makes the school a priority 1 school for recruiters.
4. Campus does not offer a JROTC program, while many surrounding districts do.
5. Campus is within a 5-mile radius of McConnell Air Force Base.
6. All of this would make military history class an important part of preparing for a military career.
7. Even for future civilians, understanding the nature and history of armed conflict will better equip students with pertinent knowledge to make informed decisions as American citizens.

What will students learn?

The Students will…

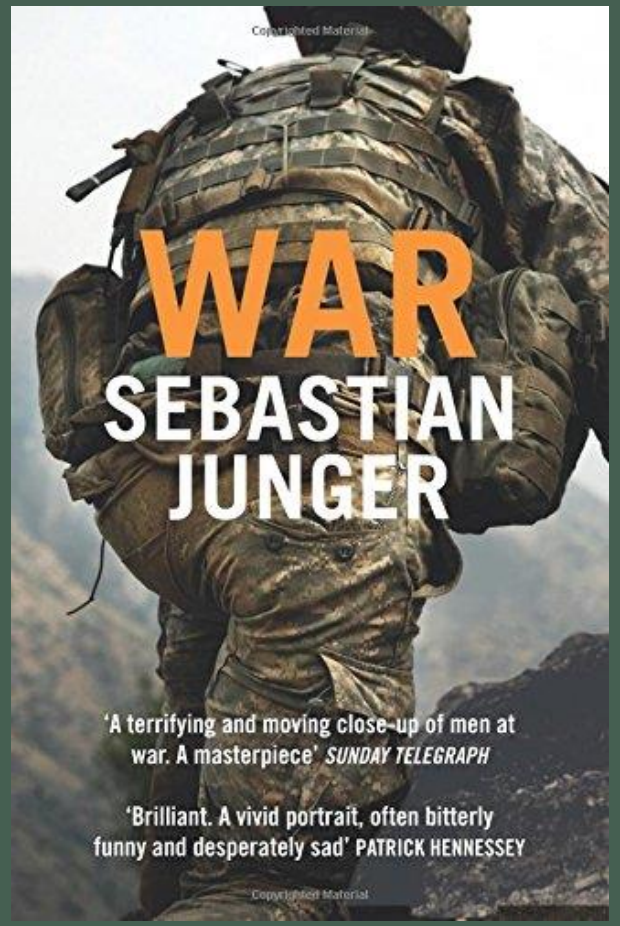
- Discuss how political, social, and economic forces impact the history of war
- Analyze how changes in technology have influenced changes in military methods, tactics, and strategic thinking
- Show influence that military history has had on social life
- Learn about the people and the personalities who are associated with military history
- Study will include military terms, principles, military propaganda, strategies, campaigns, as well as various theories concerning causes of war and peacemaking
- Examine the motivations of soldiers and psychological effects of war

What will students learn?

- In addition to the historical content, I am proposing a book study:

  Sebastian Junger- *War*: The psychology of soldiering as described by a journalist embedded with American soldiers in the Korengal valley of Afghanistan.

  This paperback book is $14.95 on Amazon. One classroom set of 30 would cost $448.50



Connection to KSDE Standards

Kansas History Government and Social Studies Standards

1. Choices have Consequences
2. Individuals have Rights and Responsibilities
3. Societies are shaped by Identities, Beliefs, and Practices of Individuals and Groups
4. Societies Experience Continuity and Change Over Time
5. Relationships among People, Places, Ideas, and Environments are Dynamic

Military History

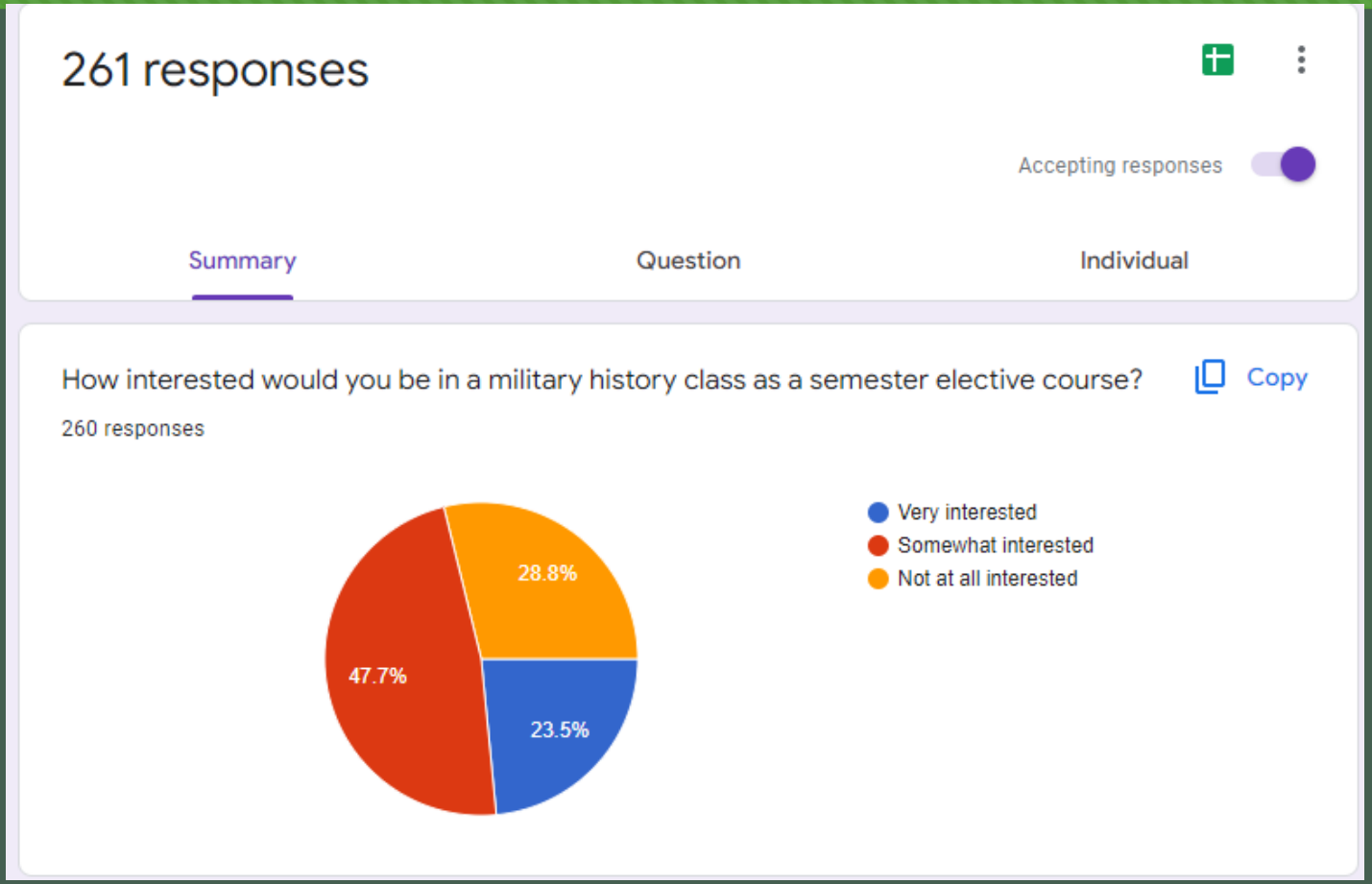
1. What choices have led to armed conflict? What choices are made in armed conflict?
2. Who serves? Why?
3. How do values and beliefs impact the occurrence of war and behavior in war?
4. How do societies justification for war change over time?
5. How do the armed forces interact with their society? Civilians? Other armies?

Logistics

- My hope is to offer this class for the 2023-2024 school year.
- I am proposing offering one course per semester.
- The class should be limited to juniors and seniors.
- Freshman take a full year of world history, Sophomores take a full year of American History
- Juniors only take a semester of Modern US History, Seniors only take a semester of US Government, so military history would be a convenient option for upperclassmen interested in a history elective.

Student Interest

- 61 students said they were "very interested" in enrolling in this class, while 124 more students said they were "somewhat interested."
- If offered, it is safe to assume at least two sections of the class would be full.



Class Syllabus: Military History

Mr. Dravis

Phone: (316) 554-2236 ext: 1206

Email: jdravis@usd261.com

Overview:

- Analyze how changes in technology have influenced changes in military methods, tactics, and strategic thinking
- Show influence that military history has had on social life
- Learn about the people and the personalities who are associated with military history
- Discuss how political, social, and economic forces impact the history of war
- Study will include military terms, principles, military propaganda, strategies, campaigns, as well as various theories concerning causes of war and peacemaking.
- Examine the motivations of soldiers and psychological effects of war.

Expectations:

1. *Be here and be prepared for class*.
   - Come to class every day
   - Be on time
   - Bring your materials to class

2. *Be respectful to staff and students*.
   - Honor the social contract
   - Listen to whomever is speaking
   - When debating issues, take issue with the ideas, not the person espousing them.

3. *Give your best effort*.
   - Complete all of your work
   - Study for tests
   - Participate in discussions and ask questions

Attendance:

Be here every day. Make up work will not be issued for unexcused absences. Students with an excused absence will have two additional class periods to complete missing work. Tardies will be handled as outlined in the student handbook. Bathroom passes will be issued by me alone, and never during direct instruction.

Behavior:

Please diligently follow classroom expectations. If you do not, expect these consequences:

1. Verbal warning
2. Removal to the hallway and a 1 on 1 conference with the teacher
3. Phone call home and detention to be served with the teacher before or after school within the next 3 days
4. Office referral

Materials:

- Spiral notebook or binder with paper (college ruled). You need paper and a pocket for handouts.
- Chromebooks: Have them with you charged for class.

- Book studies: The books will be provided by a classroom set, students will be held liable for any damaged or lost books.

    Sebastian Junger- *War*: The psychology of soldiering as described by a journalist embedded with American soldiers in the Korengal valley of Afghanistan.

- Cell phones: Phones should be put away unless otherwise instructed, no earbuds.

Course Outline:

- August: The Origins and causes of war
- September: Ancient warfare: history, technology, tactics
- October: Medieval warfare: history, technology, tactics
- November: Pre Industrial warfare: history, technology, tactics
- December: Modern warfare: history, technology, tactics
- Military recruiters will visit with the class as their own schedules allow

Grading Scale:

A: 90% or above

B: 89-80%

C: 79-70%

D: 69-60%

F: 59% or below

Grading policy:

1. Students will earn a participation grade for the semester. This reflects your attendance, attentiveness, and completion of all required work.
2. Book studies: Students will be asked to read two books for this class, with regular discussion sessions and tests at the end of each.
3. Unit projects: Students will complete a research project over a conflict and battle of their choice from each time period unit.
4. Students will take a mid-term and final exam. The final will be worth 20% of the overall grade.
5. In accordance with the social studies department policy, students will have two weeks to turn in an assignment late, after which the assignment is reduced by 50%.

I have read the syllabus and I understand the rules and polices set forth in this class. I will comply with everything outlined above. Parents, this signature also provides consent to watch PG-13 movies in class.

_____ _____

(student signature) **(date)**

_____ _____

(parent signature) **(date)**