The Liberal Arts Program presents

Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series

The American Way of War: “Historical Interpretations and Future Implications”

Prof. Brian McAllister Linn

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3:30-5:00 pm
LH 238

ABSTRACT INFO: Many military analysts now argue that the challenges of Iraq and Afghanistan have prompted a “new American way of war.” In their view, more complex, culturally derived perspectives have replaced technology-based, formulaic concepts of warfare. This lecture discusses the evolution of US military thought about warfare in the context of the century-long debate over the “American Way of War.” It will examine why in the 1990s the American military became so attached to a vision of war as little more than an engineering problem. It concludes with a brief overview of current US perspectives on war and their possible influence.

BIO: Brian McAllister Linn is the Ralph R. Thomas Professor in Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University and current president of the Society for Military History. He is the author of four books—The U.S. Army and Counterinsurgency in the Philippine War (1989); Guardians of Empire: The U.S. Army and the Pacific, 1902-1940 (1997); The Philippine War, 1899-1902 (2000); The Echo of Battle: The Army’s Way of War (2007)—and over thirty articles, book chapters, and conference proceedings. He has been an Olin Fellow at Yale University, a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellow, and Woodrow Wilson International Center Fellow, and the Harold K. Johnson Visiting Professor at the Army War College. His current project is Elvis’s Army: Creating the Atomic Soldier, 1946-1965.

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