

# Independent Scholar's Doctorate Charter and Prospectus

*Field of Study: Applied Ethics, Identity, and Warrior Ethos*



Prepared by: Andrew L. Cumings, JD, MA

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## I. Purpose and Vision

The purpose of this independent doctorate is to pursue a rigorous, self-directed course of advanced study in applied ethics, with a particular focus on how identity—especially two distinct traditions of warrior identity—shapes moral action, ethical reasoning, and institutional culture. This project aims to contribute to the academic discourse through scholarly publications, public engagement, and ultimately teaching at the undergraduate or graduate level.

This Independent Scholar's Doctorate (ISD) is structured around the research and writing of a book-length study on warrior ethos, viewed through the lenses of ethical theory, military culture, and the challenges of 21st-century conflict.

## II. Intellectual Focus

The ISD will be centered on five interrelated domains:

1. Applied Ethics – Focuses on the practical application of moral reasoning within professional, military, and institutional contexts. This domain examines frameworks such as deontology, consequentialism, virtue ethics, and care ethics in real-world scenarios where competing duties, mission objectives, and moral obligations collide. It seeks to illuminate how ethical principles are interpreted, operationalized, or sometimes compromised in fields such as military operations, corporate governance, and public service.
2. Identity and Moral Agency – Investigates the formation of moral identity and the conditions under which individuals act as responsible moral agents. This domain explores how roles, traditions, and institutional cultures shape ethical self-understanding and behavior, drawing on philosophy, psychology, and narrative theory. It also considers tensions between autonomy and role-based obligation, the fragility of character under systemic pressure, and the processes by which identity both grounds and destabilizes moral agency.
3. Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present – Traces the evolution of warrior ideals from Homeric heroism to the professional soldier of the modern era. This domain examines

archetypes of courage, honor, and sacrifice across cultures and epochs, including the Homeric hero, medieval knight, samurai, and modern combatant. It analyzes how these ideals are expressed in literature, philosophy, and military doctrine, as well as how they have adapted—or eroded—under the pressures of technological change, bureaucratization, and post-heroic warfare.

4. Just War and Virtue Ethics – Explores the deep historical and conceptual ties between Just War traditions and virtue ethics. This domain examines how principles such as *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello* were articulated alongside conceptions of moral character, focusing on the virtues (e.g., justice, courage, prudence) that undergird ethical warfare. It also considers contemporary debates on whether modern Just War theory has become overly legalistic, and whether a return to character-based reasoning can restore its moral force in the age of asymmetric conflict and emerging technologies.

5. Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos – Explores the moral logic and social dynamics of honor as a governing principle of warrior cultures. It specifically examines how honor systems shaped codes of conduct, notions of courage, and collective identity, as well as their transformation in response to legal, technological, and cultural change. This domain interrogates the enduring tension between honor-based ethics and the impersonal norms of bureaucratic and technological warfare.

### III. Program Structure

#### A. Core Curriculum

An intensive course of self-study consisting of approximately 8-12 core texts per theme, supplemented by targeted scholarly articles. The first major area of study, Just War and Virtue Ethics, is the primary area of study and will have a longer reading list than the other major areas of study. The entire curriculum will span five major areas of study with two minor options to explore as necessary:

1. Just War and Virtue Ethics
2. Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present
3. Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy
4. Identity and Moral Agency
5. Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos

Each major thematic area will culminate in a reflective essay or literature review (approx. 3,000–5,000 words), serving as both synthesis and milestone check-in.

#### B. Latin Language Competency for Philosophical and Theological Texts

##### Purpose and Rationale

The Latin language remains essential for serious engagement with the primary sources that undergird Just War theory, virtue ethics, and the intellectual traditions of the West. Original

texts by Cicero, Augustine, and Thomas Aquinas contain nuances that cannot always be fully conveyed in translation. This component is designed to enable direct interaction with these texts at a scholarly level, fostering linguistic precision and conceptual clarity in the interpretation of moral philosophy and theology.

### Target Proficiency

Achieve advanced reading proficiency equivalent to B2+/C1 level adapted for Latin, defined as the ability to read and interpret unadapted classical and scholastic Latin texts with dictionary support, understanding the nuances of philosophical and theological vocabulary.

### Latin Competency Structure & Milestones

Year	Focus	Primary Texts	Milestone
1	Grammar Foundations & Vocabulary	<i>Wheelock's Latin; Lingua Latina per se Illustrata</i>	Translate 20 original sentences from Cicero
2	Intermediate Reading & Commentary	Cicero's <i>De Officiis</i> (Selections); Augustine's <i>Confessions</i> (Books I, VIII)	Translate full paragraphs from Augustine with commentary
3	Advanced Reading & Integration	Aquinas' <i>Summa Theologiae</i> (II-II, Q.40; Q.58–61)	Submit interpretive essay (3–5 pages) with original translations

#### Primary Textbooks:

- Wheelock, *Wheelock's Latin*
- Hans Ørberg, *Lingua Latina per se Illustrata*

#### Latin Primary Sources

- Cicero, *De Officiis*
- Augustine, *Confessions*
- Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* (II-II)

### C. Optional Supplementary Curriculum

In addition to the five major areas of study, the curriculum includes two minor theme options to explore as necessary:

1. Military Ethics and Applied Professionalism
2. Warrior Experience Case Studies

## **D. Dissertation Project**

Working Title: The Warrior Reforged: Just Warriors and Heroic Tradition in the 21st Century Battlespace

A book-length manuscript (~80,000–100,000 words) combining research, ethical analysis, and narrative interpretation. It will serve as the intellectual capstone of the ISD.

## **E. Public Scholarship and Engagement**

- Submit at least 2 peer-reviewed articles during the program
- Present research at 1–2 academic or professional conferences (e.g., International Society of Military Ethicists, Association of Professional and Practical Ethics)
- Contribute essays or op-eds to public-facing venues (e.g., The Naval Ethicist)
- Maintain an updated academic blog or portfolio site

## **F. Teaching Portfolio**

Develop 1–2 course syllabi relevant to the ISD themes, such as:

- Warrior Ethics and Moral Injury
- Applied Ethics in Professional and Military Contexts
- Identity, Narrative, and Moral Agency

These syllabi will include a rationale, weekly topics, readings, and assignments.

Submit course concepts to a local university to teach a single class a semester.

## **IV. Timeline**

Years 1, 2, & 3 – Core readings, literature reviews, book outlining, initial article submission

Years 3 & 4 – Chapter writing, article publication, conference participation

Year 5 – Book completion, syllabi development, teaching prep, submission to publishers

(Adjustable based on family, professional, or research needs.)

## **V. Mentorship and Peer Review**

While this ISD is self-directed, it will seek feedback and accountability from:

- Informal mentors (academics, ethicists, or retired military professionals)
- Writing groups or scholarly peers
- Editorial reviewers for published work

## **VI. Statement of Intent**

This Independent Scholar's Doctorate is undertaken in the spirit of lifelong learning, civic engagement, and the pursuit of wisdom. It aims not only to advance personal knowledge but also to offer insight into the ethical formation of those who serve in war, wield institutional power, or navigate moral injury. Through this work, I intend to contribute a

clear, rigorous, and humane voice to the conversation.

Signed,

Andrew L. Cumings

July 23, 2025

## Appendix A: Core Curriculum Reading List

### Primary Theme—Just War and Virtue Ethics

#### Aristotle – Nicomachean Ethics\*\*

*The cornerstone of virtue ethics.* Aristotle’s exploration of moral character, habituation, and the telos (purpose) of human life remains foundational for role-based and identity-driven ethics, including the warrior ideal.

#### Angela Hobbs – Plato and the Hero: Courage, Manliness and the Impersonal Good

*A philosophical exploration of courage and martial virtue in Platonic ethics.* Hobbs traces how Plato critiques and transforms the traditional heroic code, redefining courage as a rational and moral virtue oriented toward the common good. This book provides a critical bridge between ancient heroism and virtue-based moral theory, illuminating its implications for just war thinking.

#### St. Augustine – City of God (Books XIX and related sections)

*Early Christian framing of just war and the moral state of the soul.* Augustine links inner virtue to righteous warfare, establishing a character-based orientation within early just war thought.

#### Thomas Aquinas – Summa Theologiae (II-II, Q. 40)

*A classical synthesis of virtue and justice in war.* Aquinas formalizes just war criteria within the framework of natural law and virtue, making his treatment foundational for this intersection.

#### Alasdair MacIntyre – After Virtue\*

*Recovering moral traditions as contexts for virtue.* Although not directly about war, MacIntyre provides a conceptual basis for understanding just war as a “practice” requiring internal goods and virtues.

#### Michael Walzer – Just and Unjust Wars

*The modern classic of just war theory.* Walzer combines moral philosophy and historical narrative to analyze war, combat, and the moral responsibilities of soldiers. Central to applied ethics in military contexts.

#### Rosalind Hursthouse – On Virtue Ethics

*A contemporary elaboration of Aristotelian ethics.* Hursthouse defends virtue ethics as a viable modern moral theory, addressing objections and showing its practical power in decision-making, especially in complex roles.

#### Jean Bethke Elshtain – Just War Against Terror

*An attempt to retrieve just war through virtue language in modern crises.* Elshtain frames just war discourse as a moral tradition sustained by civic and warrior virtues.

### **Nigel Biggar – In Defence of War**

*A contemporary theological defense of just war informed by virtue ethics.* Biggar argues that just war is not simply rule-based but deeply concerned with right intention and character.

### **Reichberg, Syse & Begby (eds.) – The Ethics of War**

*A sourcebook that shows the historical entanglement of virtue, justice, and war.* Includes excerpts from Augustine, Aquinas, Suarez, and modern philosophers.

### **Brian Orend – The Morality of War**

*A clear, accessible introduction to just war theory and contemporary application.* Orend covers *jus ad bellum*, *jus in bello*, and post bellum issues, including humanitarian intervention, terrorism, and asymmetric conflict.

### **Alex J. Bellamy – Just Wars: From Cicero to Iraq**

*A sweeping history of Just War thought from its classical origins to the 21st century.* Bellamy examines how Just War principles evolved across two millennia of moral, political, and legal discourse, beginning with Cicero's virtue-centered approach and culminating in modern humanitarian and counterterrorism interventions. This book offers critical insight into how virtue ethics and moral character shaped—and continue to shape—the normative structure of war.

### **David Decosimo – Ethics as a Work of Charity: Thomas Aquinas and Pagan Virtue**

*A rigorous study of Aquinas' approach to virtue across cultural and religious boundaries.* Decosimo argues that for Aquinas, ethics is fundamentally an act of charity that embraces—even redeems—pagan virtue. This book illuminates how Thomistic virtue ethics operates within a framework of universal moral concern, offering critical insights for understanding the foundations of Just War reasoning and its enduring connection to character-based ethics.

### **Josef Pieper – The Four Cardinal Virtues**

*A modern Thomistic interpretation of the foundational virtues of moral life.* Pieper explores prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance as the bedrock of ethical action, drawing on Aquinas and the broader classical tradition. This work is indispensable for understanding how virtue ethics undergirds Just War reasoning and the moral character required for its application.

### **J. Budziszewski – Commentary on Thomas Aquinas's Virtue Ethics**

*A detailed, accessible guide to Aquinas's account of virtue.* Budziszewski offers a structured commentary on Aquinas's treatment of virtue, clarifying concepts such as prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. This work is an invaluable resource for understanding how virtue ethics operates within Thomistic thought and its relationship to Just War tradition.

### **Articles**



#### **Elizabeth Anscombe – War and Murder (article)**

*A sharp critique of utilitarian and legalistic approaches.* Anscombe's essay insists that the ethics of war must be rooted in intention and virtue, not merely consequences.

#### **Christopher Toner – Virtue Ethics and Double Effect (article)**

*A scholarly article linking virtue reasoning with just war moral distinctions.* Toner argues that proportionality and double effect only make sense within a virtue framework.

### **Theme—Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present**

#### **Homer – The Iliad**

*A foundational text of Western warrior identity.* The Iliad explores honor, rage, fate, and heroism through the figure of Achilles. It sets up tensions between individual glory, communal duty, and moral suffering—questions echoed throughout military history.

#### **Xenophon – The Education of Cyrus**

*A philosophical and practical vision of idealized warrior leadership.* This work blends political theory and military leadership. Xenophon's Cyrus is disciplined, pragmatic, and virtuous—a counterpoint to Homeric impulsiveness.

#### **Plutarch – Lives**

*A blend of history and moral biography.* Plutarch's profiles of warriors, generals, and statesmen offer insight into Greco-Roman ideals of civic virtue, courage, and the ethical dilemmas of command.

#### **Thomas Malory – Le Morte d'Arthur**

*A mythic codification of chivalric warrior ideals.* This text reflects the fusion of Christian morality, feudal duty, and heroic identity. It's a key entry point into the medieval European warrior ethos and its tragic tensions.

#### **Yamamoto Tsunetomo – Hagakure**

*A Japanese articulation of Bushido—the "Way of the Warrior."* Written in the early 18th century, it romanticizes loyalty, death, and honor as central to samurai identity. A cultural foil to Western codes of martial conduct.

#### **Katherine Callen King – Achilles: Paradigms of the War Hero from Homer to the Middle Ages**

*A literary and cultural analysis of the evolving warrior ideal.* King examines Achilles as the foundational figure of Western heroism and traces how his image was adapted to reflect changing social, political, and moral contexts through late antiquity and medieval Europe. This work highlights how cultural narratives continually redefine the meaning of courage, honor, and sacrifice.

### **J. Glenn Gray – The Warriors: Reflections on Men in Battle**

*A philosophical and deeply personal meditation on the moral and psychological dimensions of combat.* Gray reflects on courage, loyalty, glory, and guilt, drawing from his WWII service. The book examines the paradox of the warrior's experience—how war can evoke both nobility and savagery—and asks what this means for our understanding of honor and human nature.

### **James Hillman – A Terrible Love of War**

*A psychological and mythopoetic meditation on the archetype of the warrior.* Hillman explores war not only as tragedy but as part of the human soul's mythic structure. His treatment of Mars/Ares as a persistent cultural force is provocative and poetic.

### **Alasdair MacIntyre – After Virtue\***

*The philosophical groundwork for role-based moral identity.* While not about warriors *per se*, MacIntyre's argument for virtue as rooted in practices and traditions is critical for understanding warrior identity as morally constituted.

### **Richard Holmes – Acts of War**

*A soldier's-eye view of combat identity.* Drawing on historical and psychological sources, Holmes investigates how men sustain moral and emotional coherence under extreme stress. Especially relevant for post-heroic analysis.

### **Nancy Sherman – Stoic Warriors**

*A bridge between ancient philosophy and modern military ethics.* Sherman explores how Stoic ideals (e.g. self-mastery, duty, endurance) continue to shape contemporary warrior identity, especially in U.S. military culture.

### **Anthony King – The Combat Soldier**

*A sociological view of modern military identity.* King examines the shift from heroic individualism to the highly coordinated, professionalized identity of modern infantrymen, challenging romantic views of warriorhood.

## **Theme—Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy**

### **Aristotle – Nicomachean Ethics\*\***

*The cornerstone of virtue ethics.* Aristotle's exploration of moral character, habituation, and the telos (purpose) of human life remains foundational for role-based and identity-driven ethics, including the warrior ideal.

### **Immanuel Kant – Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals**

*A rigorous formulation of duty and moral autonomy.* Kant provides a counterpoint to virtue ethics by grounding morality in rational obligation and universal principles—critical for understanding military codes and legalistic ethics.

### **John Stuart Mill – Utilitarianism**

*A consequentialist approach to ethics.* Mill's classic text defends the moral priority of maximizing happiness. It's essential for understanding cost-benefit analysis, military necessity, and ethical calculus in war.

### **Alasdair MacIntyre – After Virtue\***

*A powerful critique of modern moral fragmentation.* MacIntyre reclaims Aristotelian virtue ethics within the context of practices, traditions, and moral narrative—key for your focus on role-based identity and ethos.

### **Carol Gilligan – In a Different Voice**

*Introducing care ethics and relational moral thinking.* Gilligan challenges abstract, rules-based ethics with an ethic of care rooted in lived relationships—important for understanding moral injury, empathy, and community in warrior life.

### **Christine Korsgaard – Creating the Kingdom of Ends**

*A neo-Kantian approach to self-constitution and obligation.* Korsgaard develops the idea that moral agency is self-constructed through reflection—highly relevant for understanding identity and institutional ethics.

### **Jonathan Haidt – The Righteous Mind: Why Good People Are Divided by Politics and Religion**

*A social psychologist's take on moral intuition and group formation.* Haidt's work is valuable for understanding how tribal affiliation, moral tastebuds, and identity politics shape ethical judgment—key in both military and civic life.

### **Martha Nussbaum – Frontiers of Justice: Disability, Nationality, Species Membership**

*A call for justice rooted in the capabilities approach.* Nussbaum's work expands ethical consideration to marginalized lives, but her capabilities framework also links back to flourishing—a richer telos for warrior and citizen alike.

## **Theme—Identity and Moral Agency**

### **Paul Ricoeur – Oneself as Another**

*A dense but profound investigation of narrative identity and moral agency.* Ricoeur's work bridges phenomenology, ethics, and narrative theory, making the case that identity is forged through the stories we tell and inhabit—deeply relevant to warrior formation and moral injury.

### **David Carr – Time, Narrative, and History**

*The narrative structure of human experience.* Carr's accessible companion to Ricoeur emphasizes how temporal and narrative structure shape moral understanding. Great for connecting military life stories to ethical development.

**Stanley Hauerwas – The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics**

*A theological vision of ethics rooted in narrative, community, and virtue.* Hauerwas critiques liberal individualism and argues for moral identity as formed by tradition-bound communities—a provocative challenge for military ethics in pluralistic societies.

**Robert Sapolsky – Behave: The Biology of Humans at Our Best and Worst**

*A comprehensive examination of the biological and social roots of human behavior and morality.* Sapolsky integrates neuroscience, psychology, and anthropology to explain why we act as we do—probing aggression, empathy, and the moral impulse. This work provides essential context for understanding the interplay between biology, identity, and ethical responsibility.

**Judith Butler – Giving an Account of Oneself**

*A post-structural view of identity and ethical responsibility.* Butler critiques the demand for coherent self-narration and explores how vulnerability and social context shape moral agency. A useful counterpoint to essentialist or overly heroic models of the self.

**Kwame Anthony Appiah – The Ethics of Identity**

*An analytic philosopher's view on the intersection of autonomy and cultural belonging.* Appiah explores how liberal values can coexist with deeply rooted identities—helpful for thinking about how institutional roles (like warrior) and ethical reasoning interact.

**Philip Zimbardo – The Lucifer Effect: Understanding How Good People Turn Evil**

*A psychological study of identity, roles, and institutional power.* Based on the Stanford Prison Experiment, this book reveals how situational factors and role expectations shape moral action. Vital for understanding ethical drift and abuse within military systems.

**Jonathan Shay – Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character**

*A powerful synthesis of classical narrative and modern trauma studies.* Shay draws on the Iliad and clinical experience with Vietnam veterans to show how betrayal and war can shatter moral identity. Essential for understanding warrior ethos and moral injury.

**Christian Miller – The Character Gap: How Good Are We?**

*A contemporary analytic account of character and moral behavior.* Miller surveys psychological evidence to argue that most people fall short of being consistently virtuous, highlighting the fragility and plasticity of moral identity under pressure.

**Theme—Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos**

**Shannon E. French – The Code of the Warrior: Exploring Warrior Values Past and Present**

*A comparative and applied ethical analysis of warrior cultures.* French evaluates how warrior codes historically grounded restraint, honor, and moral clarity—and how those values can (or can't) endure in modern war.

**Paul Robinson – Military Honour and the Conduct of War**

*A philosophical and historical critique of honor in military ethics.* Robinson explores whether “honor” has any moral standing in modern warfare and how it conflicts or converges with contemporary norms.

**James Bowman – Honor: A History**

*A sweeping cultural history of honor as a moral system.* Bowman examines the origins, functions, and decline of honor across Western history, exploring its role in shaping warrior codes, masculine identity, and civic life. This book highlights the enduring tension between honor-based ethics and modern legalistic or bureaucratic norms—essential for understanding shifts in military and social morality.

**Kwame Anthony Appiah – The Honor Code: How Moral Revolutions Happen**

*A penetrating analysis of honor as a driver of moral progress.* Appiah argues that many moral revolutions—from dueling to foot-binding—were catalyzed not by law or religion, but by shifts in honor codes. His account illuminates the dynamic nature of honor and its role in shaping (and reshaping) cultural and military ethics.

**Christopher Coker – Warrior Geeks: How 21st Century Technology is Changing the Way We Fight and Think About War**

*A provocative study of how technology disrupts the warrior ethos.* Coker argues that advances in robotics, neuroscience, and virtual reality are transforming not only the conduct of war but the moral identity of the warrior. This book probes whether traditional notions of honor and courage can survive in a battlespace increasingly dominated by remote and automated systems.

**Christopher Coker – The Warrior Ethos: Military Culture and the War on Terror**

*A critical examination of the warrior ideal in contemporary conflict.* Coker explores how traditional warrior codes interact with modern liberal values in the context of counterinsurgency, terrorism, and globalized war. He questions whether honor and courage can endure in a world of legalism, technology, and asymmetric battlefields—raising urgent ethical questions for today’s soldiers.

**Pauline Shanks Kaurin – Achilles Goes Asymmetrical: The Warrior, Military Ethics, and Contemporary Warfare**

*A critical inquiry into the fate of warrior values in modern conflict.* Kaurin asks whether virtues such as honor and courage can remain meaningful in the context of asymmetrical warfare, where the enemy, battlefield, and risks are profoundly different from those envisioned in classical warrior traditions. This book challenges readers to rethink the ethical and cultural foundations of the warrior ethos in the 21st century.

## Appendix B: Optional Curriculum Themes

This schedule outlines the plan for engaging with the 48 core texts across four thematic

### Minor Theme—Military Ethics and Applied Professionalism

Having recently completed considerable study of the military profession and applied ethical problems in the modern military (i.e., MA at the U.S. Naval War College, AY 23-24), this theme will be explored as necessary but is not a core theme of the ISD program.

#### Martin L. Cook – *The Moral Warrior: Ethics and Service in the U.S. Military*

*A candid, philosophical look at the ethical pressures on American service members.* Cook examines professional military ethics through the lens of virtue, leadership, loyalty, and obedience.

#### Samuel P. Huntington – *The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil–Military Relations*

*A classic analysis of the military profession and its ethical foundations.* Huntington argues that the professional military ethic—rooted in expertise, responsibility, and corporateness—forms the basis for civil-military harmony in democratic societies. This work is indispensable for understanding how professionalism shapes military identity, loyalty, and moral responsibility.

#### Morris Janowitz – *The Professional Soldier: A Social and Political Portrait*

*A seminal sociological study of the military profession and its evolving role.* Janowitz analyzes the professionalization of the officer corps in the context of modern democratic societies, highlighting tensions between military norms, political authority, and technological change. This book provides critical insights into the institutional and cultural forces shaping ethical standards and professional conduct.

#### Deane-Peter Baker – *Morality and Ethics at War: Bridging the Gap Between the Soldier and the State*

*A contemporary analysis of the ethical challenges facing modern armed forces.* Baker examines how soldiers can fulfill both their professional and moral obligations within democratic societies. The book explores issues such as obedience, responsibility, and moral autonomy, offering practical guidance for aligning individual conduct with institutional and national ethical frameworks.

#### Dave Grossman – *On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*

*A landmark study on the human experience of killing in war.* Grossman investigates the psychological processes and social conditioning that enable soldiers to overcome the innate resistance to killing, as well as the lasting moral and emotional consequences. This book highlights the ethical complexity of combat and underscores the importance of moral frameworks in sustaining professional integrity.

### **George R. Lucas (ed.) – Ethics for Military Leaders**

*A comprehensive anthology for understanding and applying military ethics in practice.* This collection combines foundational readings in moral and political philosophy with case studies and applied discussions on leadership, decision-making, and emerging challenges in military operations. Essential for those studying or teaching professional military ethics.

### **Minor Theme—Warrior Experience Case Studies: Personal & Cultural Narratives**

These case studies range from autobiographical narratives of war to cultural milestones from the Western cannon and several products somewhere in-between. These resources are more likely to provide case studies to prove out or correct hypotheses that emerge from my first three years of reading, and should be engaged with more during the lighter third year of reading and the fourth year of chapter composition.

### **Mike Curtis – Close Quarter Battle**

*A gripping memoir from the front lines of special operations.* Curtis recounts his experiences as an SAS soldier in some of the most demanding and ethically complex combat environments. Through vivid storytelling, the book explores courage, loyalty, and the psychological toll of warfare, offering invaluable case material for studying the lived reality of the warrior ethos.

### **James Webb – Fields of Fire**

*A classic Vietnam War novel blending realism and moral reflection.* Webb draws on his experience as a Marine officer to depict the brutality, futility, and fragile humanity of combat in Vietnam. Through interwoven narratives of soldiers from diverse backgrounds, this work explores courage, loyalty, and disillusionment, making it a vital case study in the cultural and personal dimensions of warrior experience.

### **Philip Caputo – A Rumor of War**

*A searing memoir of combat and conscience during the Vietnam War.* Caputo chronicles his transformation from a patriotic young officer to a disillusioned veteran, confronting the moral compromises and brutal realities of guerrilla warfare. This work is a landmark in war literature, offering profound insights into courage, guilt, and the enduring scars of battle.

### **Tim O'Brien – The Things They Carried**

*A masterful exploration of memory, morality, and survival in war.* O'Brien uses linked stories to convey the physical and emotional weight carried by soldiers in Vietnam—tangible objects, haunting memories, and unspoken fears. This book examines the interplay of truth and storytelling, offering profound insight into the psychological and ethical dimensions of combat.

**James D. Hornfischer – The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors: The Extraordinary World War II Story of the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour**

*A gripping account of courage and sacrifice in naval warfare.* Hornfischer chronicles the epic battle in which outgunned American destroyers and destroyer escorts took on a vastly superior Japanese fleet to protect landing forces in Leyte Gulf. Through vivid narrative and personal testimony, the book explores loyalty, leadership, and the moral character forged in combat.

**John Keegan – The Face of Battle**

*A groundbreaking study of the soldier's experience across history.* Keegan explores what combat feels like for those on the front lines by reconstructing three iconic battles from the perspective of the common soldier. This work illuminates the enduring psychological and moral challenges of warfare, making it essential for understanding the lived reality behind military narratives.

**Ernst Jünger – Storm of Steel**

*A seminal World War I memoir exploring the allure and brutality of combat.* Jünger recounts his experiences as a German officer on the Western Front, depicting the terror, comradeship, and aesthetic fascination of mechanized war. This work provides a stark and unsettling view of the warrior ethos, making it indispensable for understanding the moral ambiguities of modern conflict.

**William Shakespeare – Henry V**

*A dramatic exploration of leadership, honor, and the burdens of command.* This play follows King Henry as he leads his outnumbered forces to victory at Agincourt, examining themes of courage, duty, and legitimacy. Its iconic speeches and moral tensions make it a cornerstone text for understanding how literature shapes cultural narratives of warrior identity.

**William Shakespeare – Coriolanus**

*A tragic portrait of the warrior's struggle for honor and belonging beyond the battlefield.* Shakespeare dramatizes the rise and fall of Coriolanus, a Roman general whose uncompromising martial code collides with the demands of political life. This play probes the tensions between individual honor and communal responsibility, offering a timeless study of the perils of rigid warrior identity.



## Appendix C: Reading and Study Timeline (Years 1–3)

This schedule outlines the plan for engaging with the 50 core texts across five thematic areas over the first three years of the program.

Goals:

- Read and annotate 50 texts (8–12 per theme)
- Complete five thematic literature reviews (3,000–5,000 words each)
- Draft and submit one article or essay
- Produce a working outline for the book project

This detailed timeline structures the core curriculum reading plan across three academic years, following a traditional trimester system: Fall (September–December), Winter (January–March), and Spring (April–June). Each trimester will include readings from all five major themes, ensuring balanced progress and thematic integration. The pace is approximately 4–5 books per trimester (12–15 per academic year), supported by annotations, reflective notes, and integration into literature reviews.

### Year 1 (AY 25-26)

#### Fall

- Aristotle – Nicomachean Ethics (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Michael Walzer – Just and Unjust Wars (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Homer – The Iliad (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Alasdair MacIntyre – After Virtue (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- James Bowman – Honor: A History (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)

#### Winter

- Thomas Aquinas – Summa Theologiae (II-II, Q.40) (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Nigel Biggar – In Defence of War (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Xenophon – The Education of Cyrus (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- John Stuart Mill – Utilitarianism (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Kwame Anthony Appiah – The Ethics of Identity (Identity and Moral Agency)

#### Spring

- Christopher Coker – The Warrior Ethos (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)
- Shannon French – The Code of the Warrior (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)
- Immanuel Kant – Groundwork of the Metaphysics of Morals (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Paul Robinson – Military Honour and the Conduct of War (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)

## Year 2 (AY 26-27)

### Fall

- Josef Pieper – The Four Cardinal Virtues (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- J. Budziszewski – Commentary on Aquinas's Virtue Ethics (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Thomas Malory – Le Morte d'Arthur (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Carol Gilligan – In a Different Voice (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Robert Sapolsky – Behave (Identity and Moral Agency)

### Winter

- Angela Hobbs – Plato and the Hero (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Reichberg, Syse & Begby – The Ethics of War (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Yamamoto Tsunetomo – Hagakure (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Christine Korsgaard – Creating the Kingdom of Ends (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Philip Zimbardo – The Lucifer Effect (Identity and Moral Agency)

### Spring

- Brian Orend – The Morality of War (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Alex J. Bellamy – Just Wars: From Cicero to Iraq (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Katherine Callen King – Achilles: Paradigms of the War Hero (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Jonathan Haidt – The Righteous Mind (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Judith Butler – Giving an Account of Oneself (Identity and Moral Agency)

## Year 3 (AY 27-28)

### Fall

- David Decosimo – Ethics as a Work of Charity (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Rosalind Hursthouse – On Virtue Ethics (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- James Hillman – A Terrible Love of War (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Martha Nussbaum – Frontiers of Justice (Classical and Contemporary Moral Philosophy)
- Christian Miller – The Character Gap (Identity and Moral Agency)

### Winter

- Pauline Shanks Kaurin – Achilles Goes Asymmetrical (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)
- Christopher Coker – Warrior Geeks (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)
- Paul Ricoeur – Oneself as Another (Identity and Moral Agency)
- Kwame Anthony Appiah – The Honor Code (Honor Codes and Warrior Ethos)

### Spring

- St. Augustine – City of God (Selections) (Just War and Virtue Ethics)

- Jean Bethke Elshtain – Just War Against Terror (Just War and Virtue Ethics)
- Plutarch – Lives (Selections) (Warrior Identity from Antiquity to the Present)
- Jonathan Shay – Achilles in Vietnam (Identity and Moral Agency)