**Specializations:** U.S. Military History, American Foreign Policy, History of Genocide and Inter-communal Violence, International Relations, International Law, National Security and Strategic Studies

**Teaching Philosophy**

A university education should encompass the processes of a democratic society, in which students are able to think critically about the salient issues in American and world history. In this sense, students should feel empowered by what they have learned and that they can make positive changes to their lives, their nation and to the global community. In my classes, students are required to read and interpret primary and secondary resources, and to acquire in-depth knowledge of history and culture. I see my role as a facilitator between the students and the historical world, in which theories and concepts can be tested. Ultimately, a democratic classroom examines many points of view in its quest for truth.

I try to use different approaches to address the full spectrum of learners. One method I like to employ in my U.S. military history class is to provide students with the pieces of curriculum, in which they evaluate America's strategy and operations in past wars. My intent is to embellish the learning process with a myriad of techniques in the classroom such as discussions, group activities, simulations, debate and the prudent use of video.

The basis for a successful university classroom can be found in a positive, active, and stimulating environment. For me, the values of individual integrity, an atmosphere of acceptance, willingness to risk, helping others to learn, having fun are essential for a healthy classroom setting. The study of history should lead us to new questions and ways of thinking. While I teach my students, I am also learning with them and from them. We have a mutual responsibility to respectfully engage each other in the learning process.

**Instructor Biography**

Michael P. Infranco teaches U.S. military history at Eastern Washington University, and has instructed U.S. and world history, Vietnam War, global conflict and cooperation, international relations and international law at several Northwest universities and colleges. Dr. Infranco has been a recipient of several awards for his instructional work including the University of Idaho/Washington State University’s Naval ROTC’s Excellence in Teaching Award for 2002, 2003 and 2007.

In 2007 and 2010, he co-authored chapters on the U.S.-Iranian nuclear standoff for two editions of the Congressional Quarterly book, *Contemporary Cases in U.S. Foreign Policy*. Additionally, Dr. Infranco published a peer-reviewed, scholarly article on the Rwandan Genocide for Wiley-Blackwell’s *Encyclopedia of War* (2012), which summarized the history of ethnic discord in Rwanda, addressed the events leading up to the genocidal violence and the failures of the international community to stop the violence.

Dr. Infranco retired as a Lieutenant Commander from the U.S. Navy Reserve, and holds a graduate diploma in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College (1996). He has participated in several international exercises and conferences such as Ulchi Focus Lens 93 and a Korean security conference at International Christian University in October 2003. He holds a B.A. in History and M.A. in Liberal Studies (“Teaching Social Studies”) from Stony Brook University, a second M.A. in International Relations from Salve Regina University, and received his Ph.D. in Political Science from Washington State University in May 2005.

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