Hunts, Raids, and Warfare: An Analysis of the Evolution of Comanche Indian Combat
Nicholas Ebelhack
Faculty Mentor: Virginia Jelatis
History

The status of combat on the southern plains Indians in the United States changed with the introduction of Spanish and Anglo-American settlers and their combat practices. Looking at the Comanche Indians, the goal of this project was to determine the factors that had the greatest influence over the weaponry and tactics used by the Comanche, in addition to why the Comanche came to value combat. Through the examination of monographs, articles, paintings, and primary sources, the goal was to draw conclusions about how the Comanche evolved their combat practices with the introduction of new people and materials. This paper will argue that the horse was the most significant change in Comanche warfare. The consensus derived from the body of research analyzed determines that the acquisition of the horse by the Comanche created various cultural changes to their society. The Comanche reacted with great enthusiasm towards the prospect of equestrian combat, and thereafter made combat a more integral part of their society because of the effects that the horse had on their society. Other factors, such as firearms and the appearance of settlers, had effects on the Comanche that were less significant than the introduction of the horse.