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School of Security and Global Studies
MILS570: Seminar in Asymmetrical Warfare
Credit Hours: 3
8 Weeks
Prerequisite(s): INTL 500

Instructor Information

Instructor:
Biography:
Email:
Office Hours:

Course Description

MILS570: Seminar in Asymmetric Warfare (3 credit hours)

This course is a fast-paced, in-depth seminar on asymmetrical warfare in relation to the U.S. military history and operational experience. Students explore the changing nature of asymmetrical warfare in terms of current theory, conjecture, and definition. Key issues of asymmetry and adaptation are assessed in relation to insurgency, counterinsurgency force doctrine, and action-reaction-counteraction cycle. Special emphasis is on the value of approaches that employ innovative tactics, weapons, or technologies across the spectrum of military operations.

Course Scope

As an elective in the program, this course enhances knowledge of the core requirements. This course is divided into 8 weeks and is organized to give students a broad context in which to study the essential characteristics of Asymmetrical Warfare and how it affects tactical and strategic thought. Particular attention is given to the future of asymmetrical warfare now that

Operation Enduring Freedom seems to be winding down. Asymmetrical Warfare and its many “cousins” such as 4th and 5th Generation Warfare” are rapidly becoming a new and distinct school of thought especially in the special operations community. Using a thematic approach, we explore this process and grapple with the questions it poses, particularly as it concerns the most common environment in which the challenges of asymmetrical are likely to be encountered, low- intensity conflict (LIC).

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Discriminate "unconventional operations" within the larger scope of high-intensity conventional warfare and debate how asymmetry is applied within the new strategic reality.

CO-2: Explain the application of special operations forces and their preparedness to deal with an adaptive, cunning, and typically asymmetric enemy.

CO-3: Analyze the history and missions of special operations forces and role within the asymmetric warfare environment.

CO-4: Analyze the origins and most common elements of insurgency and revolution using theories and frameworks and evaluate specific groups of insurgents, terrorists, and revolutionaries.

CO-5: Assess joint warfare and its future in light of technological advances, the information age, non-state military threats, rogue regimes, and clashes of culture between regions.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be made available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum), examination, and research paper submitted for grading by the faculty. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight week course.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

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Insurgents, Raiders, and Bandits: How Masters of Irregular Warfare Have Shaped Our World, John Arquilla, Ivan R Dee Press, 2011. (ISBN-13: 978-1566638326)

Uncomfortable Wars Revisited, John T. Fishel & Max Manwaring, University of Oklahoma Press, 2008. (ISBN-13: 978-0808139883)

There are also other required readings for each week. The articles are located in your “Lessons” link on your vertical toolbar.

NOTE: Each student is required to become familiar with Small Wars Journal, an online work that features many of the best minds in this field. You are not required to join, however, you will be sent there throughout the course to read specific items. Their homepage is:

<http://smallwarsjournal.com/>

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 20 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Research Question, Purpose Statement, and Citation Format Exercise – 10 percent

The components of this assignment include a research question, a purpose statement, and six sources, at least two of which must be peer-reviewed. The specific research question should relate to a general topic in the course.

Research Paper – 40 percent

Based on the research question assignment in Week Two, the research paper should be no more and no fewer than 10 pages, not including the cover page, the reference list, and any appendices.

Final Assignment – 30 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment to test knowledge and assimilation of the course learning objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings is mandatory. No outside sources are allowed. The assignment should be no more and no fewer than eight pages.

TASK	Percentage
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Research Question Assignment	10 percent
Research Paper	40 percent
Forum Discussion Posts	20 percent
Final Assignment	30 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

Writing Expectations

All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Forums) must follow the Chicago Style Manual guidelines. Refer to Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press found at http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1” margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

It is very important that students are aware of and comply with the APUS policy on plagiarism in the Student Handbook. To find the plagiarism policy, go to the vertical toolbar in the classroom and click “Policy”.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The standard for the School of Security and Global Studies for late assignments is a penalty of five percent per day.

Course Extension Policy

To apply for an extension, go to the vertical toolbar and click “Policy.” The student must have successfully completed at least 50 percent of the already-assigned coursework. The student shall have an overall passing grade in the course for which an extension is being requested. For this course, the 50 percent mark occurs in Week Six after submission of the Research Paper.

Other Policies

For other policies, including drop/withdrawal, grading, and disability, refer to the vertical toolbar and click “Policy.”

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Learning Objective(s)</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
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1	Introduction to Asymmetric Conflict	CO 1 CO 2 CO 4	Manwaring, <i>Uncomfortable Wars</i> (2009), Part I Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 1,2,3	Week One Forum: Post Intro Lesson 1 NOTE: Sign up to access Small Wars Journal http://smallwarsjournal.com/
2	The Fundamental Issues of Asymmetric Warfare	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3 CO 4	Manwaring, <i>Uncomfortable Wars</i> (2009), Part II Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 4,5,6,7	Week Two Forum Lesson 2 Weekly Readings Research Question Assignment (See Assignments Page)
3	Unconventional vs. Conventional Conflict	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5	Manwaring, <i>Uncomfortable Wars</i> (2009), Part III, Section 9,10,11 Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 8, 9	Week Three Forum Lesson 3 Weekly Readings
4	Special Operations Forces	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5	Manwaring, <i>Uncomfortable Wars</i> (2009), Part III, Section 12, 13 Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 10, 11, 12	Week Four Forum Lesson 4 Weekly Readings
5	History & Missions of Special Operations	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5	Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 13, 14	Week Five Forum Lesson 5 Weekly Readings

6	The Culture of Insurgencies	CO 1 CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5	Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 15, 16, 17	Week Six Forum Lesson 6 Weekly Readings Research Paper
7	Technology & Tactics	CO 2 CO 3 CO 4 CO 5	Manwaring, <i>Uncomfortable Wars</i> (2009), Part IV, Afterword Arquilla, <i>Insurgents, Raiders...</i> (2011), Chaps 18, 19, 20	Week Seven Forum Lesson 7 Weekly Readings
8	A Look into Some Possible Futures	CO 2 CO 5	All Week 8 readings will be in Lesson 8	Week Eight Forum Final Assignment

Library Guide

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

If a guide you need isn't available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library:
librarian@apus.edu