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*The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind*

**School of Security and Global Studies  
MILS572 Special Forces Application  
Credit Hours: 3  
8 Weeks**

**Instructor Information**

*Instructor:*

**Course Description**

**MILS572 Special Forces Application (3 credit hours)**

This course examines the history and mission of United States special operations forces and roles within operational and tactical environments. Students explore special operations doctrine and tactics from past to present in the global war on terror. Students compare and contrast the use of special operations forces for pre-conflict, operations, and post-conflict scenarios in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Philippines.

**Course Scope**

As an elective in the program, this course enhances knowledge of the core requirements.

**Course Objectives**

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

CO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.

CO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.

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CO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.

CO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.

CO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.

### 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

There are no required textbooks for this course. There are also other required readings. The articles are located in your Resources link on your vertical toolbar.

### References List for Required Readings

- John B. Alexander. *Convergence: Special Operations Forces and Civilian Law Enforcement*. JSOU Report 10-6. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2010.
- Joseph D. Celeski. *Hunter-Killer Teams: Attacking Enemy Safe Havens*. JSOU Report 10-1. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2010.
- Thomas H. Henriksen. *The Israeli Approach to Irregular Warfare and Implications for the United States*. JSOU Report 07-3. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2007.
- Thomas H. Henriksen. *Afghanistan, Counterinsurgency, and the Indirect Approach*. JSOU Report 10-3. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2010.
- Thomas H. Henriksen. *WHAM: Winning Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan and Elsewhere*. JSOU Report 12-1. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2012.
- Richard D. Newton, et al. *Contemporary Security Challenges: Irregular Warfare and Indirect Approaches*. JSOU Report 09-3. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2009.
- Laure Paquette. *Terrorist-Insurgent Thinking and Joint Special Operation Planning Doctrine and Procedures*. JSOU Report P10-1. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2010.
- Stephen Sloan. *The Challenge of Non-Territorial and Virtual Conflicts: Rethinking Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism*. JSOU Report 11-2. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2011.

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Robert G. Spulak, Jr. *A Theory of Special Operations: The Origins, Qualities, and Use of SOF*. JSOU Report 07-7. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2007.

Robert G. Spulak, Jr. *Innovate or Die: Innovation and Technology for Special Operations*. JSOU Report 10-7. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2010.

Graham H. Turbiville, Jr. *Hunting Leadership Targets in Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorist Operations: Selected Perspectives and Experience*. JSOU Report 07-6. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2007.

Jessica Glicken Turnley. *Retaining Precarious Value as Special Operations Go Mainstream*. JSOU Report 08-2. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2008.

Jessica Glicken Turnley. *Cross-Cultural Competence and Small Groups: Why SOF are the Way SOF Are*. JSOU Report 11-1. Hurlburt Field, FL: Joint Special Operations University, 2011.

**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
Research Question Assignment	10 percent

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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*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press found at [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](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.”

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### Weekly Outline

WK	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Assignments
1	Theories of Special Operation Forces	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Spulak, <i>A Theory of Special Operations</i> (2007)</p> <p>Turnley, <i>Retaining Precarious Value as Special Operations Go Mainstream</i> (2008)</p>	<p>Week One Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
2	Theories of Special Operation Forces	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in</p>	<p>Turnley, <i>Cross-Cultural Competence and Small Groups</i> (2011)</p>	<p>Week Two Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Research Question Assignment</p>

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		the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.		
3	Special Operations and SOF Today	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Newton, et al, <i>Contemporary Security Challenges</i> (2009)</p> <p>Henriksen, <i>Afghanistan, Counterinsurgency, and the Indirect Approach</i> (2010)</p>	<p>Week Three Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
4	Special Operations and SOF Today	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the</p>	<p>Henriksen, <i>The Israeli Approach to Irregular Warfare</i> (2007)</p> <p>Henriksen, <i>WHAM: Winning Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan and Elsewhere</i> (2012)</p>	<p>Week Four Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>

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		employment of special operations forces globally.		
5	Special Operations and SOF Today	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Celeski, <i>Hunter-Killer Teams</i> (2010)</p> <p>Turbiville, <i>Hunting Leadership Targets in Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorist Operations</i> (2007)</p>	<p>Week Five Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
6	Special Operations and SOF Today	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Alexander, <i>Convergence: Special Operations Forces and Civilian Law Enforcement</i> (2010)</p>	<p>Week Six Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Research Paper</p>

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7	Implications for the Future of SOF	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Paquette, <i>Terrorist-Insurgent Thinking and Joint Special Operation Planning Doctrine and Procedures</i> (2010)</p> <p>Spulak, <i>Innovate or Die</i> (2010)</p>	<p>Week Seven Forum</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
8	Implications for the Future of SOF	<p>LO-1: Discuss the history of special operations forces and their employment from their earliest beginnings to the present.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the history, as well as the nature and character, of SOF and the units that contribute to the SOF community.</p> <p>LO-3: Evaluate, through selected case studies, the role of special operations forces in national security.</p> <p>LO-4: Assess SOF as a force multiplier in an era of persistent conflict.</p> <p>LO-5: Evaluate the role played by history and lessons-learned / observed in the conduct of special operations and the employment of special operations forces globally.</p>	<p>Sloan, <i>The Challenge of Non-Territorial and Virtual Conflicts</i> (2011)</p>	<p>Week Eight Forum</p> <p>Final Assignment</p>

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### Library Guide

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- 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 is not available yet, let us know by emailing the APUS Library: [librarian@apus.edu](mailto:librarian@apus.edu)