

**Political Science 397
International Conflict Processes
Course Syllabus, Fall 2009**

Instructor: Jen Ziemke
Email: jziemke@jcu.edu
Office: B06 Administration Building
Hours: T, R 2-5, or by appointment
Designations: Core Course Division III, International (S)

Lectures: T, R 12:30-1:45 PM
Room: D, E 134
Phone: 216.397.2021

Course Objectives

This course begins by examining important questions through the lens of the contemporary wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We explore the complexity of these battle spaces from both above and below, using both academic concepts as well as insights from soldiers on the ground. In our attempt to learn something truly new and to help us appreciate the intensity of the human experience and the resilience of the human spirit, we find ourselves attempting to balance logic with sentiment, cross-national generalizations with nuanced, case-specific detail, and theory with something called life. There is something to be learned from learning from both above and below, and I hope you explore deeply the interplay between these two realms, story and structure, and enjoy doing it!

Over the course of this term we will delve in particular into the “how, why and what” of insurgency and counterinsurgency warfare, including learning something about the tactics and strategies of modern war fighting. We will ponder whether and how insurgency may be different from other forms of violence like ethnic civil war and will reach into the fields of both comparative politics and international relations to help us answer these questions.

Drawing from a wide range of theory and perspectives, we explore the variety of choices states, soldiers, and civilians must make both outside and inside the battle space and the moral, political, ethical and strategic concerns that may guide the logic of their decision-making. We conclude the class with a counterfactual debate: would deterrence have been a successful way to avoid these wars in the first place? Why or why not? What does deterrence mean in the new world of terrorists who may get their hands on nuclear weapons? How can we prevent the unthinkable from happening?

Required Readings:

David Kilcullen. *The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One.* Oxford University Press, New York: 2009. ISBN: 978-0-19-536834-5

Michael Walzer. *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations.* Fourth Edition: 2006, Original Edition, 1977. ISBN: 978-0-465-03707-0.

Manuscript: *Iraq: Impressions of our Counterinsurgency.*

Other Resources

Other readings mentioned in the syllabus below are also required and will be passed out as a packet in class.

You must register and read Human Security Report emails and keep up with these postings on at least a weekly basis. Please go to <http://www.humansecurityreport.info/> and click on “Sign Up” Under NEWSLETTERS on the right hand side of the screen. You are required to register for at least “HS News,” but may sign up to receive other briefings if you wish.

Please read at least three times per week two major national or international presses such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Financial Times*, *The BBC Online Edition*, or *The Wall Street Journal* or a major news magazine such as *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, or *US News & World Report*.

Evaluation Standards

10% Attentiveness, participation, and in-class assignments

30% Quizzes on readings and lectures. (There are 4 quizzes scheduled, therefore your lowest score will be dropped at the end of the term. I will use your top 3 of these 10 ‘point’ quizzes to create your overall ‘quiz’ score.) Note: NO MAKEUPS will be allowed on quizzes unless you have a documentable excuse. **The first missed quiz will automatically be your “dropped” quiz**, even if you miss because of illness. If you miss more than 1 quiz you must take a 0 for that quiz unless you have a verifiable, documentable excuse. Please be on time to class because quizzes will take place generally in the first part of class.

40% Reflection Papers on the readings and lectures. (Papers = 4, all required)

20% Final Reflection/Exam. Thursday, December 17, 1 pm.

Grading Scale

A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	88 – 89
B	83 – 87
B-	80 – 82
C+	78 – 79
C	73 – 77
C-	70 – 72
D+	68 – 69
D	63 – 67
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Attendance Policy

The attendance policy in the Undergraduate Bulletin states: “Students are expected to attend each and every scheduled meeting of all courses in which they are enrolled and to be present for the full class period. Absenteeism and tardiness, regardless of cause, are a threat to academic achievement.”

If you are absent for a class it is your responsibility to make sure to obtain all of the information relayed in that class related to assignments, exams, and course material. Please first contact other students in the course and your study buddy before speaking with me. I do not give out course notes or slides to students who missed a class.

You should know that excessive absences strongly correlate with poor performance on exams and papers. Of course, excessive absences will also negatively affect your class participation grade. Furthermore, an unannounced quiz or graded in-class activity may occur at any time.

Exam Policy

Under normal circumstances, students must be present at the exams and should make every effort to do so. Please contact me as soon as possible in the event that an emergency makes it impossible for you to take the exam.

Academic Honesty

From the Undergraduate Bulletin: “Academic honesty, expected of every student, is essential to the process of education and to upholding high ethical standards. Cheating, including plagiarism, inappropriate use of technology, or any other kind of unethical behavior, may subject the student to severe academic penalties, including dismissal. All work submitted for evaluation in a course, including tests, term papers, and computer programs, must represent only the work of the student unless indicated otherwise. Material taken from the work of others must be acknowledged.”

You must properly cite the source of all ideas, quotations, or empirical information that you use for papers and exams. Anyone who plagiarizes in this class will receive an F in the course. In addition, a letter documenting this offense will be placed in your file at the Dean’s office.

Disability Statement

John Carroll University recognizes its responsibility for creating an institutional climate in which students with disabilities can succeed. In accordance with University policy, if you have a documented disability, you may be eligible to request accommodations from the office of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with disabilities are entitled to reasonable accommodations and should have equal access to learning. Please contact the SSD coordinator at (216) 397-4967 or come to the office located in room 7A, in the Garden Level of the Administration Building. After your eligibility for accommodations is determined, you will be given a letter which, when presented to instructors, will help us know best how to assist you. Please keep in mind that accommodations are not retroactive so it is best to register at your earliest convenience.

Course Timeline

Week 1: September 1. Introduction to the Iraq War.

NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 3

- READ: The Accidental Guerrilla, **Chapter 1.**
- “Insurgency and Guerrilla Warfare,” *How to Win on the Battlefield*, Chapter 24.
- “Counter-Insurgency” *How to Win on the Battlefield*, Chapter 25.

Week 2: September 8. Counterinsurgency: Lessons from History & the Colonial Experience

- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Introduction and Chapter 1, 2, 3.**
- READ: David Kilcullen, “Deiokes and the Taliban: Local Governance, Bottom-up State Formation, and the Rule of Law in Counterinsurgency.” *Counterinsurgency*. Oxford University Press: 2010.

Week 3: September 15. Theorizing Counterinsurgency.

- **QUIZ 1: Reflection on readings for weeks 1-3 followed by a discussion on the readings. Tuesday, September 15**
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 4.**
- READ: The Accidental Guerrilla, **Chapter 3** (Iraq during the surge).

Week 4: September 22. Nationalism, Patriotism, Identity, and The Other.

- READ: R. Kapuscinski, “Encountering the Other: The Challenge for the 21st Century.”
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 5**
- READ: Excerpt from Benedict Anderson’s book: *Imagined Communities*, p. 1-36.

Available Online:

http://books.google.com/books?id=4mmoZFtCpuoC&lpg=PR11&ots=e51MgM_fj7&dq=%22imagined%20communities%22&lr=&pg=PA1

Week 5: September 29. Concepts: Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War

- **PAPER 1 DUE SEPTEMBER 29:** Using the readings from week 4 above, write a 2 page paper on what you notice about the link between nationalism, “othering,” violence/war and “imagined communities.”
- READ: Daniel Posner. “The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi,” *American Political Science Review* 98(4): November 2004
- READ: Jim Fearon. “Ethnic Mobilization and Ethnic Violence,” Version 2004.
- READ: James Fearon and David Laitin. “Ethnicity, Insurgency and Civil War” *American Political Science Review* 97(1): February 2003.

Week 6: October 6. Insurgent Organization and the Salafist Franchise in Comparative Perspective.

- **QUESTIONS DUE THURSDAY OCTOBER 8: Prepare 2 detailed questions for Colonel Patterson's visit to class. Be sure you read his article (below).**
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 6 to Page 183, "Aladdin's Castle."**
- READ: The Accidental Guerrilla, **Chapter 4** (Conflicts from Indonesia to Europe).
- READ: LTC *Eric Patterson* "An Organizational Analysis of OSS Underground Operations in Germany During World War II." September 2000. (Note: COL Patterson will be a guest speaker in our class. He is Professor and Chair of the Department of Military Science at JCU).

Week 7: October 13. The Rules of Engagement, The Laws of War, and Suicide Terror

- **QUIZ 2: October 13. On lectures and readings to this point.**
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 6 from Page 183, "Aladdin's Castle" to chapter end.**
- READ: Just and Unjust Wars, **Chapters 3, 8 and 9.**

Week 8: October 20. Secessionist Conflicts & the Resource Curse.

- **REFLECTION PAPER 2 DUE TUESDAY OCTOBER 20:** compare and grapple with readings from the week of October 13 (Week 7), be sure to engage all readings/arguments.
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 7**

Week 9: October 27. Who's Who: Militias, Women, Mullah's, Tribes, Families, Middlemen, Children & Police.

- **QUIZ 3: Tuesday, October 27: on recently assigned readings and lectures followed by class discussion.**
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 8 to page 349, "Lost in the Labyrinth again."**

Week 10: November 3. A Question of Strategy: Kinetic Ops v. Development Projects, Safety vs. Security, & Insurgents Behind Insurgents.

- **REACTION PAPER 3 DUE Tuesday, November 3:** Write an engaging, argumentative and/or emotional reflection piece about Chapter 8, *Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency*.
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapter 8 from page 349, "Lost in the Labyrinth again" to chapter end.**
- READ: The Accidental Guerrilla, **Chapter 2** (Afghanistan).
- READ: Just and Unjust Wars, **Chapters 11 and 19.**

Week 11: November 10. Pre-emptive vs. Preventable?

- **QUIZ 4: Tuesday, November 10: on the readings followed by class discussion.**
- READ: Iraq: Impressions of our counterinsurgency: **Chapters 9-End.**
- READ: Just and Unjust Wars, **Chapter 5.**

Week 12: November 17. What about Nukes? The Logic of Deterrence: Looking Forward Through the Past.

- READ: John Mearsheimer. "Middle East: Know the Limits of US Power," Newsweek: Dec 8, 2008.
- READ: John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt. "Keeping Saddam Hussein in a Box," New York Times, February 2, 2003.
- READ: Kenneth Waltz. "Spread of Nuclear Weapons Nothing to Fear"
- READ: Scott Sagan, Kenneth Waltz, and Richard K. Betts. "A nuclear Iran? Promoting Stability or Courting Disaster?" Journal of International Affairs 60(2): 2007.

Week 13: November 24.

Thanksgiving Break: NO CLASSES

Week 14: December 1. Applying the Logic of Safety vs. Security: Protection from the Unthinkable?

- **PAPER 4 DUE Thursday, December 3:** Write 3 pages on the question of nuclear deterrence and the strategy the US should adopt vis-à-vis Iran.
- READ: Vanessa Gera and Monika Scislawska, "US, Poland OK missile defense base, riling Moscow," Associated Press: August 20, 2008.
- READ: Theodore Postol. "Defensible Missile Defense," The New York Times, Op-Ed: March 12, 2009.

Week 15: December 8. Words Matter: The Power of Framing.

Last day of classes: December 10, 2009.

- READ: Scott Atran and Jeremy Ginges, "How Words Could End a War," New York Times Op-Ed: January 25, 2009.

Final Exam and Reflection: 1PM, Thursday, December 17, 2009