

Political Science 30212
Asymmetric Warfare
Fall, 2010
Instructor: Peter Moody, 534 Flanner
1:30-2:30 MW
9:00-10:00 F
And by appointment

Course requirements:

1. Regular attendance, completion of assigned readings prior to day of discussion, participation in class discussion; where relevant, respond intelligently to e-mail quizzes concerning the assigned readings
2. Students will be assigned to do an analytic write up, in the form of a brief analytic and critical summary for one set of the assigned readings, and will be expected to comment on those readings in class. (The written assignment will be turned in at the class meeting following the discussion of the readings.) These reports will serve as takeoff points for class discussion on the relevant day.
3. Completion of a short paper discussing issues related to questions of justice in the conduct of asymmetric war, whether by the weaker or the stronger party
4. A midterm examination
5. A final examination

(Note: Books marked * have been ordered at the bookstore.)

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

ASYMMETRIC WARFARE: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

August 30. Asymmetric warfare

Rod Thornton, Asymmetric Warfare,* Chapter 1.

Ivan Arreguín-Toft, "How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict," International Security, 26, 2 (Summer, 2001) (Look in Google Scholar under author's name)

September 1. The older American assumptions

Thornton, Chapter 7.

Kenneth Campbell, "Once Burned, Twice Cautious: Explaining the Weinberg-Powell Doctrine," Armed Forces and Society, Spring, 1998. (Academic Search Premier)

September 6. Unrestricted warfare

Qiao Liang, Wang Xiangsui, Unrestricted Warfare, preface, Chs. 1, 5 (download from <http://cryptome.org/cuw.htm>)

September 8. Some classical precedents

Thornton, Chapter 8.

Samuel B. Griffith, Sun-tzu: The Art of War,* pp. 1-44, 57-76, 90-101

September 13. Conventional asymmetric warfare: land warfare

Thornton, Ch. 6

Griffith, pp. 77-89, 102-143

September 15. Conventional asymmetric warfare: sea warfare

Thornton, Ch. 5

James Kraska, "New Thinking for an Old Problem," Naval War College Review, Autumn, 2009 (Academic Search Premier)

September 20. Conventional asymmetric warfare: airpower

Thornton, Ch. 4.

Dag Henriksen, "Inflexible Response: Diplomacy, Airpower, and the Kosovo Crisis, 1998-1999," Journal of Strategic Studies, December, 2008 (Academic Search Premier).

PEOPLE'S WAR

September 22. The general theory

Griffith, pp. 45-56

Lin Biao, Long Live the Victory of People's War (Download from: www.marxists.org/reference/archive/lin-biao/1965/09/peoples_war/index.htm)

September 27. People's war: Vietnam

Bernard Fall, The Two Vietnams, Chs. 15, 16 (electronic reserve)

Douglas Pike, Vietcong, Chs. 12, 13, 20 (electronic reserve)

September 29. Vietnam: Counterinsurgency

Robert Thompson, Defeating Communist Insurgency, Chs. 4, 12 (electronic reserve)

Frank Jones, "Blowtorch: Robert Komer and the Making of Vietnam Pacification Policy," Parameters, Autumn, 2005 (Academic Search Premier)

TERRORISM

October 4. Generic Terrorism

Thornton, Chapter 2

Louis Beam, "Leaderless Resistance," The Seditonist, April 1992

<http://www.louisbeam.com/leaderless.htm>

October 6. Al-Qaeda

The Al-Qaeda Training Manual www.fas.org/irp/world/para/aqmanual.pdf

Calvert Jones, "Al-Qaeda's Innovative Improvisers: Learning in a Diffuse Transnational Network," Cambridge Journal of International Affairs, December 2006 (Academic Search Premier)

October 11. Midterm examination

October 13. Documentary on “Phoenix”?

October 25. Does it make sense?

Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” American Political Science Review, 97, 3 (August 2003) (JSTOR)

INFORMATION WARFARE AND INTELLIGENCE

October 27. Problems of information

Griffith, pp. 144-149

Richard K. Betts, Enemies of Intelligence: Knowledge and Power in American National Security,* Chapters 1-3

November 1. Cyberwar

Thornton, Chapter 3

Don Stauffer, “Electronic Warfare: Battlefields without Bloodshed,” Futurist, January-February 2000 (Academic Search Premier)

“Tracking GhostNet: Investigating a Cyber Espionage Network.” (Use Google to locate a text of this.)

November 3. Preconceptions: theoretical level

Robert H. Bates, “Area Studies and the Disciplines: A Useful Controversy?” PS, June 1997 (JSTOR)

Chalmers Johnson, “Preconception Vs Observation, or the Contributions of Rational Choice Theory and Area Studies to Contemporary Political Science,” PS, June, 1997 (JSTOR)

November 8. Preconceptions: practical level

Nigel R. F. Aylwyn-Foster, “Changing the Army for Counterinsurgency Operations,” Military Review, November-December 2005

(<http://usacac.army.mil/CAC/milreview/English/NovDec05/index.asp>)

Kevin Benson, “OIF Phase IV: A Planner’s Reply to Brigadier Aylwyn-Foster,” Military Review, March-April 2006.

November 10. Intelligence and politics

Betts. Chapters 4-5

November 15. Successful intelligence?

Betts, Chapters 6-8

COUNTERMEASURES

November 17 . Counterinsurgency

Nathaniel Fick, John Nagl, US Army-Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual, Afghanistan Edition (Academic Search Premier)

Seth Jones, "Counterinsurgency in Afghanistan" (a RAND Corporation publication, 2008) (Google: Rand Counterinsurgency Afghanistan; download PDF)

November 22. Still not getting it right?

Steven Metz, "New Challenges and Old Concepts," Parameters, Winter 2007 (Academic Search Premier)

ASYMMETRY AND THE RULES OF WAR

November 29. The weak do what they must

Colin Flint, Ghazi-Walid Falah, "How the United States Justified Its War on Terrorism," Third World Quarterly, December 2004 (Academic Search Premier)

Virginia Held, "Legitimate Authority in Non-State Groups Using Violence," Journal of Social Philosophy, Summer 2005 (Academic Search Premier)

December 1. The strong do what they can

Asa Kasher, Amos Yadlin, "Military Ethics of Fighting Terror: An Israeli Perspective," Journal of Military Ethics, April, 2005 (Academic Search Premier)

Jeffrey Whitman, "Just War Theory and the War on Terror," Public Integrity, Winter 2006 (Academic Search Premier)

December 6. General discussion: Is there a rule of morality governing the behavior of the weaker side in asymmetrical conflicts? Is there a rule of morality governing the behavior of the strong side? (Paper due December 8)

December 8. Review and conclusions; research papers due