Syllabus - Summer 2018

Excluding materials for purchase, syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: POLS 3426: Politics, Propaganda, and Cinema
Credits: 3
Format: Online
Prerequisites: Open to sophomores or higher.
Professor: Jeffrey Lefebvre

Email: jeff.lefebvre@uconn.edu
Office Hours/Availability--Online: Normally, I should respond within three hour if I receive your email between 8 AM and 8 PM EST Monday-Friday, but certainly no later than 12 hours.

"Questions for the Professor” Discussion Forum - Post general, non-personal questions about the course (clarification of assignment directions, problems with course navigation, broken links, questions about the readings or videos, etc.), on the “Questions for the Professor” Discussion Board forum. Answers to your questions will be provided in this forum so that your classmates may also benefit.

Course Materials

The main cost will be renting several of the films that are not available for free online—so the total cost for the course should be in the $25-$30 range.

Movies to Rent/ Purchase at the appropriate time in the course:

- Week 2
  - The Battle of Algiers
- Week 4
  - American Sniper
  - My Country, My Country (free with temporary account at Fandor)
- Week 5
  - Zero Dark Thirty

Additional course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources

Course Description

Lectures and films from several nations serve to illustrate techniques and effects of propaganda, analyzing the pervasive impact that propaganda has on our lives. This course will focus on post-9/11 conflicts: Afghanistan, Iraq, and the global war on terrorism.

Instructor’s Introduction:

This course has been taught at UCONN since the mid/late 1970s with a focus on WW II propaganda films. I started teaching this class a dozen years ago, and over the past several years, I have sought to bring it into the late 20th century and now the 21st century with the focus on the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and the global war on terrorism. Conceptually, this class ties together the use of propaganda in films with Just War Theory and the fact that America’s recent and current wars in the 21st century have been asymmetrical in nature (fighting against weaker adversaries that have adopted unconventional tactics). These wars have raised complicating questions such as: 1) Is the US waging a ‘Just War’
going to war for legitimate reasons)?; and 2) Can the US fight/wage (using ‘just means/tactics’) a “Just War” in this new strategic environment. While it may be a given that the United States has been and remains the world’s leading military power, American ‘soft power’—waging “Just Wars” while abiding by American values—may now be just as important in furthering US interests in the world and win/maintain domestic and/or international support for US global leadership. In short, how is the US viewed around the world, and does/should it make a difference how the United States is perceived by friends/adversaries/neutrals?

This course has been developed as an online course in collaboration with UConn’s eCampus, adhering to Quality Matters Standards. Of note, there are no books required for this course. Students will be expected to read several journal articles, book chapters, other articles each week for which there will be a direct link for you to access online.

**Course Objectives**

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

1. Describe what is meant by waging a “Just War” and the challenges of applying these principles in waging an asymmetrical (irregular/guerrilla) war;
2. Explain the practical and ethical challenges of engaging in asymmetrical warfare and balancing a counter-terror strategy with a counter-insurgency (COIN) strategy.
3. With reference to Just War Theory and the COIN strategy of “winning hearts and minds,” explain how U.S. political-military objectives may be compromised/undermined by U.S. policy and military actions that could then be used as propaganda against the United States.

**Course Outline**

Module 1: Just War Theory (JWT)
Module 2: Waging Counterinsurgency Warfare (COIN)
Module 3: JWT, COIN, and the war in Afghanistan
Module 4: JWT, COIN, and the Iraq War
Module 5:JWT, COIN, and the “Global War on Terrorism”

**Course Schedule**

**Summary of Course Grading:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Components</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion Board</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discussion Board**

In each of the five modules there are two Discussion Boards (10 total). Students will be asked to provide approximately a 1-2 paragraph response to the question and then to respond with approximately a paragraph to at least two initial posts of two or more different students. Review the Discussion Board Rubric prior to each initial post.

**Quiz**

IMPORTANT NOTE: In each of the five modules there will be a ten-question fill-in the blank quiz (5 total) that will be based only on the introductory videos or readings, not the entire module. These quizzes are designed to prepare/quiz students on background material related to the module. All quizzes will be available for a limited
time; consult your schedule for availability and due dates. For the majority of the quizzes, a time limit of 20 minutes will be set. Students should complete all prior readings and videos in the module before starting a quiz.

Papers
Papers will be due each week on Saturdays by 11:59 PM. (5 total). Each paper should be approximately 3-4 pages in length. Generally students will be expected to provide at least one detailed/specific reference to each of the two main films/videos viewed within that module (i.e., may cite in paper as ...In the *Battle of Algiers...*) and reference at least two readings (you may footnote/endnote full citation or cite within text--i.e., Lefebvre, p. #) and put full citation at the end of the paper in a bibliography. Review the rubric for the papers before submitting them.

*APSA Citation Guides: Articles, Films, Books*

Grading Scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Due Dates and Late Policy

All course due dates are identified in each module. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. *The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner. Please log in to the course at least every other day.*

**Late Policy:**

*Quizzes must be completed on time or a zero will be given. For discussion boards and papers a full one grade deduction (10 points) for up to 12 hours late; two grade deduction (20 points) for 12-24 hours late; and after 24 hours submissions will not be accepted and graded as zero.*

Feedback and Grades

I will make every effort to provide responses to emails within twelve hours. Feedback and grades for Discussion Boards and Quizzes will be within 24 hours and for papers within 48 hours. To keep track of your performance in the course, refer to My Grades in HuskyCT.

Student Responsibilities and Resources

As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. Review these important standards, policies and resources, which include:

- The Student Code
  - Academic Integrity
  - Resources on Avoiding Cheating and Plagiarism
- Copyrighted Materials
Students with Disabilities

The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020 or http://csd.uconn.edu/.

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from Blackboard's website)

Software/Technical Requirements (with Accessibility and Privacy Information)

The software/technical requirements for this course include:

- HuskyCT/Blackboard (HuskyCT/ Blackboard Accessibility Statement, HuskyCT/ Blackboard Privacy Policy)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader (Adobe Reader Accessibility Statement, Adobe Reader Privacy Policy)
- Google Apps (Google Apps @ UConn Accessibility, Google for Education Privacy Policy)
- Microsoft Office (free to UConn students through uconn.onthehub.com) (Microsoft Accessibility Statement, Microsoft Privacy Statement)
- Dedicated access to high-speed internet with a minimum speed of 1.5 Mbps (4 Mbps or higher is recommended).

Help

Technical and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, you have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours through the Help Center. You also have 24x7 Course Support including access to live chat, phone, and support documents.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:

- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.

Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).
Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.