SENIOR RESEARCH SEMINAR
4990
FALL 2018

INSURGENCY AND COUNTERINSURGENCY

Dr. Veronica Ward
Class: Monday 2:30-5:20 pm
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Office Hours: Tuesday 2-4pm; Friday 2-3pm; and by appointment

Course Overview

This class focuses on a set of topics that are receiving increasing attention. Scholars, military professionals, politicians, and observers have all joined a discussion and debate on the sources, dynamics, and likely future of insurgencies, also termed irregular wars.

Confronting an insurgency, the key questions are: How should such a conflict be fought? What are the types of insurgency? What tactics and strategies are adopted by insurgents? How can an insurgency be defeated? What are or should be the core elements of counterinsurgency (COIN)? How effective are the responses of governments? What is the role of outside powers, in these cases the United States? How might the outside power affect the outcome?

All of our cases focus on the United States as it has been heavily involved in insurgencies, more than any other state. Beyond the many cases we will read about and discuss, we will also consider how one U.S. military service has approached and fought insurgencies – the Marine Corps.

In this course, your research will be guided by the framework developed by Bard O’Neill whose work has played a major role in the training of experts in this field. More information follows below.

Course Objectives

1. To better understand the nature of internal wars, a dominant form of warfare in today’s world.
2. Come away with an ability to apply systematic analysis to insurgencies.
3. To develop analytical skills necessary to research on a specific case.
4. To develop writing skills and oral skills.
5. Learn to analyze and critically evaluate the ideas, arguments, and points of view presented in the readings and in class discussion.
Readings

Russell Crandall, America’s Dirty Wars: Irregular warfare from 1776 to the war on terror. Cambridge University Press, 2014.


Requirements

Each of you will be expected to participate in the discussion during each class period. In addition, each of you will take the lead in the discussion on a rotating basis. When it is your turn you are to send to me the questions/issues raised by the readings by 10am on the day of the class. I will then email the class with the questions for discussion to be held later that day. Remember, everyone will have already read the material so your questions or issues need to address major concerns or problems identified in the reading material.

50 points of your course grade will be based upon how well you lead the class, and your overall class participation/attendance. Do not make appointments for the class time. If you become ill, then you need to contact me to inform me of your absence. Repeated absences from you second absence on will result in a loss of 3 points from your final grade for each absence.

Another 30 points will be based upon your oral presentation of the results of your research. Presentations will be held in class the last week of the semester beginning on Monday, December 3rd.

You will have about 12 minutes to present your findings on your chosen case. You need to present reasoned analysis that will inspire comments and questions from the audience. You will be evaluated on the clarity of your presentation, its success in summarizing important ideas, its success in maintaining audience interest, and staying within the time limit. I strongly suggest you practice in front of a friend, a mirror, or a video. You should read aloud your presentation to check the timing.

• I expect that each of you will attend all of your fellow students’ presentations.

30 points for the completion of a short paper (5-6 double-spaced pages) due on October 22. Topic: after reading the cases in Crandall, identify the COIN principles you judge important for success against insurgencies. Be sure to use material from the cases to explain your choices.

You must hand in a hard copy and post the paper to Canvas.
100 points of your grade will be based upon a research paper. The paper is due on Wednesday, December 12. It should be approximately 20 typed, double-spaced pages, 12 font. You should have a minimum of 15 sources; only two (2) of these can be from “unofficial” websites. You must provide me with a hard copy. No use of Wikipedia is permitted. I suggest you use books and journal articles as much as possible.

In addition to handing in a hard copy, you MUST post a copy to Canvas.

You may choose any of the cases discussed in the Crandall volume. But you need to let me know by MONDAY, OCTOBER 29. Also, as I do not want to have multiple individuals choosing the same case, I might ask each of you to change if that becomes the case. You might want to pick and order, in terms of preference, two or three cases.

You are free to turn in your paper before the deadline.

Research Paper

You are to apply O’Neill’s framework to your chosen case. This will require you to answer a series of questions identified by O’Neill as relevant for an analysis of an insurgency and counterinsurgency.

1. What type of insurgency are we dealing with? What is the insurgents’ ultimate goal? Is it egalitarian, reformist, secessionist, traditionalist, preservationist, anarchist, pluralist, apocalyptic-utopian, commercialist, or some mixture of these? Are the goals clear and precise, or are they nebulous and contradictory? Do the insurgents mask their ultimate aim in misleading rhetoric?

2. What strategy (if any) are the insurgents following – conspiratorial, protracted popular war, military focus, urban warfare, or transnational? Is the strategy implicit or explicit? Does its conception and implementation appear to be superficial or carefully thought through? Is the choice of strategy related to the nature of the environment? How?

3. Is the physical environment conducive to terrorism and/or guerrilla warfare? For example, in small, urbanized countries it is unsuitable to have substantial guerrilla warfare. Is there rugged terrain, usually helpful to insurgents? Do insurgents have extensive good terrain to enable an expansion of their operations? If there are poor roads, railroads, etc. these favor insurgents. How does the human environment (e.g., demography, ethnicity) affect the insurgency?

4. How much popular support do the insurgents have? Passive or active support? Which techniques do the insurgents rely on to gain support? How do societal divisions and environmental factors affect popular support?

5. What is the nature of the insurgent organization: is it a complex one with a parallel hierarchy or is it small-scale (e.g., terrorist cells)? If it is a parallel hierarchy, how extensive is it (i.e., is it limited to a few areas or widespread)? Is the organizational format congruent with the strategy? Are there any connections with noninsurgent groups? If so, what are they like and how important are they?

6. Are the insurgents unified? If not, what are the reasons and the effects?
7. What kind of external support do the insurgents need? What do they get (e.g., moral, political, and material support or sanctuary) and from whom? How important is it? How durable does it appear to be?
8. Does the host government have a coherent and relevant national program for addressing social, economic, and political grievances? Is the government administrative apparatus competent? Does it provide a common sense of direction by integrating and directing both military and nonmilitary undertakings? Is the government’s military response carefully tailored to provide appropriate responses to different kinds of threats, or is it indiscriminate? What are the consequences? How does the government deal with external support for insurgents?
9. Finally, what has the role of the U.S. been? What was/is the relationship between the U.S. and the host government? How effective have its actions been?

**Summation of Points**

1. Participation and Attendance 50 points
2. Short Paper-due Oct 22 30 points
3. Oral Presentation-last week 30 points
4. Final Paper-due Dec 12 100 points

Total: 210 points

Grading is on the standard scale:
A = 94% and up, A- = 90-93%, B+ = 87-89%, B = 84-88%, B- = 80-83%, C+ = 77-79%
C – 74-76%, C- = 70-73%, D = 60-69, F = 59% and below.

All cell phones are to be turned off.

**Disabled Students**

Students with disabilities likely to require accommodation by the instructor must contact the instructor and document the disability through the Disability Resource Center during the first week of classes. Requests for special considerations relating to attendance, pedagogy, or assignments must be approved by the instructor.

**Be sure to check your USU email account for any messages that I might send out.**

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism occurs whenever someone represents, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes using materials prepared by another person or an agency engaged in the sale of term papers or other academic materials.

Even if you just paraphrase you MUST properly cite the material. Remember, if you can find it on-line, so can I.
Violations will result in an F for the course. There are no excuses. If you are in doubt, please come and speak with me.

Course Schedule

8/27  Introduction to the Course
      READING: Crandall, chapters 1 and 2
      (No one will be held responsible for leading discussion this class.)

9/3    NO Class

9/10   Crandall, chapters 3-5

9/17   Crandall, chapters 6, 9, 10, 11

9/24   Crandall, Read either chapters 20-23 OR chapters 24 and 25.

10/1   Crandall, chapters 26-29

10/8   Crandall, chapters 30-32

10/15  Crandall, chapter 33 – Epilogue

10/22  Johnson, Introduction and chapters 1 – 2

SHORT PAPER DUE TODAY

10/29  Johnson, chapters 3-5

11/5   Johnson, chapters 6 and 7

11/12  Johnson, chapters 8, 9, and conclusion

Break from class. We will return for the presentations at the end of the semester.

12/3   Presentations

FINAL PAPER DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12