

The University of Oklahoma

College of Continuing Education

Advanced Programs – Course Syllabus

Course Title:

Topics in International Studies: Afghanistan in Conflict

Course Number:

IAS 5940-499

Course Description:

The 9/11 terrorist attacks upon the United States by al Qaeda marked the starting point of the current conflict in Afghanistan. While much of the world's focus has been on the West's difficult endeavor to defeat the Taliban and eradicate al Qaeda, it is easy to forget that Afghanistan has experienced conflict and foreign invaders for almost 2,500 years. Alexander the Great, Arabs, Mongols, the British and Soviets have all invaded Afghanistan at some point but failed to hold influence or achieve their long-term goals. What has changed?

Course Dates:

May 1 – August 31, 2017

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 2, 2017

Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or e-mail our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P Barnes (RCAF)
E-mail Address: Bruce.P.Barnes-1@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: By appointment
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Fairweather, J. (2014). *The good war: Why we couldn't win the war or the peace in Afghanistan*. New York: Basic Books. ISBN 9780465044955.
2. Rashid, A. (2009). *Descent into chaos: The United States and the disaster in Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Central Asia*. New York: Penguin. ISBN 9780143115571.
3. Materials posted on the Canvas system: Access Canvas at <http://learn.ou.edu>; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

OU E-Mail:

All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:

This course will study Afghanistan – including its history, geography, people and their lives – in order to better understand why this region has known centuries of conflict. We will also look closely at various facets of the ongoing conflict with emphasis on how it affects the United States and its traditional NATO allies. Students will seek to appreciate the ongoing military situation, the nature of the threat and options for the future of Afghans. Of key interest is seeking answers to how the conflict has shaped this generation of Americans and their foreign policy.

Course of Study:

The course will follow a series of lectures with associated readings. Audio lectures (30-45 min approx. length) and lecture slides will be available for download from the Canvas course webpage. These lectures are entitled:

1. History of Afghanistan;
2. The Land and People;
3. Invasion – the Soviet Years;
4. The Taliban and Al Qaeda;
5. Illegal Narcotics, Corruption and Conflict;
6. Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and ISAF (Post-Taliban Afghanistan);
7. US Policy and American Public Opinion; and
8. 2104 and Beyond.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:

Detailed assignment instructions will be made available to students on the Canvas course webpage one month prior to the first class. All assignments will employ either the APA or Chicago style guides.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Initial Canvas log-in and introduction post	12 May	0
200-Word posts to 4 discussion forums	19 May, 26 May, 9 Jun, 23 Jun	20
Profile (5-6 pages)	4 Jun	20
Critique (5-6 pages)	2 Jul	20
Paper (10-12 pages)	16 Jul	40

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact professor regarding his/her policy for late work.

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Canvas and E-mail contact, students are required to log in to the course Canvas website and follow the posted instructions **before** the beginning of the course. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via e-mail if needed.

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of "I" is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a "Petition for and Work to Remove an Incomplete Grade" form. An "I" can never be used in lieu of an "F" nor can an "I" be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:

If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: <http://webapps.ou.edu/it/> or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).

Procedures for Completion of Course Evaluation:

Upon completion of the course students should go to the [Advanced Programs Online Learning Information webpage](#) and click on the applicable semester link under "Online Course Evaluation" which will direct them to the evaluation. The evaluation will take approximately five minutes to complete. Completion of the online evaluation is an important tool allowing Advanced Programs to gain information and student feedback for improvement of courses.

Your responses will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the department and only supplied to the professor once grades for the course have been submitted.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Lieutenant-Colonel Bruce P Barnes, Royal Canadian Air Force

Education

- 2008 US Air Force Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Alabama
- 2007 MA (War Studies) Royal Military College of Canada, Kingston, Ontario
- 1989 BA (History) York University, Glendon College, Toronto, Ontario

Current Positions

- Advanced Programs professor since 2009
- Senior Staff Officer, Canadian Forces Aerospace Warfare Centre, 8 Wing, Trenton, Ontario
- OU College of Liberal Studies lecturer since 2011
- College of International Studies lecturer since 2008

Courses Frequently Taught at OU College of International Studies (Advanced Programs)

- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: EU, NATO and European Security
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: Afghanistan in Conflict
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: Western Hemispheric Security – An American Dilemma
- IAS 5940 Topics in International Studies: International Terrorism
- CAS 5960 Independent Directed Reading: Post-Cold-War Security Studies

Other Courses Taught at OU College of Liberal Studies

- LTSD 5970 The Citizen as Soldier

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Modern European / North American Security Issues
- Post-Cold War Governance Systems

Representative Publications and Presentations

- MA Thesis: “Fighters First: The Transition of the Royal Canadian Air Force 1945-1952”
- RCAF Command Doctrine B-GA-401 (2012 and 2016)
- RCAF Journal (numerous articles)