



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5940-225: Topics in International Studies: Afghanistan in Conflict

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, Soviets and now America have all invaded Afghanistan at some point but failed to hold influence or achieve their long-term goals. Within this context, one might ask if we are adding another chapter to the story of "Afghanistan in conflict".

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: September 17 – 22, 2019
Location: Building 2775, Rooms 10 and 11. Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base.
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 19, 2019

Site Director:

Email: apramstein@ou.edu. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Lieutenant Colonel Bruce P. Barnes (RCAF, retired)
Email Address: Bruce.p.barnes-1@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

1. Chivers, C.J., *The Fighters: Americans in Combat in Afghanistan and Iraq*, (Simon & Schuster Paperbacks, NY, 2018), ISBN 978-1451676648 Hardcover, or ISBN 978-1982109493;
2. O'Connell, Aaron B., (Ed), *Our Latest Longest War: Losing Hearts and Minds in Afghanistan*, (University of Chicago Press, 2018), ISBN: 978-022659856
3. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu>, enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Course Objectives:

This course will study Afghanistan – including its history, geography, people and their lives – to better understand why this region has known centuries of conflict. We will also look closely at impact the Taliban movement and al Qaeda have had following the disastrous Soviet-Afghan War. The ever increasing problems of opium production and corruption associated with the trafficking of heroin will be studied within the context of a larger, criminalized economy that causes social instability. Students will seek to appreciate the ongoing security situation, the continuing 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 Outline:

This on-site course will combine traditional aspects of the liberal arts with lectures, assigned readings and discussion groups. To continue developing research and critical writing skills, written assignments will be performed. Additional readings will be available to students on the course's Canvas website.

The course will follow a series of 8 lectures with associated readings. 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. Western Intervention;
7. US Policy and American Public Opinion; and
8. 2014 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.

Assignment	Due Date(s)	Percent of Grade
Initial Canvas log-in and introduction post: students introduce themselves in a discussion forum and take the opportunity to become familiar with the Canvas webpage	16 Sep	0
Participation: This ongoing assignment includes an assessment of your conduct and participation during group discussion periods. Emphasis will be placed on your contribution of meaningful thoughts and opinions. While the instructor may add comments or help steer the discussion, the process is student-driven...so get involved!	17-22 Sep	30
Critique (5-6 pages): students write a critique on the course textbook <i>Fighters: Americans in Combat in Afghanistan and Iraq</i> , by C.J. Chivers	29 Sep	30
Paper (10-12 pages): students write a paper on an assigned topic	13 Oct	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.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

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. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

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

- OU College of International Studies lecturer since 2008
- OU College of Professional and Continuing Studies lecturer since 2009
- OU College of Liberal Studies lecturer since 2011

Frequently Taught Courses at OU

- 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
- IAS 5960 Independent Directed Reading: Post-Cold-War Security 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”
- Royal Canadian Air Force Command Doctrine B-GA-401 (2012 and 2017)
- Royal Canadian Air Force Journal (numerous articles)