IAS 5940-111: Topics in International Studies: Small Wars/Low Intensity Conflicts

Course Description:

Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) is just one of the many – and mostly bad – names for the kind of warfare that characterizes most conflict around the world today, as well as in the past, and, most likely, into the foreseeable future. Some of LIC’s other names are: Small Wars, Little Wars, Imperial Policing, Insurgency and Counterinsurgency, Terrorism and Counterterrorism, Peacekeeping, Operations other than War (OOTW), Gray Area Phenomena (GAP), and Military Operations other than War (MOOTW). This course will consider both the evolution of LIC and the evolution of thinking about LIC. It will address the issue of what victory is in LIC and how one achieves it. And it will consider why the U.S. seems to find it necessary to relearn the lessons of LIC every time we encounter such a war. Finally, the course will conclude with a role playing insurgency/counterinsurgency exercise.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: August 16 – 18 & 23 – 25, 2019  
Location: College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215  
Hours: Friday 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sunday 1:00-5:00 p.m.  
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: July 18, 2019

Site Director:

Email: apokc@ou.edu. Phone: 405-271-4522.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: John T. Fishel, Ph.D.  
Mailing Address: 13388 300th St. Blanchard, OK 73010  
Telephone Number: 405-485-8129  
Email Address: j.t.fishel@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.


   This book will not be available directly through the OU bookstore. However, students may use outside sources to purchase the book such as Amazon.com or other book vendors.

5. 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:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Discuss the evolution of thinking about LIC/Small Wars.
- Discuss the development of LIC/Small Wars military doctrine to include interagency procedures.
- Analyze Small Wars/LIC cases using the most effective existing model for that purpose.
- Evaluate the utility of the SWORD Model against other, competing theories.
- Synthesize all previous material in the development of either an insurgent or COIN strategy in a free play simulation.

Course Outline:

**Prior to first class meeting** we will be prepared to discuss Callwell (especially Chapter 1), SWM (especially Chapter 1), Fishel, “Little Wars,” Kilcullen, Fishel & Manwaring “The SWORD Model…,” Fishel & Corr. You will also complete the Midterm Exam.

**First class** we will discuss the previously assigned readings with emphasis on the SWORD model.

**Classes through Friday** we will discuss cases of small wars.

**Saturday**, we will conduct a COIN simulation.

**Sunday**, we will wrap up the week and the Final Exam will be posted.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

**Midterm Exam due first class period.** (Early submission by email encouraged.) Note that although there are three (3) separate questions, the exam is a single document. If you turn it in at class it is typed, double space, in Times New Roman, 12-point font, with your name on the paper and a single staple in the upper left corner. If you email, all is there same up to and including font and your name.

**During the week** of class read all of Fishel & Manwaring, *Uncomfortable Wars*. For Tue and Wed read Nagl. For Fri read Robinson.

**Due on the second class meeting** is a topic for your research paper. The paper itself will be **due 21 days after the last class** along with the final. Details to be provided in class.

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 make 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/eeo.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
John T. Fishel, Ph.D.

Education
- 1982 Advanced study, American Graduate School of International Management, International Business
- 1973 Advanced study, University of Minnesota, Public Policy Analysis
- 1971 Ph.D. Indiana University, Political Science (Political and Administrative Development)
- 1967 MA Indiana University, Political Science
- 1964 AB Dartmouth College, International Relations

Current Positions
- Lecturer, School of International & Area Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Adjunct professor College of Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma
- Professor Emeritus of National Security Policy, National Defense University
- Professor Emeritus, School of International Service, American University

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
- American National Government
- State and Local Government
- The Presidency
- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Introduction to International Relations
- US Foreign Policy
- Comparative Politics: Advanced Nations
- Comparative Politics: Modernizing Nations
- Latin American Politics
- Public Administration
- Public Policy Analysis
- Scope and Methods of Political Science
- Research Methodology
- Foreign Policy Seminar
- Political Risk Analysis Seminar
- National Security Policy Seminar
- Non-State Actors in International Relations
- Seminar Latin American Strategic Study
- Strategic Intelligence Seminar
- Public Administration Theory Seminar
- Military Force Development Seminar
- Comparative Local Politics Seminar
- Bureaucratic Politics Seminar
- Seminar on Defense Policy in the Americas
- Seminar on Peace Operations
- Combating Terrorism
- Low Intensity Conflict/Small Wars
- Capstone Course: War & Conflict from Ancient Times to the Present
- National Security Leadership
- Multiple online courses IRLS and NSEC programs at AMU/APU
Representative Publications and Presentations

Books

- 2006 Uncomfortable Wars Revisited, with Max G. Manwaring, University of Oklahoma Press

Monographs and Reports

- 2004 Building Capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean: PKO and the Case of Haiti, editor &

Articles, Book Chapters, & Professional Papers

• 2010 “Afterword” to Max G. Manwaring, Gangs, Pseudo-Militaries, and other Modern 
Mercenaries: New Dynamics in Uncomfortable Wars. The University of Oklahoma Press, 
Norman, OK.
• 2008 “The SWORD Model of Counterinsurgency” (with Max G. Manwaring), Small 
• 2005 “Countering Ideological Support to Terrorism in the Circum-Caribbean,” paper 
prepared for conference at the G. C. Marshall Center for Strategic Studies, book chapter 
in A. Aldis and G. Herd, Countering Ideological Support to Terrorism, Routledge.
• 2003 “ Educating for ‘Jointness:’ An Analysis of the Joint Professional Military 
Education System of the United States,” A study prepared for presentation to the Chilean 
Academia Nacional de Estudios Políticos y Estratégicos and to the Military Education 
Branch of the J-7 of the US Joint Staff (with Craig A. Deare and Salvador G. Raza).

Awards, Distinctions, and Fellowships

• Recipient of $20,000 Presidential Dream Course grant from the University of Oklahoma for Fall 
2009.
• Faculty Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS), National Defense University, 
• Invited Participant in the Democracy Projects, The American University, Civil-Military Relations 
• Defense Meritorious Service Medal, 1989
• Joint Service Commendation Medal, 1988
• Research Grant, US Army School of International Studies, 1985
• Sabbatical, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, 1982
• Research Grant, Center for Latin America, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and University 
of Wisconsin LaCrosse, 1979
• President, North Central Council of Latin Americanists, 1978
• Research Grant, Center for Latin America, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1975
• Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Institute on Public Policy Analysis, 1973
• Fellow, Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, 1972-85
• US Army Commendation Medal, 1971
• Indiana University Doctoral Research Fellowship, 1967-68
• Indiana University Latin America Summer Research Fellowship, 1966
• Indiana University Summer Research Fellowship, 1965 NDEATitle IV Fellowship, 1965-68
• “Rufus Choate” Scholar, Dartmouth College, 1964

Professional Associations

• American Political Science Association
• Civil Affairs Association
• International Studies Association
• Latin American Studies Association
• Midwest Association of Latin American Studies
• North Central Council of Latin Americanists
• International Studies Association
• Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society
• Midwest Political Science Association
• Reserve Officers Association
• Military Officers Association of America
• Foreign Area Officers Association
• Veterans of Foreign Wars