Department of Political Science
The University of Western Ontario

POL 4464G/9759b
'War on Terror'

Professor Nandita, Biswas Mellamphy

Office hours: Mon, 1:30-2:30 PM; or by appointment, Social Science Centre 4095
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Class location and times: Mon, 11:30am-1:30pm, SSC 4103

Course Description: What happens when war and militarization extend out of the space of the battlefield and become integrated into the civilian space of everyday life? Just as we have witnessed the global integration of information, communication, and trade which are no longer confined by territorial boundaries, so too can 'war' be seen as no longer confined to its classic theatre of operation, the battlefield. Today, in combination with the technological and informational revolutions characteristic of the 21st century, the governance of terror in the name of security has effectively led to the tactical and indefinite extension of war into all spheres of life. The strategic relationship between war and media, and the key role played by 'mediatization,' has led to the emergence of 'diffused war' (Hoskins and O'Loughlin, 2010). This course seeks to investigate network-centric warfare and the changing nature of 'war' from a theoretical standpoint. We will examine the concept of 'terror' both as an historical mode of warfare, as well as a new globalized phenomenon within the domain of what today is called the ' global war on terror'. The course will be structured in 3 parts:
  - War on Terror and the Politics of Fear
  - War on Terror and Asymmetric Warfare
  - War on Terror and the Surveillance State

The course material centers on a growing international field of scholarship that researches the problematization of politics, security and war from the perspective of political theory, philosophies of information and bio-technology, continental philosophy, as well as postmodern and poststructuralist critiques of the political subject and political power. The course materials will seek to elucidate the following concepts:

  - Security and Insecurity (the politics of fear)
  - States of exception and discourses of 'crisis'
  - Classical warfare vs. Asymmetric warfare
  - Telesthesia and network-centric war (war at a distance)
  - Predation and the asymmetric enemy
  - Swarming, drone warfare, and machinic cognition
  - Biometrics and the Surveillance State

This course is focused on "**inquiry-based learning**" which presupposes that 'all learning begins with the learner'. The course presupposes that YOU will take a *proactive* involvement in your own learning: this includes consulting online and print sources for further information on a topic, or consulting me whenever you need help or have a relevant question.

Suggested Textbooks:
For those who would like some background reading on International Relations theories, please consult: *Critical Approaches to International* Security by K.M. Fierke and/or *International Relations Theory: A Critical Introduction* by Cynthia Weber (these books have **not** been ordered at the Bookstore so it is up to you to purchase them. I suggest using Abebooks.com or Scribd).

Other Required Course Material: All articles will be available on the course website (OWL).

Evaluation Breakdown: Full instructions for each assignment will be posted on the course website.

- Class Participation (10%)
- Oral Presentation of Research Paper Topic (10 minutes + 5 min Q&A): 25%
- In-class Reflections (short reflection on an assigned questions): 5 x 3% each= 15%
- Final Research Paper (50%): 15-20 pages (double spaced, typed, title page and bibliography); deadline is Monday April 8, 2014.

*Policy: All assignments must be printed (*excluding in class reflections) *and submitted in person on the deadline (*email submissions will not be accepted unless prior permission has been given by the professor)*. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that his/her assignment has been officially received (for example, if you slip your paper under my door without notifying me, I am not responsible for a 'lost' paper and this cannot be used as a grounds for appeal).

Late essay submissions may be subject to a penalty deduction of 5% a day (from the due date until the day that the assignment is received by the instructor, including weekends and holidays). **To discuss these policies further, please feel free to meet with me.**

Course Website (OWL): All the course administration, including required readings, announcements, detailed explanation of assignments and other extra materials will be found on the course website. Everything having to do with each component of the course will be available on the course website. *The website has not been developed to be a replacement for attending class*. Problems with accessibility to the course website cannot be used as a basis for missing deadlines or appealing your grades. This means that if you are having problems accessing the course website, you must notify your instructor as soon as possible and you will be directed to a computer technician.

Computer, Cell-phone and Other Gadgets Policy:

- You may use your computers to take notes during lectures, but I reserve the right to ensure that you are not text-messaging, surfing the internet, or distracting other students.
- No digital recording (either voice or image) of the lectures is allowed.
- All cellphones (and similar technologies) must be turned off, silent or on 'vibration' mode during the duration of the class and during tutorials.

Special Needs: If you are a student with special needs, or you simply want to discuss the course materials in more depth, *please feel free to discuss with me in person at any time*. Visit Western's *Student Development Services* (http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/) to access the resources available to you.

Western Medical Accommodation Policy (Medical Notes): The University of Western Ontario's Senate has approved a medical note policy, which affects all students. Please follow the procedures as set out by the University and see your Academic Counseling office to present your case and documentation **before** asking me for an extension without penalty. For more detailed information and forms, please visit https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm, and for further policy information please visit http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

Academic Dishonesty Policy:"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/choloff.pdf." The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic format for plagiarism checking. (UWO Senate 2002-03)."
If you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Weekly Reading Schedule: Subject to modification
* Available on course website.

Date	Required and Recommended Readings	Lecture Themes
Jan 6	Introduction to the Themes of the Course and Discussion of Course Mechanics	*Defining the Scope of the Study of 'War on Terror'*
Jan 13	Brian Massumi, "The Half-Life of Disaster" http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/apr/15/half-life-of-disaster *Alexander Galloway, "Are Some Things Unrepresentable?" (from *The Interface Effect*). *Andrew Hoskins and Ben O'Loughlin, "Introduction" (from *War and Media: The Emergence of Diffused War*).	*War, Media and Disaster Capitalism*

Jan 20	*Cory Robin, *Fear: The History of an Idea*, p. 1-43. *McKenzie Wark, "Securing Security" (from *Telesthesia: Communication, Culture and Class).* U.S. Senator Ron Wyden on the dangers of extending the Patriot Act https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMAX_Frj8xM	*Fear, Terror and the Power of Insecurity*
Jan 27	*Carl von Clausewitz, "What is War?" and "Purpose and Means in War" in *On War,* p. 7-44. *Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, p. 25-37. *Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*, Preface and p. 3-10, and p. 12-32.	*War, Sovereignty and States of Exception*
Feb 3	*Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire,* p. 37-62. *Gal Hirsch, "On Dinosaurs and Hornets: A Critical View on Operational Moulds in Asymmetrical Conflicts", *RUSI Journal,* p. 60-63. *Reza Negarestani, "The Militarization of Peace", *Collapse: Philosophical Research and Development*, vol. 1 (2006): 53-.60 http://www.urbanomic.com/Publications/Collapse-1/PDFs/C1_Reza_Negarestani.pdf	*Who is Friend and Who is Enemy? From Symmetrical to Asymmetrical War*
Feb 10	*Gregoire Chamayou, "The Dialectic of the Hunter and the Hunted," (from *Manhunts: A Philosophical History*). Gregoire Chamayou, "The Manhunt Doctrine", http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/commentary/the-manhunt-doctrine Asawin Suebsaeng, "Drones: Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Too Afraid to Ask" http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/drones-explained http://sploid.gizmodo.com/defend-yourself-against-drones-using-this-drone-surviva-1486459945	*Predation and Drone Warfare*

Feb 17	READING WEEK	CLASS CANCELLED
Feb 24	*Information Commissioner's Office of the United Kingdom, "A Report on the Surveillance Society" (2006), ico.org.uk/~/media/documents/library/Dat...URVEILLANCE_SOCIETY_FULL_REPORT_2006.pdf Trevor Paglen, http://www.guernicamag.com/daily/trevor-paglen-turnkey-tyranny-surveillance-and-the-terror-state/ Mirren Gidda, "Edward Snowden and the NSA Files – Timeline" http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jun/23/edward-snowden-nsa-files-timeline Glenn Greenwald et. al., "Microsoft handed the NSA access to encrypted messages http://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/jul/11/microsoft-nsa-collaboration-user-data Adam Harvey's "Stealth Wear" http://ahprojects.com/projects/stealth-wear Special Guest Presentation: Zach Blas, "Facial Weaponization Suite" http://www.zachblas.info/projects/facial-weaponization-suite/	*Surveillance, the Terror State and The Politics of Subversion*
Mar 3	*Eugene Thacker, "Networks, Swarms, Multitudes", parts 1 & 2 http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=422 http://www.ctheory.net/articles.aspx?id=423 Andrew Kubit, "Swarming: The Art of 21st Century Warfare" http://smallwarsjournal.com/print/12140?utm_source=twitterfeed&utm_medium=tw	*The Politics of Swarming*
Mar 10	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	
Mar 17	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	

Mar 24	STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	
Mar 31	*Manabrata Guha, "Introduction to SIMADology", *Collapse*	Special Guest: Dr. Manabrata Guha (University of Bath, UK, author of *Reimagining War in the 21st Century: From Clausewitz to Network-Centric Warfare*)
Apr 8	http://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/01/could-human-enhancement-turn-soldiers-into-weapons-that-violate-international-law-yes/266732 Last class	*Larval Terrorism*