

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  
[nbiswasm@uwo.ca](mailto:nbiswasm@uwo.ca) or 519-661-2111 ext. 81161

**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](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	<i>Defining the Scope of the Study of 'War on Terror'</i>
Jan 13	Brian Massumi, "The Half-Life of Disaster" <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/apr/15/half-life-of-disaster">http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2011/apr/15/half-life-of-disaster</a>  *Alexander Galloway, "Are Some Things Unrepresentable?" (from <i>The Interface Effect</i> ).  *Andrew Hoskins and Ben O'Loughlin, "Introduction" (from <i>War and Media: The Emergence of Diffused War</i> ).	<i>War, Media and Disaster Capitalism</i>

<p>Jan 20</p>	<p>*Cory Robin, <i>Fear: The History of an Idea</i>, p. 1-43.</p> <p>*McKenzie Wark, "Securing Security" (from <i>Telesthesia: Communication, Culture and Class</i>).</p> <p>U.S. Senator Ron Wyden on the dangers of extending the Patriot Act  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMAX_Fri8xM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMAX_Fri8xM</a></p>	<p><i>Fear, Terror and the Power of Insecurity</i></p>
<p>Jan 27</p>	<p>*Carl von Clausewitz, "What is War?" and "Purpose and Means in War" in <i>On War</i>, p. 7-44.</p> <p>*Carl Schmitt, <i>The Concept of the Political</i>, p. 25-37.</p> <p>*Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, <i>Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire</i>, Preface and p. 3-10, and p. 12-32.</p>	<p><i>War, Sovereignty and States of Exception</i></p>
<p>Feb 3</p>	<p>*Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, <i>Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire</i>, p. 37-62.</p> <p>*Gal Hirsch, "On Dinosaurs and Hornets: A Critical View on Operational Moulds in Asymmetrical Conflicts", <i>RUSI Journal</i>, p. 60-63.</p> <p>*Reza Negarestani, "The Militarization of Peace", <i>Collapse: Philosophical Research and Development</i>, vol. 1 (2006): 53-.60  <a href="http://www.urbanomic.com/Publications/Collapse-1/PDFs/C1_Reza_Negarestani.pdf">http://www.urbanomic.com/Publications/Collapse-1/PDFs/C1_Reza_Negarestani.pdf</a></p>	<p><i>Who is Friend and Who is Enemy? From Symmetrical to Asymmetrical War</i></p>
<p>Feb 10</p>	<p>*Gregoire Chamayou, "The Dialectic of the Hunter and the Hunted," (from <i>Manhunts: A Philosophical History</i>).</p> <p>Gregoire Chamayou, "The Manhunt Doctrine",  <a href="http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/commentary/the-manhunt-doctrine">http://www.radicalphilosophy.com/commentary/the-manhunt-doctrine</a></p> <p>Asawin Suebsaeng, "Drones: Everything You Always Wanted to Know But Were Too Afraid to Ask"  <a href="http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/drones-explained">http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2013/03/drones-explained</a></p> <p><a href="http://sploid.gizmodo.com/defend-yourself-against-drones-using-this-drone-surviva-1486459945">http://sploid.gizmodo.com/defend-yourself-against-drones-using-this-drone-surviva-1486459945</a></p>	<p><i>Predation and Drone Warfare</i></p>

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

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

**APPENDIX TO UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINES  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite checking - the student's responsibility**

"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

**Essay course requirements**

With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

**Use of Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")**

"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning.

Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else's clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

**Security and Confidentiality of Student Work** (refer to current *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/>))

"**Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams** - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

**Duplication of work**

Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

**Grade adjustments**

In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

**Academic Offences**

"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/scholoff.pdf>."

## Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS **MUST** BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

Students registered in Social Science should refer to <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/> <http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/havingproblems.asp> for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty's academic counselling office.

## Plagiarism

"Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

**Plagiarism Checking:** "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com ( <http://www.turnitin.com> )."

**Multiple-choice tests/exams:** "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/>

### **PLAGIARISM\***

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.



**A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.**

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

**B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.**

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

\*Reprinted by permission of the Department of History

Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991

**Accessibility at Western:** Please contact [poliscie@uwo.ca](mailto:poliscie@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.