

HIST 2291: The American Experience with Guerrilla Warfare and Insurgency

Dr. Barton A. Myers
Tues./Thurs. 2:55-4:10pm
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Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 1:30-2:30pm
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This course dives headlong into the chaotic, destructive and brutally violent world that has been American involvement with irregular warfare. Over the past 400 years Americans have trained guerrillas, fought as irregulars, and sparked armed insurrections. This course looks at the broad typology of violence known as irregular warfare, including insurrections, violent revolutions, partisan and guerrilla warfare, U.S. Army/Native American conflict and twentieth-century insurgency and low-intensity conflict. How do we define guerrilla warfare? Who chooses to become an irregular? Why do they do so? These are just a few questions we will engage. During the semester, students will read books and articles that examine the issue of irregular war from a variety of perspectives and ask them to think broadly about its problems, consequences and counter-measures. Ultimately, the goal of the course is to push students to confront the legacy of this type of armed conflict and consider its potential ramifications for the future.

Required Reading:

Grenier, John. *The First Way of War*
Smith, Mark. ed. *Stono*
Sutherland, Daniel. *A Savage Conflict*
Linn, Brian. *The Philippine War*
Doyle, William. *An American Insurrection*
Filkins, Dexter. *The Forever War*
Joes, Anthony James. *America and Guerrilla Warfare*

In addition to the above readings, several required readings are available online through Blackboard. NOTE: You will need to add yourself as a user for this course on Blackboard. The ancillary readings are posted under Course Documents.

Expectations:

This course asks students to engage military history from an informed, scholarly point of view. As such, students should arrive promptly for each class prepared to discuss and critique the readings while also maintaining proper academic decorum. Students should strive in class to ask deep, thought-provoking questions of both each other and the instructor. As historians, change over time is one of the most important issues we will examine, and each student should remain attuned to this while completing the assigned reading. Please keep in mind that your participation and scholarly professionalism in this course will be the basis for a significant percentage of your final course grade.

Papers:

The writing component for the first section of this course includes four 1000-1250 word critical reviews. Critical reviews should take the form of book reviews found in scholarly historical journals such as the *Journal of Military History*, the *Journal of Southern History* or the *Journal of American History* and examine the major historiographic arguments presented by each author. One book review should cover each of the following four works: Grenier, Sutherland, Linn and Doyle. If at any time students have questions about their papers, they should immediately contact the instructor for guidance.

In place of a final examination, each student will also submit a paper that encompasses all of the readings for this course and should be between 2500-3000 words. The final should address the broad question: How has America's experience with irregular warfare evolved over the preceding 400 years? To answer this question effectively the paper should define its terminology carefully, draw on as many course readings as possible, and engage the question from as many perspectives as appropriate, while providing detailed evidence to support the student's chosen argument.

NOTE: All book review papers should be submitted at the beginning of each class promptly. The final paper should be delivered to my office by the date listed below. Furthermore, each paper should conform to the appropriate citation (footnotes) and bibliographic method presented in the *Chicago Manual of Style* (latest edition). The instructor maintains a zero tolerance policy with regard to plagiarism and academic dishonesty of any form. Please abide by Cornell University's Code of Academic Integrity found online: <http://cuinfo.cornell.edu/Academic/AIC.html>.

Grading:

4 Short Papers.....15% (each)
Class Professionalism.....20%
Final Course Paper.....20%

Class Schedule

Thursday 27 August
Introduction

Tuesday 1 September
(Grenier, pp. 1-86)

Thursday 3 September
(Grenier, pp. 87-145)

Tuesday 8 September
(Grenier, pp. 146-169; Joes, pp. 1-49)

Thursday 10 September
(Grenier, pp. 170-225: FIRST PAPER DUE)

Tuesday 15 September
(Smith ed., pp. xi-58)

Thursday 17 September
(Smith ed., pp. 59-124)

Tuesday 22 September
(Sutherland, pp. ix-56; Myers, "A More Rigorous Style of Warfare" online via Blackboard)

Thursday 24 September
(Sutherland, pp. 57-120; Joes, pp. 51-102)

Tuesday 29 September
(Sutherland, pp. 121-192; Gates, "Indians and Insurrectos" online via Blackboard)

Thursday 1 October
(Sutherland, pp. 193-279: SECOND PAPER DUE)

Tuesday 6 October
(Linn, pp. 3-87; Joes, 103-129)

Thursday 8 October
(Linn, pp. 88-184)

Tuesday 13 October
NO CLASS: Fall Break

Thursday 15 October
(Linn, 185-276)

Tuesday 20 October
(Linn, 277-328; THIRD PAPER DUE)

Thursday 22 October
NO CLASS: Instructor at Professional Conference

Tuesday 27 October
(Joes, pp. 130-207)

Thursday 29 October
(Joes, pp. 208-332)

Tuesday 3 November
(Doyle, pp. 1-94)

Thursday 5 November
NO CLASS: Instructor at Professional Conference

Tuesday 10 November
(Doyle, pp. 95-178)

Thursday 12 November
(Doyle, pp. 179-318; FOURTH PAPER DUE)

Tuesday 17 November
(Filkins, pp. 3-94)

Thursday 19 November
(Filkins, pp. 95-188)

Tuesday 24 November
(Filkins, pp. 189-271)

Thursday 26 November
NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday 1 December
(Filkins, pp. 272-342; FM 3-24 *Counterinsurgency* Intro & pp. 1-29 online via Blackboard;
** Students will deliver short, oral progress reports on their final papers.)

Thursday 3 December
(Khatchadourian, "The Kill Company" online via Blackboard)

** FINAL PAPER DUE by scheduled exam time 15 December 2009 to 344 McGraw Hall