

# Global Counterinsurgency Syllabus

History

Dr. "R" or Rattanasengchanh

Spring 2025

Meeting Time: **Wednesday 4:00pm – 6:50pm**

Meeting Room: PY 202

Office: OD 234

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2-4 and Wednesdays 3pm or by appointment

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## Introduction:

This is a class that will look at counterinsurgency in its modern context of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. We will examine various doctrines and theories from proponents of both insurgency and counterinsurgency to understand how some view war and population relations. In addition, the course will discuss certain case studies throughout the world where unconventional wars took place. We will dissect the successes and failures and ultimately, if this type of approach is still relevant and effective. Most importantly, we will analyze the impact of these types of wars on civilian population and the army as an institution. This is an issue that will not go away as several nations are current engaged in their own "War on Terror."

## General Topics Covered in the Course:

1. Russell Weigley's *America's First Way of War*
2. Mao's People War
3. Ho Chi Minh's Popular Uprising
4. Che's Revolution
5. US in the Philippines and Viet Nam
6. British in Malaysia
7. Latin America
8. Nagl vs. Daddis
9. Academic-Industrial Complex
10. Ethical Issues of "Human Warfare"
11. Case Studies:
  - i. Philippines
  - ii. British Malaya
  - iii. Vietnam
  - iv. Thailand
  - v. Laos
  - vi. Latin America
  - vii. Afghanistan

## Objectives:

1. To learn about the modern history of counterinsurgency and its impact today

2. To learn how to examine primary and secondary sources in order to understand counterinsurgency and some of the positive and negative aspects
3. To learn to write memorandums that utilize evidence and show analysis
4. To practice professionalization with memorandum assignment, specifically for Fort Sill, Oklahoma

#### **Assignments:**

1. Memos: work in groups
  - a. Memo to Fort Sill and Sheppard Air Force Base (40%) – Counterinsurgency vs. Conventional, for the US Army, is counterinsurgency still relevant and effective?
    - i. Group presentations to representatives from Fort Sill and Shepherd Air Force Base**
      - 1. Each group will have 12 minutes to present the main ideas from their memos with a powerpoint presentation**
      - ii. This assignment will be assessed by **Lieutenant Colonel Corrie S. Brice at Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Sheppard Air Force Base**
      - iii. I will give my assessment and the final grade.
2. Final research paper (50%)
  - a. Any topic related to military and war
    - i. Research proposal
    - ii. Historiography
    - iii. Rough draft
    - iv. Final draft
3. Class Attendance and Participation: (10%)
  - a. All will have a chance to lead discussions based on readings of their choice from the syllabus schedule below
  - b. Will keep track – demonstrate you read the readings by participating in class discussion
  - c. Attendance is critical as all the knowledge gained will inform your **memorandum to Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Sheppard Air Force Base**
4. Readings:
  - a. All will be provided in D2L
  - b. Please read and be prepared to discuss during class
  - c. Readings are critical as all the knowledge gained will inform your **memorandum to Fort Sill, Oklahoma and Sheppard Air Force Base**

#### **Other Policies**

- No late papers.
- All assignments are to be submitted in Dropbox AS A MICROSOFT WORD DOCUMENT when they are due. Other formats not accepted (No PDF format accepted).

- Work outside of school, extracurricular activities, and having a number of assignments due in the same week or on the same day are not acceptable reasons for handing work in late.
- DEATH OF IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBERS, WITH DOCUMENTATION, WILL BE APPROVED. ILLNESS MUST HAVE DOCTOR'S NOTE in order to make-up assignments but this is still up to the discretion of the professor.

### **Desire-to-Learn (D2L)**

Extensive use of the MSU D2L program is a part of this course. Each student is expected to be familiar with this program as it provides a primary source of communication regarding assignments, examination materials, and general course information. You can log into [D2L](#) through the MSU Homepage. If you experience difficulties, please contact the technicians listed for the program or contact your instructor.

**Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all lectures. Every student will not be allowed any unexcused absences. For an absence to be excused for serious illness, immediate family or religious obligations, or other reasons, students must present compelling and appropriate documentation. Excused absences in the immediate family are excused; proper documentation must be presented. Students are responsible for presenting this documentation either in advance of the absence or as soon after the absence as possible.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

The following constitutes plagiarism: “the use, deliberate or not, of any outside source without proper acknowledgment. While the work of others often constitutes a necessary resource for academic research, such work must be properly used and credited to the original author. This principle applies to professional scholars as well as to students. All work that students submit or present as part of course assignments or requirements must be their own original work. When students use the specific thoughts, ideas, writings, or expressions of others, they must accompany each instance of use with some form of attribution to the source. Direct quotes from any source (including the Internet) must be placed in quotation marks...and be accompanied by an appropriate citation.” Plagiarism will result in the offender receiving zero in the course.

FIRST TIME WILL BE A WARNING WITH A 0/ZERO on the assignment.  
 SECOND TIME WILL BE A 0/ZERO on the assignment, FAIL CLASS, AND REPORT TO STUDENT LIFE. **LAST SEMESTER SEVERAL ONLINE STUDENTS WERE CAUGHT FOR PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING ON THE EXAM – zero tolerance.**

## **Refund and Repayment Policy**

A student who withdraws or is administratively withdrawn from Midwestern State University (MSU) may be eligible to receive a refund for all or a portion of the tuition, fees and room/board charges that were paid to MSU for the semester. HOWEVER, if the student received financial aid (federal/state/institutional grants, loans and/or scholarships), all or a portion of the refund may be returned to the financial aid programs. As described below, two formulas (federal and state) exists in determining the amount of the refund. (Examples of each refund calculation will be made available upon request).

## **Accommodation**

In accordance with Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Midwestern State University endeavors to make reasonable accommodations to ensure equal opportunity for qualified persons with disabilities to participate in all educational, social, and recreational programs and activities. After notification of acceptance, students requiring accommodations should make application for such assistance through Disability Support Services, located in the Clark Student Center, Room 168, (940) 397-4140. Current documentation of a disability will be required in order to provide appropriate services, and each request will be individually reviewed. For more details, please go to <http://www.mwsu.edu/student-life/disability>.

## **Smoking/Tobacco Policy**

College policy strictly prohibits the use of tobacco products in any building owned or operated by MSU TEXAS Adult students may smoke only in the outside designated-smoking areas at each location.

## **Alcohol and Drug Policy**

To comply with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, students and employees of Midwestern State are informed that strictly enforced policies are in place which prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of any illicit drugs, including alcohol, on university property or as part of any university-sponsored activity. Students and employees are also subject to all applicable legal sanctions under local, state and federal law for any offenses involving illicit drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities.

## **Campus Carry**

Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes has prohibited. The new Constitutional Carry law does not change this

process. Concealed carry still requires a License to Carry permit, and openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit [Campus Carry](#).

### **Active Shooter**

The safety and security of our campus is the responsibility of everyone in our community. Each of us has an obligation to be prepared to appropriately respond to threats to our campus, such as an active aggressor. Please review the information provided by MSU Police Department regarding the options and strategies we can all use to stay safe during difficult situations. For more information, visit [MSUReady – Active Shooter](#). Students are encouraged to watch the video entitled “*Run. Hide. Fight.*” which may be electronically accessed via the University police department’s webpage: “[Run. Hide. Fight.](#)”

### **Grade Appeal Process**

Update as needed. Students who wish to appeal a grade should consult the Midwestern State University [MSU Catalog](#)

#### **Notice**

Changes in the course syllabus, procedure, assignments, and schedule may be made at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Student Handbook**

Refer to: [Student Handbook 2017-18](#)

### **Grading Scale:**

92-100%=A  
90-91%=A-  
87-89%=B+  
82-86%=B  
79-81%=B-  
77-78%=C+  
72-76%=C  
69-71%=C-  
67-68%=D+  
62-66%=D  
59-61%=D-  
0-58%=F

Course Schedule:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>	<b>Assignment</b>
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January 22, Wednesday	Introduction, America's Way of War, and Introduction to COIN Debate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nagl, "Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife"</li> <li>2. Daddis, "Eating Soup with a Knife"</li> <li>3. Excerpts of Weigley's America's Way of War</li> <li>4. Reassessing Victory in Warfare</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
January 29, Wednesday	Pre-Modern War	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Anthropology, Archaeology, and the Origin of Warfare</li> <li>2. Warfare, Ships, and Medicine</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
February 5, Wednesday	Medieval	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gibbs-Fighting Merchants</li> <li>2. Kostick Milites Knights...</li> <li>3. Kiser War Bureaucratization</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
February 12, Wednesday	Native Americans VS. Europeans in New World	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. "Peace Chiefs and Blood Revenge"</li> <li>2. "Savages" in the Service of Empire</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class <b>Research Proposal</b>
February 19, Wednesday	World Colonial Period	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Belich-New Zealand Wars</li> <li>2. Cohen-Russian North Caucasus</li> <li>3. Maori Anderson-Warp...</li> <li>4. Okhrana-Female-Agents</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
February 26, Wednesday	The State and War	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State-Building, War and Violence:: Evidence from Latin America</li> <li>2. State Capacity and Military Conflict</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
March 5, Wednesday	Non-State Actors	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Smits-Non-state Actors' Functions in state-building</li> <li>2. Mulford-Non-state actors in the Russo-Ukrainian War</li> <li>3. Pierman-Grand Strategy of Nonstate Actors</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class <b>Historiography</b>
March 8-16	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>	<b>Spring Break</b>

March 19, Wednesday	Ho Chi Minh, Giap, and Mao	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kai-People's War</li> <li>2. Kocher-Aerial Bombing and COIN</li> <li>3. Biggs-Creative Destruction</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
March 26, Wednesday	Anti-Imperialism Resistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Race War in the Philippines</li> <li>2. South Africa, 1960-1990</li> <li>3. Addressing Colonial Crimes through Reparations</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
April 2, Wednesday	Winter War: Finland vs. Russia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Russia vs Finland-Goliath Curse</li> <li>2. Finland Quiet eastern front</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
April 9, Wednesday	No class	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not forget your memo and research paper</li> </ol>	<p>No class</p> <p>Do not forget your memo and research paper</p>
April 16-18	Holiday Break	Holiday Break	Holiday Break
April 23, Wednesday	Viet Nam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dilemmas in Engaged Anthropology Complicating</li> <li>2. "The Social Scientists' War"</li> <li>3. The Myth of the Green Beret</li> <li>4. Cultural Intel and Counterinsurgency Lessons from Vietnam</li> </ol>	Be prepared to discuss readings in class
April 30, Wednesday	Afghanistan and Iraq	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Memo Due Friday, May 2, 11:59pm</li> <li>2. Limits of COIN in Afghanistan</li> <li>3. "Learning from Iraq"</li> <li>4. "Why COIN Doesn't Work"</li> <li>5. Is there a Future for COIN?</li> </ol>	<p>Memo Due Friday, May 2, 11:59pm</p> <p>Be prepared to discuss readings in class</p>
May 7, Wednesday	<p>Presentation to Representatives of Fort Sill and Sheppard</p> <p>TIME to be TBD</p>	<p>Presentation to Representatives of Fort Sill and Sheppard</p> <p>TIME to be TBD</p>	<p>Presentation to Representatives of Fort Sill and Sheppard</p> <p>TIME to be TBD</p>

May 12, Monday	Final paper due May 12, Monday before 11:59pm CST	Final paper due May 12, Monday before 11:59pm CST	Final paper due May 12, Monday before 11:59pm CST
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