

# MPhil in International Relations and Politics, 2022-23

## **Cultures of War**

Course Organiser: Ian Shields

Time and Location: Michaelmas Term; Thursdays from 15h00; Room S2 in the ARB; commencing 6 Oct 2022

### **Course Outline**

This course focuses on the role that war has had in shaping nations, identity and the world order. It will review the role of media in conflict reporting and consider contemporary forms of conflict such as terrorism, and how they impact international politics. The theories of warfare and the rules governing its conduct will be critically examined and both contemporary and historic case studies will be reviewed.

### **Teaching**

The course will consist of 7 two-hour seminars. Students are expected to have done sufficient readings in advance of each seminar, in order to participate actively in the seminar discussions, including taking leadership of at least one critical discussion of the readings and contributing to group presentations. Students without a basic familiarity of international relations theories should ask the instructor for advice on background readings.

### **Assessment**

The Module will be assessed by a single, 3,000 word essay. Essay titles and submission arrangements will be given out in the first session.

### **Readings**

Students are expected to read all the items on the reading list. Students are expected to remain engaged with the topics discussed each week, they are encouraged to undertake independent research that supports further the topics under discussion, and stay abreast of relevant current affairs, and to share these in the seminar.

The following core texts provide a broad introduction to the topics:

A. C. Grayling, *War: An Enquiry* Yale University Press, 2018

Ian Morris, *War: What Is It Good For?* Profile Books, 2018

Tarak Braai, *Globalization and War* Rowman and Little, 2005

Christopher Coker, *Rebooting Clausewitz: 'On War' in the Twenty-First Century* C Hurst and Co, 2018

## **Seminar 1: Introduction; War in Society, War and War Crimes**

### Readings:

Walzer, M. (2006), Chapter 3, 'The Rules of War' in *Just and Unjust Wars: A moral argument with historical illustrations*, 4th edition, Basic Books  
Outrage, by Noam Chomsky, August 14, 2014 -  
<http://www.chomsky.info/articles/20140814.htm>

## **Seminar 2: Propaganda, Nationalism & Patriotism**

### Readings:

Andersen, R. (2006). Chapter 1 – “The Great War and the Fight between Good and Evil” in *A Century of Media, A Century of War*. New York: Peter Lang Publishing  
Jowett, G. S. & O'Donnell, V. (2012) Chapter 6, “How to Analyse Propaganda” in *Propaganda & Persuasion*, 5th edition, Sage  
Propaganda Terms in the Media and What They Mean - Noam Chomsky -  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmoXze-Higc>  
Hudson, B., 2009. Justice in a Time of Terror. *British Journal of Criminology*, 49(5), pp.702–717

### Additional Material:

Propaganda-Behind Big Media - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FKjKaeOZ57Q>  
Noam Chomsky: Robert Trivers Interview - psychology propaganda and self-deception -  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88xrbIHvNm4>  
Propaganda and Control of the Public Mind -  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHU2AVcK5l8>

## **Seminar 3: Representing War**

### Readings:

Tascon, S. (2012) Considering Human Rights Films, Representation, and Ethics: Whose Face? In *Human Rights Quarterly*, 34 (2012) 864–883  
Piazza, R. & Haarman, L., (2011) Toward a definition and classification of human interest narratives in television war reporting. *Journal of Pragmatics*, 43(6), pp.1540–1549.  
Freedman, D. & Kishan, D. (2012) Chapter 15, “Terrorism and News Narratives”, in Freedman, D. & Kishan, D. (2012) *Media and Terrorism: global perspectives*, Sage.  
Schechter, D., 2012. Chapter 18, “Challenging the Media”. In Freedman, D. & Kishan Thussu, D. (2012) *Media and terrorism: global perspectives*. Sage

## **Seminar 4: War & The Media – Dilemmas of War News**

### Readings:

- Altheide, D.L. (2006) "The Mass Media, Crime & Terrorism" in *Journal of International Criminal Justice* 4 (5): 982-997
- McGarry, R., & Walklate, S. (2011). *The Soldier as Victim: Peering through the Looking Glass*. *British Journal of Criminology*, 51(6), 900–917.
- Pankov, M., Mihelj, S. & Bajt, V., (2011) Nationalism, gender and the multivocality of war discourse in television news, *Media Culture Society* 2011 33: 1043
- Cottee, S. & Hayward, K., 2011. Terrorist (E)motives: The Existential Attractions of Terrorism. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 34(12), pp.963–986.
- Silke, A., 2008. Holy Warriors: Exploring the Psychological Processes of Jihadi Radicalization. *European Journal of Criminology*, 5(1), pp.99–123.
- Post, J.M., 2010. "When hatred is bred in the bone: the social psychology of terrorism". *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1208, pp.15–23.

### Additional Materials:

"Torturing Democracy" – documentary can be accessed at Vimeo - <http://vimeo.com/1904860>

## **Seminar 5: War on Others**

### Readings:

- Cohen, S. (2001) Chapter 7 "Images of Suffering" in *States of Denial: knowing about atrocities and suffering*, Polity
- Simkoa, C. (2012) *Rhetorics of Suffering: September 11 Commemorations as Theodicy*, *American Sociological Review*, 2012, 77: 880
- Brecher, B. (2007) *Torture and the Ticking Time Bomb*, chapter 4 in *Torture, Death and Philosophy*, Blackwell Publishing
- Agnew, R. (2010). A general strain theory of terrorism. *Theoretical Criminology*, 14(2), 131–153.

## **Seminar 6: The Concept of Evil**

### Readings:

- Dower, J. W. (2011) *Cultures of War: Pearl Harbour; Hiroshima; 9/11; Iraq*, Norton Press. Chapter 12, *New Evils in the World*

## **Seminar 7: Resolving Conflicts and Cultures of War**

### Readings:

Carothers, T. (2007). U.S. Democracy Promotion During and After Bush. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace:

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/democracy\\_promotion\\_after\\_bush\\_final.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/democracy_promotion_after_bush_final.pdf)

Roche, D. (2005). Truth Commission Amnesties and the International Criminal Court. *British Journal of Criminology*, 45(4), 565–581