

**“You can’t say civilizations don’t advance...for in every war they kill you in a new way.”**

**-Will Rogers**

**IAFS 3000**  
**REGIONAL WAR & PEACE:**  
**THE WARS IN IRAQ &**  
**AFGHANISTAN**  
**CU BOULDER FALL 2015**

**Lecture Times:** Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 1:00 - 1:50pm in [VAC1B88](#)

**Syllabus at:** [http://spot.colorado.edu/~gyoung/home/IA 3000/3000\\_syl.htm](http://spot.colorado.edu/~gyoung/home/IA_3000/3000_syl.htm)

**Instructor: Dr. Gregory D. Young**

**Office:** CU – [University Club 4A](#) (Ketchum Hall after 1 Dec)

**E-mail:** [gyoung@colorado.edu](mailto:gyoung@colorado.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays and Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:30 (after class) or by appointment

**COURSE LINKS**

[BOOK LIST FOR PRESENTATION](#)

[Link to Thought Questions](#)

[Link to Current Event Schedule](#)

[Link to Reading Summaries and Schedule](#)

[Link to Midterm Exam Terms List](#)

[Link to Midterm Exam Results](#)

[Link to Final Exam](#)

[Sample Presentation Grade Sheet](#)

[Book Presentation Schedule](#)

**COURSE OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION**

This course is the one of many for the inter-disciplinary CU major which encompasses political science, anthropology, geography, economics, and history. In this course we will undertake a comparative study of recent U.S. conflicts overseas. *The Economist* in a cover story last summer referred to the conflict in Afghanistan as “Obama’s Vietnam”. At the height of the Sunni insurgency in 2005 a similar statement was applied to George W. Bush’s foray into Iraq. Are these comparisons valid? Using theories of interstate war and a comparative approach this course will exam the American strategic culture and its engagement in Vietnam with the invasion of Iraq and the decision to go into Afghanistan. In addition, this course will examine the conduct of these three conflagrations using

theories of insurgency and counterinsurgency. Ultimately, students will assess the chance of and criteria for success against ISIL in Iraq and Syria and why the current strategy has been chosen.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### ***Surgeon General's Warning***

This is a **three-credit course** with a substantial workload. In addition to the midterm and final exams, this course requires a substantial amount of writing. Please familiarize yourself with the course requirements. If you are not sure now that you will be able to commit the necessary time and effort to complete the required work, you should consider dropping the course.

### ***Attendance, Readings and Class Participation***

It is essential that students attend every class on time. Regular attendance and active participation in any class discussion will enhance your understanding of the course material and almost certainly improve your performance on the mid-term and final exams, which are together worth 50% of the course grade. Attendance is also a large portion of your 10% participation grade. **Students with more than FIVE unexcused absences will be awarded a failing grade.** Notifying your instructor by email prior to class will constitute an excused absence. Send email absence notifications to [gyoung@colorado.edu](mailto:gyoung@colorado.edu). In this semester, the required readings range from 100 to 150 pages per week, as set out in the course schedule. Your knowledge and understanding of the required readings will be tested in the mid-term and final exams. Students should come to class having already completed (and thought carefully about) the assigned reading for each class period.

### ***Mid-Term and Final Exams***

The mid-term exam will be held on **Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** in the usual class meeting time and place. The final exam will be on **Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** in the regular lecture room. The final exam will be comprehensive, but will focus primarily on the material after the midterm. Students must write the final exam in order to pass the course. Blue books should be purchased by each student and brought in the class period prior to the midterm and final; 8.5x11 Blue books are preferred. Do not put your name on your Blue book, since they will be redistributed. Make-up exams will not be given unless the instructor has been notified in advance or a doctor's note is provided.

### ***Current Events***

One or two students will present a current event orally in class each class period. The presentation should be no more than five minutes in length. The source should be from a respected news source, be less than one week old and pertain in some way to topical conflict issues, preferably the topic for that class period. Each student should try to relate the article to some element of what we have been discussing in class. News reports on the Internet are also acceptable sources. Each student will present one current event during the course of the semester. Each student should end the current event with a discussion question for the class. The current event presentations will be part of your 10% participation grade.

### ***Thought Papers***

Each week, on Tuesday, a thought question will be posed to the class and posted on the course web site. The question will relate to the topics in the previous four days of class. In a two-page, single-spaced (Approximately 900-1000 words) response to the question

to turn in two class periods later. Include a word count on the first page. These papers should be properly documented and footnoted using the course readings. Papers will be graded 50% on content and 50% on grammar, punctuation and spelling. There will be twelve questions posted. **Each student must answer FIVE** of them. Students completing fewer than five will have zeros averaged in with their grades on the completed papers. Students completing more than five will only have the top five grades averaged for their thought paper grade. These thought papers account for 25% of your final course grade. Late Papers will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made. Papers will be graded on a 100 point scale. Electronic copies of all thought papers will be sent to D2L/turnitin.com as a deterrent for plagiarism.

### ***Book Analysis Presentation***

Each student in the course will be required to complete an analysis/research presentation that examines in-depth one of the canon of the literature regarding war and peace from Iraq or Afghanistan. The books are delineated in the link above. All are available online or in the Library. If you have trouble finding the book you have chosen, consult with your instructor. Some of these books are of considerable length; therefore you should begin the book immediately. Please do not pick a book that you have read previously, since it is necessary that you look at the book you study from a new perspective. If you wish to analyze a book not on the list, you may ask your instructor. The list however is a compilation of six different lists of the most widely respected books in this area. Requests therefore, are likely to be denied. On Thursday, the third week of class, student will begin to present their research to the class.

Presentation Requirements:

ONE Page outline of 8-10 minute in-class presentation (can be single-spaced)

Approximately, a 3 minute summary of the key elements of the book

Approximately, a 7 minute analysis answering these key questions:

- How does this work relate to studies of the theories of war and its causes?
- How does this book influence or what does it have to say regarding the conduct of war (i.e. strategy or tactics)?
- Does this book alter or add to the conventional historical wisdom regarding the conflict(s) that it depicts?
- Does the book provide a different perspective than the traditional American one regarding its analysis of war?

(Each of these questions may not apply specifically to your book).

The **written outline is due on the day of your presentation**. This presentation is worth 10% of your final grade. A sample presentation grade sheet is linked to this syllabus.

### ***Reading Summary***

Each student in the class will sign up for a daily section of the course reading. For each section of the reading one/two student(s) will summarize the readings that are due in class that day. In a 1-2 page synopsis of each assigned article or section, the designated student will give an overview of the key points of the reading. The summary can either be in outline form or complete paragraphs. The summary should include an answer to the **“so what?” question**, in other words, why should one read it when studying War & Peace, International Affairs or Global Issues. By midnight the night before the due date, the students will submit an electronic copy (in WORD) that the instructor will post on the web for the review of your classmates. Assigned students will also bring a paper copy to

class the next day. These summaries are 5% of your final grade. Late Reading Summaries will be docked 10% per class day up to 50%.

**GRADING CRITERIA**

Mid-term exam	25%
Thought Papers	25%
Reading Summary	5%
Final exam	25%
Class presentation	10%
<u>Current event, attendance &amp; participation</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Final Course Grades will be curved unless a straight 90/80/70/60 etc... proves more beneficial to the students (higher overall grade average). If curved, the mean overall average will become the highest C+ grade, and two standard deviations below the mean will be necessary to fail the course. One standard deviation about the mean becomes the criteria for an A grade. The grading policy will be explained in detail on the first day of class.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

The following text books are available online at *America and the World*: <http://aatw.me>  
Subscription cost is \$47. This cost pays for copyright purchase. Other readings will be linked to this syllabus.

1. **(RICKS)** Ricks, Thomas E. (2006) *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq 2003-2005*. Penguin Press.  
ISBN-13: 978-0143038917
2. **(NAGL)** Nagl, John A. (2002/2005), *Learning to Eat Soup With a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.  
ISBN-13: 978-0226567709

**SCHEDULE OF LECTURES, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

<b>IAFS 3000/Course Schedule Fall 2015</b>		
<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Assignment due in class</b>
Mon 24 Aug	Course Introduction & Administration	None
Wed 26 Aug	Theories of Interstate War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cashman &amp; Robinson, <i>An Introduction to the Causes of War</i> -: Introduction</li> </ul>
Fri 28 Aug	Theories of Interstate War (Part II) <b>Thought Question 1 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Cont.)</li> </ul>
Mon 31	Theories of Interstate War (Part	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Geoffrey Blainey, <i>The Causes</i></li> </ul>

Aug	III)	<i>of War</i> , Ch. 1, “The Peace that Passeth Understanding
Wed 2 Sep	Strategic & Organizational Culture <b>Thought Paper 1 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Culture Handout – Gregory D. Young</li> <li>• NAGL Chap 1</li> </ul>
Fri 4 Sep	The Hard Lessons of Insurgency <b>Thought Question 2 Assigned</b>	NAGL – Chaps 2-3
Mon 7 Sep	<b>Labor Day Holiday – No Class</b>	<b>None</b>
Wed 9 Sep	The British in Malaya <b>Thought Paper 2 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAGL – Chaps 4-5</li> </ul>
Fri 11 Sep	The Vietnam Conflict <b>Thought Question 3 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAGL – Chap 6</li> </ul>
Mon 14 Sep	The Vietnam Conflict (Part II)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAGL – Chap 7</li> </ul>
Wed 16 Sep	The Vietnam Conflict Movie: <i>The Fog of War</i> ( <i>Excerpts</i> ) <b>Thought Paper 3 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>
Fri 18 Sep	The Vietnam Conflict (Part III) <b>Thought Question 4 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ed Palm “Tiger Papa Three</li> </ul>
Mon 21 Sep	The Vietnam Conflict (Part IV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NAGL – Chaps 8-9</li> </ul>
Wed 23 Sep	Counter insurgency Theory: The new global fad? <b>Thought Paper 4 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Issues 2010, Chapter x, “ The Rise in Counterinsurgency</li> </ul>
Fri 25 Sep	Counter insurgency Theory: The new global fad? (Part II) <b>Thought Question 5 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Kilcullen – <i>28 Articles: Fundamentals of Company-Level Counterinsurgency</i></li> </ul>
Mon 28 Sep	The Road to Iraq	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cashman &amp; Robinson Ch.7 The Iraq War (Part I, II &amp; III)</li> </ul>
Wed 30 Sep	The Road to Iraq (Part II) Movie: “ <i>Why We Fight</i> ” <b>Thought Paper 5 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RICKS, Fiasco – Chaps 1-4</li> </ul>
Fri 2 Oct	The Road to Iraq (Part III) <b>Thought Question 6 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RICKS, Fiasco – Chaps 5-8</li> </ul>
Mon 5 Oct	The Iraq War: Descent into Civil War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RICKS Fiasco, Chaps 9-10</li> </ul>
Wed 7 Oct	The Iraq War: Descent into Civil War (Part II) <b>Thought Paper 6 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ricks Fiasco, Chaps 11-13</li> </ul>
Fri 9 Oct	The Iraq War: Descent into Civil War (Part III) <b>Thought Question 7 Assigned</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ricks Fiasco, Chaps 14-16</li> </ul>
Mon 12 Oct	The Iraq War: The Surge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RICKS Gamble, Chaps 1-2</li> </ul>
Wed 14 Oct	The Iraq War: The Surge <b>Thought Paper 7 Due</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nate Braden, “Coin of the Realm”</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kaplan, "What Rumsfeld got right", <i>The Atlantic</i>, Jul/Aug 08</li> </ul>
Fri 16 Oct	The Iraq War: The Surge Thought Question 8 Assigned	Filkins, "Back in Iraq, Jarred by the Calm", <i>New York Times</i> , Sun 21 Sep 08 Finkel, <i>The Good Soldiers</i> , Chapter 7 Davis, <i>Buda's Wagon</i> , Chaps 1,2 & 20
Mon 19 Oct	Catch up and Review for Midterm Examination	None
Wed 21 Oct	Midterm Examination Thought Paper 8 Due	Review and Study
Fri 23 Oct	The Afghan War Thought Question 9 Assigned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rubin &amp; Rashid, "From Great Game to Grand Bargain: Ending Chaos in Afghanistan and Pakistan", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Nov/Dec 2008, pp.30-44.</li> <li>• Filkins, "Right at the Edge", <i>Sunday Magazine New York Times</i>, 7 Sep 08</li> <li>• Gordon, "Strategy Shift for Afghan War poses stiff Challenge for Obama", <i>New York Times</i>, Tues 2 Dec 08.</li> <li>• Stewart, "The 'Good War' isn't worth Fighting", <i>New York Times</i>, Sun 23 Nov 08</li> <li>• Rumsfeld, "One Surge does not fit all", <i>New York Times</i>, Sun 23 Nov 08</li> <li>• Bacevich, "Petraeus Doctrine", <i>The Atlantic</i>, Oct 08</li> <li>Johnson &amp; Mason, "All counterinsurgency is local", <i>The Atlantic</i>, Oct 08</li> </ul>
Mon 26 Oct	The Afghan War Movie "Restrepo" Thought Paper 9 Due	None
Wed 28 Oct	Go Over Midterm Exam	None
Fri 30 Oct	The Afghan War Thought Question 10 Assigned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Economist</i>, "The Next Surge", 20 Dec 09</li> <li>• Baylis, Wirtz &amp; Gray, "Afghanistan" in <i>Strategy in the Contemporary World</i>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. 2010</li> <li>Global Issues 2010, "Afghanistan on</li> </ul>

		the Brink
Mon 2 Nov	The Afghan War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYT, "Taliban Overhaul Image to Win Allies", Jan 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Coalition Troops Storm a Taliban Haven", Feb 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Afghan Attack Gives Marines a Taste of War", Feb 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "New Model for Afghan War: 'Population is the Prize'", Feb 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "U.S. Turns a Blind Eye to Opium in Afghan Town" Mar 2010</li> <li>• NYT, "U.S. Turns a Blind Eye to Opium in Afghan Town" Mar 2010</li> </ul>
Wed 4 Nov	The Afghan War Thought Paper 10 Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYT, "In Ambush, a Glimpse of a Long Afghan Summer" May 2010</li> <li>• NYT, "Marines Do Heavy Lifting as Afghan Army Lags in Battle", Feb 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "U.S. Tries to Reintegrate Taliban Soldiers", May 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "A Test for the Meaning of Victory in Afghanistan", May 2010</li> <li>• Michael O'Hanlon, "Staying Power", <i>Foreign Affairs</i>, Sep/Oct 2010</li> </ul>
Fri 6 Nov	The Afghan War Thought Question 11 Assigned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYT, "Afghan Army at Crossroads", Oct 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Troops Tread Lightly in Afghan Village", Nov 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Contrary to Hopes, Afghan Vote Disappoints", Dec 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "NATO's Kandahar Push Deals a Setback to the Taliban", Dec 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Amid Terror Reign by Armed Groups, Taliban Extend Their Reach to North", Dec 2010.</li> <li>• NYT, "Inroads by the Taliban Challenges U.S. Troops in Eastern Afghanistan", Dec 2010.</li> </ul>
Mon 9 Nov	The Afghan War	None



	Frontline Documentary on Afghan Counterinsurgency: <a href="http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamaswar/view">http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/obamaswar/view</a>	
Wed 11 Nov	The Afghan War Thought Paper 11 Due	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYT, "In Afghanistan, Insurgents Let Bombs Do the Fighting", Jan 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "In Eastern Afghanistan, at War with the Taliban's Shadowy Rule", Feb 2011</li> <li>• NYT, "U.S. Pulling Back in Afghan Valley It Called Vital to War", Feb 2011</li> </ul>
Fri 13 Nov	The Afghan War Thought Question 12 Assigned	<p>NYT, "Petraeus Says Coalition Has Stymied Taliban in Much of Afghanistan", Mar 2011.</p> <p>NYT, "Putting Afghan Plan into Action Proves Difficult", Mar 2011.</p> <p>NYT, "Taliban Show Strain as Afghan Fighting Nears", Apr 2011.</p>
Mon 16 Nov	The Afghan War	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NYT, "Bin Laden's Death and the New Unknown in Afghanistan", May 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "A Slice of Afghanistan Well Secured by Afghans", May 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "Steeper Pullout Raised as Option for Afghanistan", Jun 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "U.S. Ambassadorial Nominee Warns of Risk of Abandoning Afghanistan", Jun 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "Afghan Taliban Ceded Ground in South, but Fear Lingers", Jun 2011.</li> <li>• NYT, "Few Taliban Take Offer to Switch Their Allegiance", Jun 2011.</li> </ul>
Wed 18 Nov	The American Fight Against ISIL Thought Paper 12 Due	New Articles will be provided
Fri 20 Nov	Catch up Day Begin Student Presentations	None
Mon 23 Nov	Fall Break – No Class	None
Wed 25 Nov	Fall Break – No Class	None

Fri 27 Nov	Fall Break – No Class	None
Mon 30 Nov	Student Presentations	None
Wed 2 Dec	Student Presentations	None
Fri 4 Dec	Student Presentations	None
Mon 7 Dec	Student Presentations	None
Wed 9 Dec	Student Presentations	None
Fri 11 Dec	Student Presentations	None
Thur 17 Dec	Final Examination Student Presentation Makeups	Study, Study & Study

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:**

##### **CELLULAR TELEPHONE/LAPTOP COMPUTER POLICY**

Needless to say, all cellular phones must be turned off and put away at the beginning of each class meeting. Classes failing to comply will be issued a stern warning on the first occasion. The entire class will have a pop quiz over the previous reading assignments/lectures on the second and subsequent occurrences. Phones, PDAs, MP3 players and Blackberrys will not be out on desks or used during any quiz or examination. Laptop computers will be allowed in class, I still believe that they can assist learning in the classroom. However, if abuse of the privilege appears to be a distraction in class, then they will be banned.

##### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and [www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices](http://www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices)  
Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at [www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices](http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices)

##### **CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

Cheating (using unauthorized materials or giving unauthorized assistance during an examination or other academic exercise) and plagiarism (using another's ideas or words without acknowledgment) are serious offenses in a university, and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, a failing grade for the course, and/or suspension for various lengths of time or permanent expulsion from the university. All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>

The development of the Internet has provided students with historically unparalleled opportunities for conducting research swiftly and comprehensively. The availability of

these materials does not, however, release the student from appropriately citing sources where appropriate; or applying standard rules associated with avoiding plagiarism. Specifically, the instructor will be expecting to review papers written by students drawing ideas and information from various sources (cited appropriately), presented generally in the student's words after careful analysis, synthesis, and evaluation. An assembly of huge blocks of other individuals' existing material, even when cited, does not constitute an appropriate representation of this expectation. Uncited, plagiarized material shall be treated as academically dishonest, and the paper will be assigned an 'F' as a result. Papers submitted by any student, written in part or in whole by someone other than that student, shall be considered to constitute fraud under the University Honor Code, and result in the assignment of an 'F' for the entire course. If the student is confused as to what constitutes plagiarism, he/she should review the CU Honor Code on this topic. If you have any questions regarding proper documentation in your writing, please discuss it with your instructor.

### **RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES**

The university has received valid complaints from students regarding the lack of adequate faculty accommodation for some students who have serious religious obligations, which may conflict with academic requirements such as scheduled exams. Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, any notification of absence by email constitutes and excused absence. See full details at:

[http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_religh.html](http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_religh.html)

A comprehensive calendar of the religious holidays most commonly observed by CU-Boulder students is at <http://www.interfaithcalendar.org/>

### **SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The University of Colorado Policy on Sexual Harassment applies to all students, staff and faculty. Sexual harassment is unwelcome sexual attention. It can involve intimidation, threats, coercion, or promises or create an environment that is hostile or offensive. Harassment may occur between members of the same or opposite gender and between any combination of members in the campus community: students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Harassment can occur anywhere on campus, including the classroom, the workplace, or a residence hall. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been sexually harassed should contact the Office of Sexual Harassment (OSH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the OSH and the campus resources available to assist individuals who believe they have been sexually harassed can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh/>

### **BASIC COURTESY TO YOUR CLASSMATE AND YOUR INSTRUCTORS**

Please arrive on time and do not leave early. If you absolutely must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class and sit near a door so you do not cause too much disruption. Similarly, if arriving late, please take a seat as quickly and quietly as possible.

Take care of all your business before class begins; do not leave and return during class as this creates a disturbance to others.

Taking this course signifies acceptance of the terms and conditions stated in this syllabus.