
 <b>FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY</b>	<b>NEW COURSE PROPOSAL</b> <b>Undergraduate Programs</b>		UUPC Approval <u>3/25/24</u> UFS Approval _____ SCNS Submittal _____ Confirmed _____ Banner Posted _____ Catalog _____
	Department <u>Political Science</u> College <u>DFSCAL</u> <i>(To obtain a course number, contact erudolph@fau.edu)</i>		
Prefix <u>INR</u>  Number <u>4152</u>	<i>(L = Lab Course; C = Combined Lecture/Lab; add if appropriate)</i>  Lab Code _____	Type of Course <input type="text" value="Lecture"/>	Course Title <u>U.S. Politics of War</u>
Credits <i>(See Definition of a Credit Hour)</i> <u>3.00</u>	Grading <i>(Select One Option)</i> Regular <input checked="" type="radio"/> Sat/UnSat <input type="radio"/>	Course Description <i>(Syllabus must be attached; see Template and Guidelines)</i> This course acquaints students with the domestic, regional, and international backgrounds against which the United States decides to pursue military power against other nations. It examines the reasons for going to war, public debates preceding and accompanying wars, and the strategies and conduct of the U.S. military with the aim of provoking reflection on the U.S. politics of war. Cases studied vary by semester and instructor.	
Effective Date <i>(TERM &amp; YEAR)</i> <u>Summer 2024</u>	Prerequisites, with minimum grade* _____		Corequisites _____ Registration Controls <i>(Major, College, Level)</i> _____
*Default minimum passing grade is D-. Prereqs., Coreqs. & Reg. Controls are enforced for all sections of course			
WAC/Gordon Rule Course <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  <small>WAC/Gordon Rule criteria must be indicated in syllabus and approval attached to proposal. See <a href="#">WAC Guidelines</a>.</small>		Intellectual Foundations Program (General Education) Requirement <i>(Select One Option)</i> None  <small>General Education criteria must be indicated in the syllabus and approval attached to the proposal. See <a href="#">Intellectual Foundations Guidelines</a>.</small>	
<b>Minimum qualifications to teach course</b> Doctoral degree in Political Science or related field			
Faculty Contact/Email/Phone Robert Rabil / rrabil@fau.edu / (561) 297-3215		List/Attach comments from departments affected by new course History	
<b>Approved by</b> Department Chair <u>M. Gurses</u> College Curriculum Chair <u>E. H. Hines</u> College Dean _____ UUPC Chair <u>Koray Sogut</u> Undergraduate Studies Dean <u>Dan Macroff</u> UFS President _____ Provost _____			<b>Date</b> _____ <u>02/05/2024</u> <u>3/4/24</u> <u>3/14/24</u> <u>3/25/24</u> <u>3/25/24</u> _____ _____

Email this form and syllabus to [mjenning@fau.edu](mailto:mjenning@fau.edu) seven business days before the UUPC meeting.



**U.S. Politics of War**  
INR 4152  
T & R: 6:30 – 9:40 PM  
3 credits

Summer 2024

Prof. Robert Rabil  
Office: SO 391  
Office hours: T&R: 5:30-6:30 PM  
Classroom: GS 108  
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### **Catalog Course Description**

This course acquaints students with the domestic, regional and international backgrounds against which the United States decides to pursue military power against other nations. It examines the reasons for going to war, public debates preceding and accompanying war, and the strategies and conduct of the U.S. military with the aim of provoking reflection on the U.S. politics of war. Cases studied vary by semester and instructor.

### **Extended Course Description**

The course also probes the strategies and conduct of the U.S. military in two specific countries, underscoring some seminal events and developments that affected U.S. policy towards Iraq and Afghanistan. In so doing, the course aspires to encourage students to reflect on U.S. decision making, invasion and occupation of both Iraq and Afghanistan, conduct of wars and their outcomes and ramifications for Americans and American global position.

The course is not about providing a military history or a record of the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Rather, it is an attempt to explain and contextualize the outlooks and strategies the U.S. adopted in pursuing its wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the objective of exploring what went right or wrong without the sanitization of the official versions of the wars.

Students are encouraged to participate in class discussions and debates.

### **Course Objectives and Student Learning Outcomes**

The objectives of this course are to prepare students to: 1) understand the background against which the U.S. invaded and occupied Iraq and Afghanistan; 2) to understand and reflect on the public debates preceding, during and following U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; 3) to draw

lessons about the feasibility of military power as an aspect of U.S. foreign policy; and 4) to contextualize what went wrong in these wars and underscore official accountability.

Upon successful completion of the course, students should recognize: 1) the importance of public debates on U.S. foreign policy in general and the use of military power in particular, 2) the importance of the media as an impartial public outlet scrutinizing official policies and strategies, 3) the effects and ramifications of the use of military power for the United States at home and abroad, and 4) the paramountcy of accountability of public officials and military commanders.

The Instructional Method of this course is in person.

**Required Texts:**

Phoebe Marr (with Ibrahim al-Marashi), *The Modern History of Iraq* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017).

Seth G. Jones, *In The Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010).

Craig Whitlock, *The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2021).

**Course Evaluation Method**

Grading Criteria

Attendance and participation/Debate 30%  
Quizzes (2): 20%  
Midterm Exam: 25%  
Final Exam: 25%

**GRADE SCALE**

Grade	Percentage (%)
A	94 – 100%
A-	90 – 93%

B+	87 – 89%
B	83 – 86%
B-	80 – 82%
C+	77 – 79%
C	73 – 76%
C-	70 – 72%
D+	67 – 69%
D	63 – 66%
D-	60 – 62%
F	0 – 59%

### **Policy on Makeup Tests**

Make up exams and quizzes are allowed in the case of emergencies and excused absences, including sickness, death in the nuclear family and accidents, and absences due to participation in University-approved activities, including athletic or scholastics teams, musical and theatrical performances, and debate activities. Under these circumstances, students are allowed to make up missed work without any reduction in the student’s final course grade.

### **INCOMPLETE GRADE POLICY**

The University policy states that a student who is passing a course but has not completed all work due to exceptional circumstances, may, with consent of the instructor, temporarily receive a grade of incomplete (“I”). The assignment of the “I” grade is at the discretion of the instructor but is allowed only if the student is passing the course.

### **Policy on the Recording of Lectures**

Because of a new Florida Statute in 2021, the following model language is suggested for inclusion in course syllabi, at the discretion of individual faculty:

Students enrolled in this course may record video or audio of class lectures for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording class activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to student



presentations (whether individually or as part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), labs, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the lecturer, is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation or class attendance and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct and/or the Code of Academic Integrity.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all of their scheduled University classes and to satisfy all academic objectives as outlined by the instructor. The effect of absences upon grades is determined by the instructor, and the University reserves the right to deal at any time with individual cases of non-attendance. Students are responsible for arranging to make up work missed because of legitimate class absence, such as illness, family emergencies, military obligation, court-imposed legal obligations or participation in University-approved activities. Examples of University-approved reasons for absences include participating on an athletic or scholastic team, musical and theatrical performances and debate activities. It is the student's responsibility to give the instructor notice prior to any anticipated absences and within a reasonable amount of time after an unanticipated absence, ordinarily by the next scheduled class meeting. Instructors must allow each student who is absent for a University-approved reason the opportunity to make up work missed without any reduction in the student's final course grade as a direct result of such absence.

### **Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center**

Life as a university student can be challenging physically, mentally and emotionally. Students who find stress negatively affecting their ability to achieve academic or personal goals may wish to consider utilizing FAU's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Center. CAPS provides FAU students a range of services – individual counseling, support meetings, and psychiatric services, to name a few – offered to help improve and maintain emotional well-being. For more information, go to <http://www.fau.edu/counseling/>

### **Disability Policy**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA), students who require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and follow all SAS procedures. SAS has offices across three of FAU's campuses – Boca Raton, Davie and Jupiter – however disability services are available for students on all campuses. For more information, please visit the SAS website at [www.fau.edu/sas/](http://www.fau.edu/sas/).

## Code of Academic Integrity

Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the university mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the university community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see [University Regulation 4.001](#).

## PLAGIARISM

[Plagiarism](#) is unacceptable in the University community. Academic work must be an original work of your own thought, research, or self-expression. When students borrow ideas, wording, or organization from another source, they must acknowledge that fact in an appropriate manner. Plagiarism is the deliberate use and appropriation of another's work without identifying the source and trying to pass off such work as one's own. Any student who fails to give full credit for ideas or materials taken from another has plagiarized. This includes all discussion board posts and exams. If in doubt, cite your source.

### May 17

Review of syllabus  
Introduction to Course

### May 19

History, Geography and Peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan

Recommended Readings:

Phebe Marr (with Ibrahim al-Marashi), *The Modern History of Iraq* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, 2017), pp. 1-62.

Seth G. Jones, *In The Graveyard of Empires: America's War in Afghanistan* (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2010), pp. 3-22.

### May 24

Saddam Hussein Rule  
Iran-Iraq War

First Gulf War  
Opposition

Recommended Readings:  
Marr, *Moder History of Iraq*, 139-202

May 26

The Mujahideen  
The Rise of Taliban  
Al-Qa'eda

Recommended Readings:  
Jones, *In The Graveyard of Empires*, pp. 23-85.

May 31

Operation Enduring Freedom  
Taliban and al-Qaeda  
The Warlords, Corruption and Opium

Recommended Readings:  
Jones, *In the Graveyards of Empires*, pp. 86-182.  
Craig Whitlock, *The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2021), pp. 3-39; 91-141.

Quiz

June 2

Midterm Exam

June 7

U.S. Invasion of Iraq  
The Insurgency  
The Surge  
Al-Qaeda in Iraq

Recommended Readings:

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, pp. 203- 285  
James Baker and Lee H. Hamilton, *The Iraq Study Group (2006)* available at  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/GPO-IRAQSTUDYGROUP/pdf/GPO-IRAQSTUDYGROUP.pdf>.

June 9

Obama's War with Truth, Lies, Corruption and Pakistan  
Capture of Usama Bin laden and The Taliban Advance  
The Collapse

Recommended Readings:

Whitlock, *The Afghanistan Papers*, pp. 145-237.

June 14

The Fight Against ISIS  
Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units  
End of U.S. Mission

Recommended Readings:

Marr, *The Modern History of Iraq*, pp. 287- 311.

June 16

Talking with the Taliban  
American Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Recommended Readings:

Whitlock, *The Afghanistan Papers*, pp. 241- 275.

June 21

Course Review  
What Went Wrong?

Quiz

June 23

Final Exam