Course Title:
Seminar in Political Communication: War, Peace and Media

Course Number:
COMM 6383-227

Course Description:
Conflicts and mediated representations of those conflicts have changed since the Cold War. Government propaganda, news coverage, and social media have altered the media landscape in which we view and consume information about war and peace. Students will be exposed to various types of armed conflict from around the world. This course will feature important academic texts as well as real-world examples of ethnic, religious, regional and other conflicts.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
- Dates: September 22-27, 2015
- Location: Vilseck, Germany. Please contact Site Director for classroom location.
- Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 24, 2015

Site Director:
Neil Bair. Phone: CIV 011-49-9662-83-2069; DSN 476-2069; Fax: 011-49-9662-83-3113 or DSN Fax 476-3113; E-mail: apvilseck@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
- Course Professor: Anthony Spencer, Ph.D.
- Telephone Number: (405) 310-8133
- E-mail Address: texantico@outlook.com
- Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@hleg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

**Course Objectives:**

In this course students will learn to identify various types of conflict as well as understand the historical roots of present day war and armed struggles. They will analyze the media portrayal of conflicts and be able to critically discuss media coverage. Students will also demonstrate competencies in understanding information management in a new media age.

**Course Outline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Written Work</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Concepts of War &amp; Peace</td>
<td>Journal Article Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>Journal Article Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>Case Study Presentations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Alternatives to Conflict</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

All chapters of the book and articles must have been thoroughly read before the first day of class. Students should attend each class session fully prepared to describe, explain, critique, and apply the ideas presented by the authors. Such preparedness is essential to your successful performance.

**Journal Article Analysis/Presentation:**

In this assignment you will focus on the type of method being utilized in a particular study. You will also critique the strengths and weaknesses of the analysis found in this article. You should describe the type of method(s) employed in this study. The analysis should be 3 pages in length. Each student must also prepare a 3-5 minute presentation of the article to share with the class.

**Case Study Presentation:**

Each student will prepare a 5-6 minute presentation on a case study of media coverage in an armed conflict or a region of conflict. This can be a case study of traditional or new media. This assignment is intended to be a “work in progress” for your final paper. This will allow you to present your ideas and receive feedback on your final project.

**Research Paper:**

Each student will conduct an in-depth investigation on a present or recent conflict. The student may choose any mediated form (television, radio, newspaper, new media, etc.) as a lens through which we view(ed) that particular conflict. This paper will be between 10-15 pages. Final papers will be due one week after the last in-person class day, **October 4, 2015**.

**Participation:**

Each student will receive an individual grade based upon the quantity and quality of the responses to the readings and discussions initiated in the class.
Grading:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points Possible</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Article Analysis</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journal Article Analysis Presentation</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Research Paper</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Activities/Participation</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Possible Points</td>
<td>100</td>
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Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Anthony Spencer, Ph.D.

Education
• 2008  Ph.D. in Communication, University of Oklahoma
• 2003  Master of Journalism in media studies, University of North Texas
• 1995  Bachelor of Journalism in broadcast news, University of Texas

Current Positions
• Professor, Department of Communication/Latin American Studies, Universidad Americana
• Owner, Explore 505 Educational Travel, Nicaragua

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• COMM 6433 Intercultural Communication
• COMM 6323 International Communication
• COMM 6383 Political Communication: War, Peace and Media

Major Areas Of Teaching and Research Interest
• Intercultural/International Communication
• Social Media Management/Marketing
• Latin American Studies

Representative Publications

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• 2011: Texas A&M System Teaching Excellence Award
• 2009: University of Oklahoma Department of Communication Qualitative Dissertation Award
• 2008: Intercultural Communication Research Award Dept. of Communication University of Oklahoma

Major Professional Affiliations
• National Communication Association, 2004-2012
• American Communication Association, 2009-2014
• Latin American Studies Association 2014