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

Course Number:
COMM 6383-301

Course Description:
Due to media saturation and pervasive media flows and counter-flows, a variety of agents are shaping processes and understandings of “war” and “peace.” This course introduces students to roles that diverse media forms and practices can play related to spheres of conflict. Students will examine a range of conflicts in order to consider ways various actors influence representations and outcomes of conflict via different types of mediation. Students will be introduced to concepts, theories, and case studies intended to help them more fully understand the multiple dimensions of contemporary, mediatized conflicts.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: September 27-October 3, 2015
Location: Hangar 2, Room 202, Hickam AFB, Hawaii.
Hours: Sun 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; M-F 6:00-10:00 p.m.; Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 29, 2015

Site Director:
Eric Ludvig. Assistant: Kristin Ross. Phone: 808-449-6364 (DSN & Commercial); Fax: 808-422-5509; E-mail: aphickam@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Kristin A. Shamas, Ph.D.
E-mail Address: KShamas@okcu.edu
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@fheg.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.

Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at [http://learn.ou.edu](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:**

This course will familiarize students with concepts and theories related to media, war, and peace. Students will be exposed to conflict and media in a variety of geographical, cultural, and social contexts. By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze representations of conflict and critically discuss the meanings they generate. They will be able to assess complex interactions between media ecologies, media forms and formats, media organizations, the nature of conflict, and media’s potential role related to the conflict sphere.

**Course Outline:**

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<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
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| 1   | Mediatized Conflict  
Concepts of War and Peace  
The Media in War | Journal Article Analysis due |
| 2   | The Middle East and North Africa | Journal Article Presentations  |
| 3   | Europe; Asia      | Journal Article Presentations  |
| 4   | Africa            | Journal Article Presentations  |
| 5   | Latin America     | Written notes due (x 2)         |
| 6   | Alternatives to conflict | N/A                             |
| 7   | Final Examination | Final Examination                |

**Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:**

Your grade will be determined by:

**Participation: (100 points)**

This course follows a seminar format in which discussions are the primary class activity. You must be consistently prepared to describe, explain, critique, and apply the ideas presented by the authors of the class readings. Other class activities will include small group discussions and analysis, dyadic discussions and analysis, and in-class prepared small group presentations. All assigned reading must have been read and notes taken prior to the first day of class in order for you to effectively contribute to these activities.

**Journal Article Analysis (100 points)**

You are required to submit a six-page essay (typed, double-spaced, 12 point font) in which you analyze a research article provided by the instructor. In this analysis you will briefly describe the author’s research method; critique the strengths and weaknesses of the author’s analysis; and relate the article to other class readings/concepts. In particular, you should pay attention to what your article indicates regarding interactions between 1) media ecologies, media forms and formats, and/or media organizations; 2) the nature of the conflict (is it local, translocal, national, regional, ethnic, on-going, limited, etc.); and 3) the role of media related to the conflict sphere, using other class readings to explain and elaborate your article’s indication. This paper will be evaluated on the basis of clarity, the depth and scope of ideas expressed, organization of the paper, and integration of other class readings into the essay. This journal article is due at the start of the first day of class.
Journal Article Analysis Presentation and Handout (Presentation 30 points, Discussion 10 points, Handout 20 points)

Each student will present her/his article analysis to the class as per the schedule based on region of conflict (see above). Presentations are to be 6-7 minutes and should be extemporaneous (a well-rehearsed, spontaneous speech given from a brief outline, not read word-for-word). After the presentation, students should lead their classmates in a 3-4 minute thoughtful discussion about their presentation. Presenters should distribute to the class at the start of their presentation a one (1) page handout (no more, no less) that includes the student’s name, bibliographic information about the article, an outline and/or bullet points related to the presenter’s paper, and two relevant discussion questions. The handout should provide structure to the presentation and be attractive. Presenters may pull up on the internet a media artifact (social media site, picture, article, brief video of around one-two minute(s), etc.) related to the presentation, however this will not count toward the time of the presentation. Presentations will be graded on the basis of clarity, organization, and oral presentation skills (including meeting/adhering to the time limit).

Written notes on two classmates’ presentations (25 points x 2):

In this assignment, you will provide thoughtful notes related to the content of a classmate’s journal article analysis presentation. Relate an aspect of the presentation (the article’s main points or key concepts, or the presenter’s assertions about the article) to course concepts and class readings. You will turn in separate notes on two different presentations, 250-300 words each, typed, APA formatting. Written notes will be graded according to clarity, organization, depth/scope of ideas presented, and incorporation of course readings/concepts.

Examination (150 points):

An in-class comprehensive examination (essay-type questions) will assess your recall, understanding, and ability to apply course concepts.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Total available points in course: 460

A = 100%-90% of total grade points (460-414 points)
B = 89.99%-80% of total grade points (413-368 points)
C = 79.99%-70% of total grade points (367-322 points)
D = 69.99%-60% of total grade points (321-276 points)
F = 59.99%-0% of total grade points (275-0 points)

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

Kristin Shamas, Ph.D.

Education

- Ph. D. in Communication, University of Oklahoma.
- M. A. in History, University of Oklahoma.
- B. A. in Humanistic Inquiry, Lake Forest College

Current Positions

- Adult Degree Completion Program, Oklahoma City University
- Advanced Programs Instructor since 2012

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses

COMM 6323 International Communication

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Media in the Middle East
- Migration, diasporas, and transnational communication
- Mediatization and social change

Representative Publications and Presentations