Course Title:
Directed Readings: Mass Opinion and Armed Military Conflict

Course Number:
COMM 5960-420

Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to expose students to public opinion research related to the military and military conflict. Specifically, first, we examine the factors that influence public opinion for or against armed conflict. An important factor related to public opinion is the casualty tolerance hypothesis. This hypothesis will be examined from both a public and military perspective. Other course readings will scrutinize media coverage of military conflict and public reaction.

Course Dates:
January 2 – April 30, 2015
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: January 2, 2015

Site Director:
Please see your local Site Director or e-mail Carolyn Taylor at cataylor@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Glenn J. Hansen
Mailing Address: 610 Elm Avenue
               Room 101
               Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1571
FAX Number: (405) 325-7625
E-mail Address: gjh@ou.edu
Virtual Office Hours: Contact professor this information.
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students during the above listed Virtual Office Hours and other methods by arrangement.

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 www.oklahoma.bkstr.com 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.


3. Materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID (4+4) 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.

OU E-Mail:
All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students’ ou.edu address.

Course Objectives:
Upon completion of this course, successful students will understand the factor that shape opinions for or against armed conflict.

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:
The course has three assignments:

1) After reading the texts (in the order listed above), each student in conjunction with the course professor will choose a topic that is of interest to them. Based on this topic, students will write a well-researched essay (see due date). The essay should be based on existing empirical evidence gathered from academic literature (peer-reviewed journals and edited scholarly texts). Students should write a double-spaced, typewritten essay of 12 to 15 pages of text (in APA format with separate title page, abstract page, and reference section). All essay topics need to be approved in advance by the professor (see below due dates).

2) Each student will submit the essay to the course professor for grading on or before the due date. Once the essay is graded the course professor will give the student approval to complete the second assignment (see due date). This assignment requires the development of a voice narrated PowerPoint presentation based on the content of the essay assignment. First, using PowerPoint, students will develop a slide presentation that summarizes their essay. Second, using the functionality built into PowerPoint, students will provide voice narration for the content of each slide. The voice narration needs to be additional detail that is not a part of the written presentation. The presentation needs to follow traditional guidelines for an effective public speech (i.e., compelling introduction, speech body with three to four main points, and a memorable conclusion). This assignment requires Microsoft PowerPoint and a computer with a microphone and speakers (most public libraries have this technology available to their patrons). See Microsoft PowerPoint help for details on how to add voice narration (search for “record a voice narration”). The narration should be saved (embedded) with the PowerPoint along with the timing for each slide. When someone views your presentation, all they should have to do is start the slide show and then your voice and slide timings takes over. The presentation should be between 15 and 20 minutes in length. The completed presentation should be uploaded to the D2L dropbox by the due date. Note: If you have never used PowerPoint’s narration feature, you should know that it is user friendly. If you are considering this class, but are unsure about this assignment, you should contact the course professor (he will try to convince you that it is not difficult).

3) Once your PowerPoint presentation is received by the course professor, he will make it available for other students to view. Each student will be assigned to view about three of their peers’ presentations. After viewing each presentation, students should send questions to the presenter (via e-mail).

Important Due Dates:

- Approval for essay topic: January 31, 2015
- Completed essay: March 22, 2015
- PowerPoint presentation: April 11, 2015
- Peer Reviews: April 25, 2015
Grading:
This course is graded Satisfactory or Unsatisfactory (S/U). A grade of S is equivalent to B or better.

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.

Incomplete Grade Policy:
A grade of “I” is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a “Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade” form. An “I” can never be used in lieu of an “F” nor can an “I” be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Technical Support Information:
If you experience technical problems, contact Information Technology by visiting their website at: http://webapps.ou.edu/it/ or contacting them by telephone at: (405) 325-HELP (4357).
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

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.

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
Glenn J. Hansen, Ph.D.

Education
2004  Ph.D. in Communication, University of Missouri

Current Positions
Associate Professor and Director of the Political Communication Center, Department of Communication, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest
• Political Communication
• Mass Media Effects
• Quantitative Methods and Statistics

Representative Publications and Presentations
Published 20 journal articles and presented over 40 research papers at conferences, such as the National Communication Association, the International Communication Association, and the Central States Communication.

Representative Honors and Awards Received
• Nominated by the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri for the 2004 Graduate School Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award (University results pending)
• Dan Rohrer Memorial Award for Benoit, W. L., Hansen, G. J., & Tillery, R. M. (2003). A meta-analysis of the effects of viewing presidential debates. Communication Monographs, 70, 335-350. This award is given each year by the American Forensic Association to recognize the outstanding monograph in the research concerns of the Association.
• Top Paper in Argumentation and Forensics Division, NCA 2004
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• Top Paper in Political Communication Division, NCA 2002
• Top Graduate paper in Mass Communication Division, CSCA 2002
• Top Paper in Political Communication Division, NCA 2001
• Top Paper in Political Communication Division, NCA 2000

Major Professional Affiliations
• National Communication Association
• International Communication Association
• Central States Communication Association