

MA War and the Politics of (Counter) Insurgency – 959M1



Christopher Long
C.G.Long@sussex.ac.uk

Course Aims

- Students will develop a strong foundation in the conceptual, strategic & ethical issues related to irregular warfare
- Students will develop an historically-rooted understanding of the uses of military force, and why and how this has changed over time
- Students will be asked to engage with the policy dilemmas of using military force, mainly focusing on Western, government and military perspectives, and associated academic literature & debates

Structure

- Seminars are 3 hours long
- Seminars comprise short lecture segments, group discussion and analytical exercises

Key questions of the course

- What is Irregular War?
- How should we think about it relation to proxy warfare (in Syria, Iraq, Somalia, Ukraine)?
- What is Dirty War?
- What is Military Power, how is it used & is it relevant in the 21st century?
- Are militaries fit-for-purpose in COIN/Nation-Building missions?



US President Barack Obama and members of the executive and his national security team watch live footage of the raid on al-Qaida terrorist Osama bin Laden compound in Pakistan, Pakistan, The White House, Science, Science

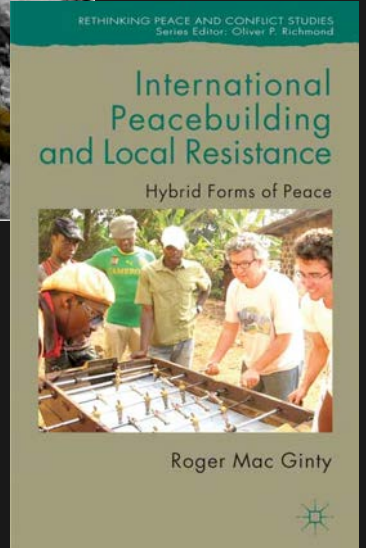
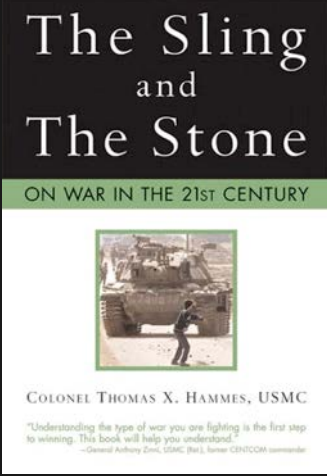
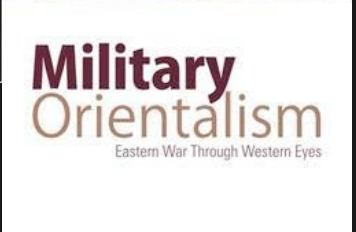
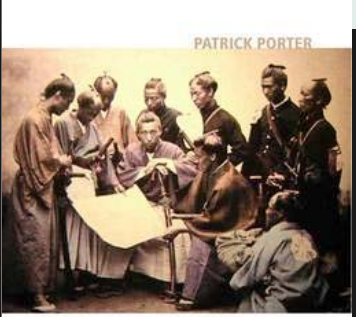
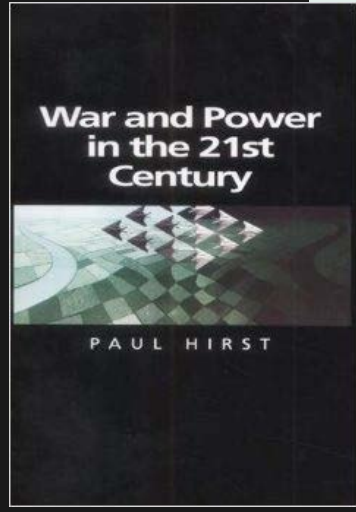
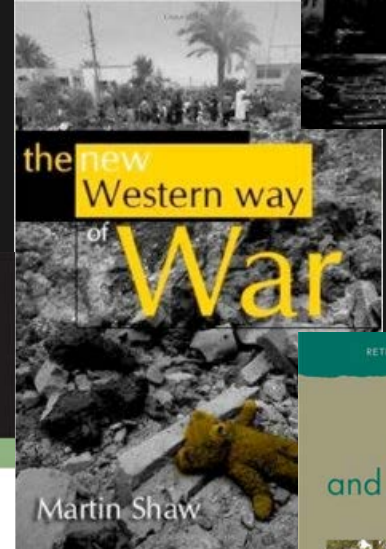
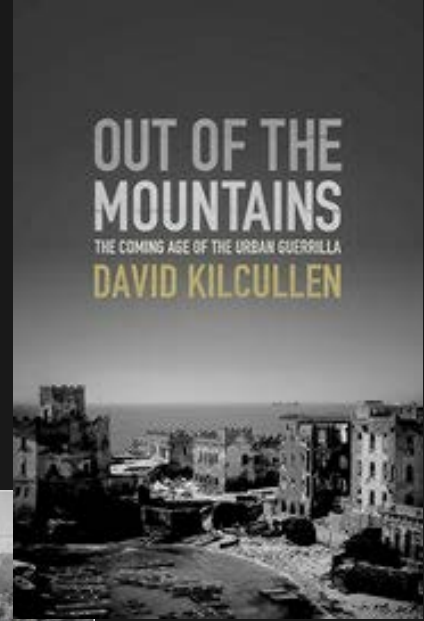
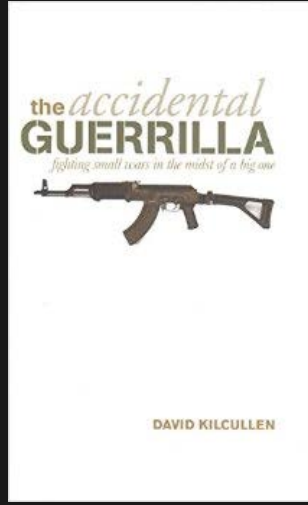
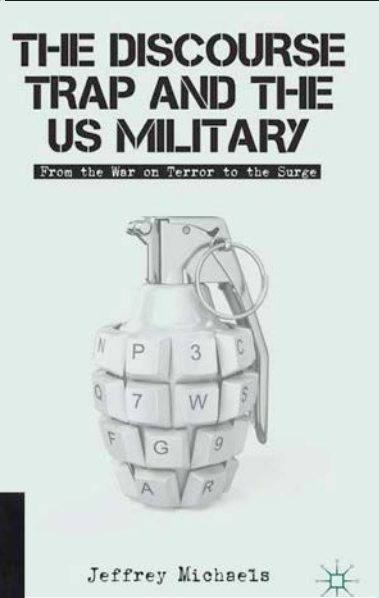
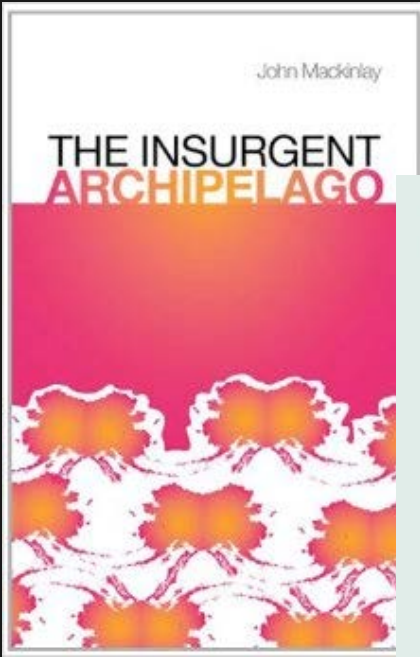
Topics Studied

- Definitions of irregular warfare, insurgency and terrorism.
- Classic theories of insurgency/guerrilla war.
- Classic theories of counter-insurgency.
- Changing nature of insurgent and counter-insurgent warfare.
- Classic Case Studies: Malaya, Algeria and Vietnam.
- Contemporary Case Studies: Afghanistan, Iraq and the Global War on Terror.

Mode of Assessment

- The course is assessed by a 5000 word research paper, worth 100% of the grade
- Students may choose from a list of questions or are free to develop their own

Indicative Reading



Want to find out more?

You could watch the film:

DIRTY WARS

"GRIPPING,
COMPELLING &
TOTALLY CONVINCING"
JOHN LE CARRÉ

And feel free to
drop me an email