America in an Age of Terrorism  
KHC PO 101 A1  

Spring 2014  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12:30pm  
KHC 107

Professor Douglas L. Kriner  
232 Bay State Rd., #206  
Office phone: 617-358-4643  
Email: dkriner@bu.edu  
Office Hours: TBD

Course Description

Today's undergraduate cohort came of age in the shadow of 9/11. This course explores the genesis of the attacks, the evolution of the American military response, and the consequences of American foreign policy both at home and abroad. Specific questions we will address include: can just war theory serve as a guide when responding to non-traditional threats from terrorists?; what alternatives were available to American policymakers in Afghanistan and Iraq, how were the key decisions made, and how might policy have unfolded differently?; how has the war on terror shaped our politics here at home and what are its lasting impact on our separation of powers system?; what will the future of the war on terror look like as the war in Afghanistan winds down even as drone strikes intensify? We will explore these and similar ethical, historical, and political questions from a variety of perspectives.

Course Objective

To introduce students to the use of survey experimental techniques and allow students to engage in original empirical research on the dynamics driving public opinion regarding different aspects of the war on terror.

Attendance  
Attendance in class is required.

Academic Conduct  
As a reminder, plagiarism or cheating of any kind is strictly prohibited. The policy memo should strictly be the original work of each student. Please be aware of the following Boston University policy: “All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be ‘... expulsion from the program or the University or such other policy as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean.” Copies of the academic conduct code are available online at: http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/. All cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean’s Office.
Assignments and Grading

1. First and foremost, it is essential that everyone do the readings for each session and come to class prepared to discuss. Although I will occasionally lecture briefly to introduce material to help guide our discussions, this is a seminar style class and it will be much more rewarding if we all engage the material together. Remember, class participation accounts for 20% of your grade!

2. There will be an in-class, essay-based, midterm examination during week 9 that will account for an additional 30% of your grade.

3. One of the key components of the class is an original survey experiment to explore the determinants of public support for war. Students will break up into pairs to design two survey modules for possible inclusion on an original survey. Each team will present their two ideas during an in-class workshop on April 7. We will discuss each proposed module as a group and make suggestions and recommendations. The quality of your two proposed experiments as well as your participation in the class research workshop on April 7 will comprise 10% of your grade. Each team will then have one week to select one of their modules and revise it for inclusion on the final survey. Each team’s survey module must be completed and ready to go on Qualtrics (hucas.qualtrics.com), a survey design program that we will learn to use during the course, by Friday April 11 at 5pm. During class on April 14 we will have dedicated time to learning to conduct simple analyses of the survey data using Excel as well as more advanced analysis using STATA. Finally, each team will present the results of their research in an 8-10 minute, professional meeting style presentation on April 30. The presentation will comprise 20% of your grade.

4. Finally, each team will write up their results in a final research paper of approximately 15-20 pages in length. Papers must be submitted electronically no later than May 7 at 5pm – because of the strict deadlines for submitting final grades, papers will be docked a half letter grade for each day they are turned in late. The final paper will comprise the remaining 20% of your grade.

Course Outline & Readings

9/11 AND THE INITIATION OF THE WAR ON TERROR


January 20: MLK Day – No Class
January 22: The Origins of the 9/11 Attacks


January 27: Does Terrorism Work?


January 29: Constitutional War Powers


February 3: Just War Theory and Decision-Making


February 5: The Road to War in Afghanistan


Watch excerpts from Frontline’s “The War Behind Closed Doors.”


February 12: The Problem of Detainees: Interrogation Tactics


Watch excerpts from Frontline’s “The Torture Question.”

February 17: President’s Day – No Class

February 19: GWOT on the Home Front


THE SHIFT TOWARD IRAQ

February 24: Pivoting Toward Iraq


February 26: Civil-Military relations and the road to war in Iraq


March 3: The Occupation

Rajiv Chandrasakaran, *Imperial Life in the Emerald City: Inside Iraq’s Green Zone,* chapters 5, 6 and 10, pp. 94-143; 209-234.

Watch excerpts from Frontline’s “Truth, War, and Consequences.”

March 5: COIN and the Iraq Surge


March 8-16 SPRING BREAK

March 17: Costs of War


March 19: Midterm Examination

PUBLIC OPINION AND THE WAR ON TERROR – SURVEY EXPERIMENTS

March 24: Public Support for the GWOT Using Aggregate Data


March 26: An Introduction to Survey Experiments


March 31: The Mechanics of Survey Experiments

Douglas Kriner and Francis Shen. 2013. “All Politics (Even Wars) are Local.” Public Opinion Quarterly.

April 2: Designing Survey Experiments in Qualtrics


April 7: In-Class Workshop of Original Survey Experiments
OBAMA AND THE FUTURE OF THE WAR ON TERROR

April 9: Obama and the Afghanistan Surge


Watch excerpts of Frontline’s “Obama’s War.”

April 14: Analyzing Survey Data in Excel and STATA

April 16: The Ethics of Drone Warfare


April 21: Patriot’s Day – No Class

April 23: The Efficacy of Drone Warfare


April 24: (A BU Monday) Concluding Thoughts: The Future of the War On Terror

Readings to be determined as events unfold over the next year.

April 30: Research Presentations