

Class Syllabus

Leadership Lessons in Insurgent Warfare & Football Strategy

Mike Leach & Michael Baumgartner

Overview: This non-credit seminar explores strategy and tactics common in both Guerilla Warfare and college football to provide a backdrop for critical thinking and leadership lessons. In particular how can insurgent forces facing a larger conventional force develop and utilize asymmetric advantages to prevail in battle? This class is co-taught by WSU football coach Mike Leach, renowned for his revolutionary "Air Raid" offense and the recipient of multiple national and conference Coach of the Year awards, and Michael Baumgartner, a former State Senator who helped coordinate political and economic counterinsurgency operations in the Office of Joint Strategic Planning & Assessment (JSPA) at the US Embassy in in Baghdad during the Iraq Surge.

Required Class Reading:

- Jungle of Snakes: A history of counterinsurgency warfare from the Philippines to Iraq (Arnold)
- Counterinsurgency Warfare: Theory & Practice (Galula)
- Swing Your Sword: Leading the Charge in Football and in Life (Leach)
- Geronimo: Leadership Lessons of an American Warrior (Leach)

Class One: Introduction to Insurgent Warfare & Air Raid Theory Wed March 27 (7pm – 8:30 pm)

- Case Study Discussion: The Arab Revolt Against the Ottoman Empire in WW1. Why did TE Lawrence and his irregular forces decide NOT to capture Medina from the Turks?
- Case Study Discussion: Game planning and film break down WSU vs USC 2017.

Class Two: Suppressing Rebellion – challenges of counterinsurgency and defending the modern spread offense. Wed April 3 (7pm – 8:30pm)

- Case Study Discussion: The Iraq Surge and the Baghdad Security Plan. How did US led forces counter Al Qaeda and Jayesh Al Mehdi insurgents to reduce sectarian killing in Bagdad.
- Case Study Discussion: Game planning and film bread down WSU vs Stanford 2016.

Class Three: Profiles of Prominent Insurgent Leaders & Foundation in Identifying and Developing Quarterbacks in the Air Rad Offense. Wed April 10 (7pm – 8:30pm)

- Case Study Discussion: Geronimo (w/ Prof. Buddy Leavy -tbd)
- Case Study Discussion: Analyzing individual strengths, weaknesses and common characteristics of prominent Air Raid QBs.
- Case Study Discussion: Game planning and film breakdown WSU vs Cal 2014.

Class Four: Intelligence, Deception and Info Operations in “Modern Warfare” and Modern Football Wed April 17 (7pm – 8:30 pm)

- Case Study Discussion: The Battle of Algiers: How do lessons from the French experience in Algeria apply to today?
- Case Study Discussion: Operation Mincemeat & the Allied Invasion of Sicily in WW2 (w Major Garrett Stotz, US Army)
- Case Study Discussion: Game Planning and film break down WSU vs Miami 2015.

Class Five: Course Capstone and Careers in National Security and Football Coaching Tuesday April 23 (7:30pm – 9:00 pm)

- Case Study Discussion: Pursuing a career in warfare, diplomacy or intelligence.
- Case Study Discussion: How to become a college football coach.
- Case Study Discussion: The Big Gulp Formation and modern adaptations of the Single Wing.
- Case Study Discussion: Game planning and film break down WSU vs Oregon 2018.

Class Assignment (Groups of 3-5)

- Prepare a 7 slide presentation on US policy in Yemen, Libya or Somalia.
- Design 3 football plays (one red zone) for WSU’s 2019 game vs Houston



Insurgent Warfare & Football Strategy

-Mike Leach & Michael Baumgartner
Seminar Spring 2019



- Non-credit Seminar
- Up to 40 WSU students will be admitted to Class 1-4
- Class 5 will be streamed on-line and available to all WSU students and members of the Cougar Athletic Fund.

Class One: Introduction to Insurgent Warfare & Air Raid Theory.
Wed March 27 (7pm – 8:30 pm Football Ops Bldg)

Class Two: Suppressing Rebellion – challenges of counterinsurgency and defending the modern spread offense.
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To apply for admission to the Seminar, interested WSU students should prepare written responses the following two essay questions. Responses should not exceed 200 words each. (Stay tuned for details on how to apply.)

Q1: Can the British strategy in the Malaya insurgency be used today?

Q2: Is the wishbone a viable offense for the NFL? Why or why not?

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