THE GLOBAL EVOLUTION OF SOFS
GOV 365N (38550) FALL 2016

INFORMATION
Meets: TTH: 8-9:30
Instructor: Ami Pedahzur
Office: MEZES 3.140
Office Hours: TTH 6:30AM- 8AM
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E-mail: amipedahzur@gmail.com
Web: This is the webpage of the class.

SUBJECT MATTER OF THE COURSE
Modern-day Special Operations Forces (SOFs) debuted at the onset of the Second World War, but for decades both senior military officers and academics had considered them as insignificant for conventional military efforts. The strategic roles that SOFs assumed in the contexts of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq altered the picture. Small teams of professional operators, equipped with cutting edge technologies, can rapidly deploy and carry out missions of strategic significance that in the past required massive military campaigns.

Indeed, the last three decades were marked by a steady rise in the size and influence of these actors in the international arena. However, a closer look into the data unveils that the seeming linear trend line is a façade, and that in reality, a small number of units account for the alleged global proliferation of this branch. In the course we will explore the rise of SOFs at both the branch and unit levels.

FORMAT AND PROCEDURES
This class meets twice a week for 1½ hour each session.

ASSIGNMENTS
1. Class attendance and active participation: 20%. Your attendance at, and participation in lectures is crucial to the success of this course.
2. Four assignments. Each assignment will constitute 20% of the final grade.
   • First Assignment – The US Navy Seals Analysis of a Documentary (Week 5 - Class Group Work).
   • Second Assignment – Using a Case Study for Testing Alternative Explanations (Week 7 - Class Group Work).
   • Third Assignment – A Comparative Analysis of Operations (Week - 9 Homework).
   • Fourth Assignment – An Integrative Comparative Analysis (Week 15 - Class Group Work).

GRADING SCALE

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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REQUIRED READINGS

All the required readings for the course will be available on under the tab course plan.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

In compliance with the UT Austin policy and equal access laws, I am available to discuss appropriate academic accommodations that may be required for students with disabilities. Students who require special accommodations need to get a letter that documents the disability from the Services for Students with Disabilities area of the Office of the Dean of Students (voice: 471-6259 or TTY: 471-4641). Requests for academic accommodations are to be made during the first three weeks of the semester, except for unusual circumstances.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Each student is expected to uphold the University of Texas at Austin Honor Code: The core values of the University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

OTHER ISSUES

If there are specific circumstances relating to your performance in this class that we should be made aware of, please come and talk to me close to the beginning of the semester as possible (or as problems arise).
COURSE PLAN

WEEK 1 - SPECIAL OPERATIONS AND ELITE FIGHTERS


WEEK 2 - THE SECOND BOER WAR THE INDUSTR...


WEEK 3 - COMING OUT OF THE TRENCHES - THE LEGACY OF WWI


WEEK 4 - WWII - AN ERA OF GLADIATORS


WEEK 5 - WWII - THE COMMANDOS


WEEK 6 - THE COLD WAR - THE STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE OF SOFs


WEEK 7 - THE COLD WAR - THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF SOFs


WEEK 8 - BRAVO TWO ZERO


WEEK 9 - BLACK HAWK DOWN

WEEK 10 - THE WAR ON TERROR


WEEK 11 - THE RISE OF SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES

WEEK 12 - LONE SURVIVOR
Luttrell, Marcus, and Patrick Robinson. 2007. Lone survivor: the eyewitness account of Operation Redwing and the lost heroes of SEAL Team 10.*

WEEK 13 - ZERO DARK THIRTY

WEEK 14 - TOWARDS A THEORY?


WEEK 15 - BRINGING CONCEPTS, THEORIES AND CASES TOGETHER

WEEK 16 - CONCLUSION