

Fall 2022 – PA 5890 Section 3

Unconventional Warriors: Non-State Actors and the Management of Violence

Course Overview

In this global policy course, students will take a closer look at a host of non-state armed actors whose origins can be traced back to pre-statal politics and international relations but whose presence can be felt very tangibly in 21st century geopolitics.

Violence has always been a principal currency of socio-political interaction. We tend to associate unconventional forms of war-making with the post-September 11th era of geopolitics; in fact, a number of unconventional warriors have wielded violence before and then, alongside states for centuries. And, while a great deal of today's attention, both scholarly and policy-oriented, tends to focus on terrorists and insurgents, a host of other non-state armed actors operate as what Vadim Volkov calls "entrepreneurs" in the field of violence. Their methods, motivations, and interests have evolved over time. Many of the factors that led to their emergence historically have ceased to exist, but these actors have adapted and transformed in ways that keep them relevant to this day.

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:45 – 11:00 am

HHH 35

Instructor is Dipali Mukhopadhyay

Questions about the course? Email dipali@umn.edu. Need a class permission number? Email Stacey Grimes at grime004@umn.edu.



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