

F702 The Afghan War: One Year into the Surge

Thursdays, 11:45–1:15, Jan. 27–Feb. 17

Moderator: John Coffey

Class limit: 25

This course examines the Afghan war one year into the surge. Each topic has designated readings, which participants must read and come prepared to discuss thoughtfully. This is a discussion seminar. The moderator will not lecture, but rather lead discussion with questions and offer comments as appropriate. This course offers no facile answers; its purpose is to illuminate the complexity and difficulty of issues such as this. Participants will receive the readings prior to the beginning of the course.

- Jan. 27: *Strategy and Tactics.*

President Barack Obama, "[Address to the Nation on the Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan](#)," United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Dec. 1, 2009.

General David Petraeus, ISAF Commander/Afghanistan, "[COMISAF's Counterinsurgency Guidance](#)," Aug. 1, 2010.

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, "[Petraeus Reviews Directive Meant to Limit Afghan Civilian Deaths](#)," *Washington Post*, July 9, 2010. – attached – link requires paid access to Washington Post Archive

David Ignatius, "[Petraeus Rewrites the Playbook in Afghanistan](#)," *Washington Post*, Oct. 19, 2010. – attached - link requires paid access to Washington Post Archive

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, "[U.S. Deploying Heavily Armored Battle Tanks for First Time in Afghan War](#)," *Washington Post*, Nov. 19, 2010.

- Feb. 3: *Marja and Kandahar.*

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, "[Afghan Strategy's Proving Ground?](#)" *Washington Post*, December 12, 2010.

Rod Norland, "[Afghanistan Strategy Focuses on Civilian Effort](#)," *New York Times*, June 8, 2010.

John F. Burns, "[Into Kandahar, Yesterday and Tomorrow](#)," *New York Times*, May 21, 2010.

Karin Brulliard, "[Local Strongman Is U.S. Troops' Most Reliable Friend in Kandahar](#)," *Washington Post*, July 29, 2010. – attached - link requires paid access to Washington Post Archive

Rajiv Chandrasekaran, "[Afghan Colonel Vital to U.S. Despite Graft Allegations](#)," *Washington Post*, Oct. 4, 2010.

- Feb. 10: *The Pakistan Connection.*

Anatol Lieven, "[All Kayani's Men](#)," *National Interest*, May/June, 2010.

David Ignatius, "[The Pakistan Conundrum](#)," *Washington Post*, July 28, 2010.

Ahmed Rashid, "[The Anarchic Republic of Pakistan](#)," *National Interest*, Sept./Oct., 2010.

Bob Woodward, "Obama: '[We Need to Make Clear to People That the Cancer Is in Pakistan](#),'" *Washington Post*, Sept. 29, 2010.

- Feb. 17: *Endgame*

Karen DeYoung, "[NATO Adopts Transition Plan for Afghan War](#)," *Washington Post*, Nov. 21, 2010.

"[Afghanistan: What's Next?](#)" symposium, *New Republic*, Aug. 12, 2010 (subscription required)

John Coffey received his PhD in history from Stanford University and taught for 20 years before spending 15 years in government, retiring from the State Department in 2005. He has published widely in foreign and defense policy.