

MOLLY GREENE

IRREGULAR WARFARE

S02

M, W 1:30-2:50

The history of war is usually told as the history of national or imperial armies and the great battles – from Carthage to Waterloo and Stalingrad – that changed the course of history. In this course we will take up a different, although related, topic and that is the history of what is often called unconventional or irregular warfare, and those who fight it. These fighters are assigned (or assign themselves) many names; bandit, mercenary and warlord are among the most common. Ranging across the world from (roughly) the sixteenth century onwards, we will consider Japanese warlords, Swiss regiments, Afghan warlords and the Cossacks of southern Russia.

During the course of this seminar you will write a 25-30 page junior paper, based on original research, on a selected topic in the history of unconventional warfare. That paper will:

- a) Ask a good historical question.
- b) Be based on primary sources.
- c) Explain how its interpretation connects to previous work by other historians.
- d) Offer a persuasive thesis of its own.
- e) Be a polished piece of writing.

This is, of course, a lot to achieve in a semester, and the pace is unavoidably intense. We will proceed through a close examination of published works in the field that are models for us as researchers and writers. In addition, the course is structured around a series of small, building block assignments that will help you write your final paper. A willingness to hit the ground running, to attend all course meetings, and to participate in and help foster a mutually supportive environment are all essential.