

Syllabus INTL 4410
Terrorism and Political Violence
MWF 10:10-11:00 Fall 2009

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Office Hours MW 2-3pm
...or by Appointment

Course Objective: The objective of this course is to introduce students to the academic study of terrorism and political violence. The content is part political narrative, part theoretical enquiry, and part policy oriented debate. Given the youth of the field, a relatively large amount of freedom is afforded to us in our approach to the issue of terrorism. That being said, we shall attempt a rigorous and disciplined study of the subject with an eye toward classification, explanation, and prescriptive theorizing.

Grading: Final grades will be determined as follows...

Participation: 10%

Exam 1: 15%

Exam 2: 20%

Exam 3: 25%

Research Paper: 30%

Participation: The importance of active participation in the class is reflected in the weight afforded this section in terms of your overall grade. Regular attendance and completion of the assignments is the BARE MINIMUM for satisfying this requirement. Obviously, those who neither read nor come to class should not receive a passing grade. Conversely, those who achieve the bare minimum do not get the highest grade. Those who display their reading habits with regular and active participation will receive higher marks accordingly.

Exams: The exams will be detailed assessments of your grasp of the lecture and reading materials. There will be short answer, multiple choice, and essay questions. The first two exams will be short, non-cumulative, and designed to be completed within 50 minutes. The final will be longer given the longer time frame allowed for it. It will also be cumulative.

Research Paper: Each student will be responsible for a ~12 page research paper on some topic related to the study of terrorism. The only criteria for topic selection will be that it must have a question oriented research design, such as “why does this happen?” or “what is the effect of 9/11 on non-religious terrorist organizations?”. It cannot be a historical paper about a given movement or phenomenon.

The Structure of the Course: The course is laid out in “Weeks”. Each “week” represents a certain section of the outline. Please do not take this to mean a literal week.

That is simply the way I have chosen to organize the course in order to maximize our flexibility. To the greatest extent possible we will try to conform to a weekly schedule and complete each lecture/seminar subject on Friday and begin the next on Monday. However, I anticipate that some sections will take longer than others and we will have to modify the syllabus somewhat. Thus, it is incumbent upon you all to make sure that if you miss a class you ask others if the schedule has changed for the next meeting, and if you did come to class, please make sure you pay attention.

Academic Honesty: The University requires that I draw your attention to the University's policy on academic dishonesty. Please be aware that I take matters of personal integrity very seriously and any case of plagiarism, cheating, lying, or other objectionable behavior will be referred to the University for disciplinary action. For a detailed discussion of what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see the Student Handbook.

Conversations I Will Not Have: I refuse to discuss the following subjects...

- Your Participation Grade (Yes, it is subjective! So is life. Sorry.)
- Your Hope Standing (I don't see it as being lost, just moved!)
- Your Eligibility for Sports/Extra-Curricular Activities (I resent those in better physical condition than myself anyway.)
- Your Need of an A to get into Med/Law School (Don't look at it as a 'B'. Look at it as my contribution to the stability of your future marriage.)

Extra Credit: There is no formal extra credit organized for the class. That is not to say that a student making a good effort won't be able to come up with something to bring his/her grade up. If you are looking to improve your score (even if it's for a reason I won't discuss) come see me. You may not like the assignment, but it might help in the end. Only one exception applies... do not wait until the last week of class. That is the busiest time of the year for me and I won't have the time to grade anything extra.

Course Outline:

Week 1: Introduction to the Study of Terrorism

- Legislative Guide to the Universal Legal Regime Against Terrorism
- <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/enemy/index.htm>

Week 2: Terrorism and the State

- David Claridge. "State Terrorism? Applying a Definitional Model"
- Michael S. Stohl. "National Interests and State Terrorism in International Affairs"
- Daniel Byman. Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism

Week 3: Insurgent Terror: The Agent Level of Analysis (Psychological Theories)

- John Horgan. "The Search for the Terrorist Personality"
- Orla Muldoon. "The Psychological Impact of Protracted Campaigns of Political Violence on Societies"
- Jeff Victoroff. "The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches"

Week 4: Insurgent Terror: The Agent Level of Analysis (Theories of Radicalization)

- Ehud Sprinzak. "The Process of Delegitimation: Towards a Linkage Theory of Political Terrorism"
- F. M. Moghaddam. "The Staircase to Terrorism: A Psychological Explanation"
- Clark McCauley and Sophia Moskalenko. "Mechanisms of Political Radicalization: Pathways Towards Terrorism"
- **Labor Day: No Class**

Week 5: Insurgent Terror: The Agent Level of Analysis (Rational Choice Theories)

- Jon Elster. "Introduction" in Rational Choice
- Martha Crenshaw. "Theories of Terrorism: Instrumental and Organizational Approaches"
- **Exam 1**

Week 6: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Organizational Processes and Motivations for Terror)

- Martha Crenshaw. "An Organizational Approach to the Analysis of Political Terrorism"
- David C. Rapoport. "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism"
- Martha Crenshaw. "The Concept of Revolutionary Terrorism"

Week 7: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Motivations for Terror)

- Daniel Byman. "The Logic of Ethnic Terrorism"
- David Little. "Religion and Ethnicity in the Sri Lankan Civil War"
- H. Edward Price, "The Strategy and Tactics of Revolutionary Terrorism"

Week 8: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Motivations for Terror)

- Magnus Ranstorp. "Terrorism in the Name of Religion"
- M. Juergensmeyer. "The Logic of Religious Violence"
- Ehud Sprinzak. "From Messianic Pioneering to Vigilante Terrorism: The Case of Gush Emunim Underground"

Week 9: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Suicide Terrorism)

- A. Moghadam. "Defining Suicide Terrorism"
- A. Pedahzur and A. Perlinger. "Introduction: Characteristics of Suicide Attacks"
- Scott Atran. "Mishandling Suicide Terrorism"

Week 10: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Theories of Asymmetric Conflict)

- J. Arquilla and D. Ronfeldt (Eds.) In Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the Information Age
- Jeffrey Kaplan. "Leaderless Resistance"
- Thomas Homer-Dixon. "The Rise of Complex Terrorism" Available online at <http://www.homerdixon.com/generalwriting.html>.
- **Exam 2**

Week 11: Insurgent Terror: The Institutional Level of Analysis (Communication Theories of Terrorism)

- Alex P. Schmid. "Terrorism as Psychological Warfare"
- P. Wilkinson. "The Media and Terrorism"
- **Fall Break**

Week 12: Insurgent Terror: The Systemic Level of Analysis (Economic Theories)

- Ted R. Gurr. Why Men Rebel
- Claude Berrebi. "Evidence About the Link Between Education, Poverty, and Terrorism Among Palestinians"
- Fawaz A. Gerges. "The Decline of Revolutionary Islam in Algeria and Egypt"

Week 13: Insurgent Terror: The Systemic Level of Analysis (Political Theories)

- William Eubank and Leonard Weinberg. "Does Democracy Encourage Terrorism?"
- Quan Li. "Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?"

Week 14: Insurgent Terror: The Systemic Level of Analysis (Globalization)

- Brynjar Lia. Globalization and the Future of Terrorism
- Quan Li and Drew Schaub. "Economic Globalization and Transnational Terrorism: A Pooled Time-Series Analysis"
- **Thanksgiving Break**

Week 15: Insurgent Terror: The Dyadic Level of Analysis (Counter Terrorism)

- Jeffrey Ian Ross and Ted Robert Gurr. "Why Terrorism Subsides: A Comparative Study of Canada and the United States"
- L. Paul Bremer. "The West's Counter-Terrorism Strategy"
- Martha Crenshaw. "The Image of Terrorism and the Government's Response to Terrorism"
- **Paper Due Last Day of Class**
- **Final Exam: Wed., Dec. 16th 8:00 - 11:00 am**