

Political Science 380R: Terrorism and Counter-terrorism

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Course Description

Terrorism and Counter-terrorism have had major impacts on the lives of many Americans in the past decades. However, many Americans have a high level of misunderstanding and confusion regarding what terrorism is, why it is utilized, and how states that are targeted by terrorism respond. This course is intended to provide students an introduction to the theories and context of modern terrorism and counter-terrorism, which will in turn encourage them to think critically and communicate a deeper academic and civic understanding of these issues. Main topics will include defining and measuring terrorism, different types of terrorist organizations and strategies, and the global experience with terrorism, particularly counter-terrorism efforts in the 21st century.

This Course Satisfies the G(Global Interdependencies), N (Social Sciences) and W (Writing) General Education Requirements, as well as the Upper-level Requirement for the International Relations Concentration.

Assignments

All readings covered in the class will be posted by Noon (EDT) the day before we will be discussing them on Blackboard. You will also be able to find these readings through the library.binghamton.edu journals tab. You are strongly encouraged to complete all readings, and a thorough understanding of these readings will be required for participation credit and crafting appropriate response papers.

Course Objectives

By the end of this class, you will be expected to be able to:

1. Discuss Theories of terrorism and counter-terrorism with fellow students.
2. Critically respond to specific works.
3. Conduct academically compelling and coherent research on this issue.

Course Requirements

Your grade will be evaluated based on the quality of your participation in daily class discussion via the Blackboard website, as well as your ability to write both response papers and an original research paper. If you have not utilized Blackboard in a previous class, please complete the BONLINE online orientation, found in the Blackboard organizations section. You are highly encouraged to have a reasonable grasp of elementary theories of International Relations (such as completing POLSC 113 Introduction to World Politics or a comparable introductory class at a different institution), as well as the ability to understand elementary statistical and graphical displays of data. You will not be required to conduct original statistical research in this class. You will be required to have access to the internet and blackboard.binghamton.edu on a daily basis, as well as the ability to write digital papers and upload them to Blackboard in Microsoft Word or PDF format. You are encouraged to communicate with me through e-mail if you have questions regarding course material and requirements. If it is of paramount importance to meet face-to-face, you can schedule through e-mail an in-person meeting with me at Binghamton University or a Skype conversation.

Grading

The percentage breakdown of your final grade is as follows:

Final Grade Breakdown (out of 100 percent):

- 1) Blackboard Discussion: 30 percent of final grade
- 2) 4-5 page Response Papers (2): 15 percent of final grade each, for 30 percent of final grade total
- 3) One-page Final Paper Proposal: 5 percent of final grade
- 4) 10-15 page Final Paper: 35 percent of final grade

Percentage Total: $30\%+15\%+15\%+5\%+35\% = 100$ percent

Note: All elements of this class must be completed in order to receive a final grade higher than an F in this course.

Letter Grades will be determined as follows:

A = 93 and above	B = 83-86	C = 73-76	F = 59.9 and below
A- = 90-92.9	B- = 80-82.9	C- = 70-72.9	
B+ = 87-89.9	C+ = 77 – 79.9	D = 60-69.9	

Course Components

1) Blackboard Discussion

You will be required to participate in class discussions via Blackboard on a daily basis. These discussions will be in separate discussion threads for each day of class, and will begin with a prompt consisting of questions and comments I have written on the day's readings. You will be required to participate in **Four out of Five days** each week to receive full participation credit for that week. To qualify as a participant, you must contribute to discussion by **either posting one comment and responding to one comment OR responding to three comments**. Comments and responses are expected to demonstrate you have read and substantively contribute to the class, or full credit will not be given. Your posts are also expected to be professional in language/content and utilize correct grammar/spelling. At the beginning of each week, I will write you a private e-mail commenting upon your performance in discussion during the previous week, and offer comments/advice on your status in the class.

Please Note: Due to the often-times sensitive content of a class on terrorism, I strongly encourage students to be aware of each other's personal experiences and opinions on the subject, and either inform the discussion or send me a private message if at any time you feel uncomfortable with the direction of the discussion. Any statements or actions that occur in discussion that violate the Student Conduct Code will result in the appropriate response from myself and the University.

2) Response Papers: You will be required to turn in a total of two (2) four to five page papers (at least 11 point font, double-spaced) over the course of the class in response to the readings assigned that week. I recommend that you focus on responding to the readings assigned for a specific day, but I expect your responses to show awareness of the various topics covered throughout the week and earlier in the class. As you will see in the Assignments section, there are four possible response papers you are able to complete, due at Midnight each Friday for the first four weeks of class. **You are required to turn these papers in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** These papers *are not* exclusively summaries of the articles or descriptions of the arguments, but should instead provide analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of these arguments, and suggest a related extension to the topic (examples would include theoretical or empirical suggestions on how to improve these analyses, or ideas for further research). I will return comments on these papers via private e-mail Monday of the next week.

3) Final Paper Proposal: In the third week of class, you will turn in a brief (one page double spaced) Proposal for your Final Paper Assignment, by 5 PM Wednesday. This Proposal should detail a well-considered question you wish to investigate relating to the topics of Terrorism and Counter-terrorism, as well as a brief explanation for how you plan to research and determine an answer to your question. This will be extremely useful to you in preparing for your Final Paper. **You will be required to turn the Final Paper Proposal in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** I will return comments on these papers via private e-mail Friday of that week.

4) Final Paper: Your final paper is due before Midnight the final day of classes. The paper is required to be between ten (10) and fifteen (15) pages long, at least 11 point font, double spaced, and conform to university standards of grammar, citation, and other compositional requirements. **You will be required to turn the Final Paper in via the relevant Turn-it-in assignment on Blackboard, as well as E-mail me a copy in either Microsoft Word or PDF format.** The Final Paper must describe a research question relating to the broad field of Terrorism and Counter-terrorism, discuss relevant literature, and attempt to answer this question in an empirically viable way. Case studies, formal modeling, and statistical analysis are all valid forms of empirical testing, although the techniques behind formal modeling and statistical analysis will not be taught in this class, and I do not encourage students to attempt these if they have not had prior training and experience. Students are strongly encouraged to use Binghamton University's digital book and journal collections, as well as other academically valid sources obtained outside of University facilities, in collecting literature and answering their question. A vital step to completing this research project is writing a serious and well-thought out Final Paper Proposal. Discussing your paper with me via e-mail is also strongly encouraged.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity and will be held to the code of conduct established in the Binghamton University Rules of Conduct and Academic Honesty Policy. Ignorance of the relevant rules pertaining to academic honesty is not a justifiable excuse. If you have not, please review these rules through Binghamton.edu if you have any questions, and complete the library's tutorial on Academic Honesty that is available through the Library tab on your Blackboard home page.

Disability Related Equal Access Accommodation Statement

Students wishing to request academic accommodations to insure their equitable access and participation in this course should notify the instructor by the second week of class. Authorizations from Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) are generally required. We encourage you to contact SSD at (607) 777-2686 to schedule an appointment with the Director or Learning Disabilities Specialist. Their website (www.binghamton.edu/ssd) includes information regarding their Disability Documentation Guidelines. The office is located in UU – 119.

Assignments

Week 1: Theories of Terrorism

7/11: Introduction to Class and Syllabus

7/12: Definitions of Terrorism

Ganor, Boaz. 2002. "Defining Terrorism: Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?" *Police Practice and Research*, Vol. 3 (4): 287-304.

Shughart, William. 2006 "An Analytical History of Terrorism, 1945-2000." *Public Choice*, Vol. 128 (1/2) 7-39.

7/13: Motivations of Terrorists I: Strategic and Socio-Organizational

Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2006. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security*, Vol. 31 (1): 49-80.

Abrahms, Max. 2008. "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategies." *International Security*, Vol. 32: 78-105.

7/14: Motivations of Terrorists II: Psychological and Ideological

Bandura, Albert. 2002. "Selective Moral Disengagement in the Exercise of Moral Agency." *Journal of Moral Education*, Vol. 31 (2): 101-119

Victoroff, Jeff. 2005. "The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 49 (1): 3-42.

Ranstorp, Magnus. 1996. "Terrorism in the Name of Religion." *Journal of International Affairs*, Vol. 50: 41-62.

7/15: The Study of Terrorism

LaFree, Gary and Laura Dugan. 2007. "Introducing the Global Terrorism Database." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 19

Young, Joseph and Michael Findley. 2011. "Promise and Pitfalls of Terrorism Research." *International Studies Review*, Vol. 13: 411-431.

First Week Response Paper Due, 12 PM

Week 2: Impacts and Types of Terrorism

7/18: The Political Impact of Terrorism

Pearlman, Wendy 2008. "Spoiling Inside and Out: Internal Political Contestation and the Middle East Peace Process." *International Security*, Vol. 33 (3): 79-109

Chenoweth, Erica. 2010. "Democratic Competition and Terrorist Activity." *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 72 (1): 16-30.

7/19: The Human Impact of Terrorism

Gadarian, Shana. 2009. "The Politics of Threat: How Terrorism News Shapes Foreign Policy Attitudes." *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 72 (2): 469-483.

Frey, Bruno, Simon Luechinger, and Alois Stutzer. "Calculating Tragedy: Assessing the Costs of Terrorism." *Journal of Economic Surveys*, Vol. 21 (1): 4-29.

7/20: Terrorism and Insurgency

Merari. 1993. "Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 5 (4): 213-251.

Flanigan, Shawn. 2008. "Nonprofit Service Provision by Insurgent Organizations: The Cases of Hizaballah and the Tamil Tigers." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol. 31: 499-519.

7/21: Suicide Terrorism

Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97 (3): 343-361.

Horowitz, Michael. 2010. "Nonstate Actors and the Diffusion of Innovations: The Case of Suicide Terrorism." *International Organization*, Vol. 64 (1): 33-64.

7/22: Transnational Terrorism

Lai, Brain. 2007. "Draining the Swamp: An Empirical Examination of the Production of International Terrorism, 1968-1998." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, Vol. 24: 297-310.

Bloomberg, Brock, Rozlyn Engel, and Reid Sawyer. 2010. "On the Duration and Sustainability of Transnational Terrorist Organizations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54 (2): 303-330.

Second Week Response Paper Due, 12 PM

Week 3: Terrorism in America

7/25: The Pre-9/11 American Experience

Crenshaw, Martha. 2000. "The Psychology of Terrorism: An Agenda for the 21st Century." *Political Psychology*, Vol. 21 (2): 405-420.

LaFree, Gary, Sue-Ming Yang, and Martha Crenshaw. 2009. "Trajectories of Terrorism: Attack Patterns of Foreign Groups that have targeted the United States, 1970-2004." *Criminology and Public Policy*, Vol. 8 (3): 446-473.

7/26: Al Qaeda and 9/11

Abrahms, Max. 2006. "Al Qaeda's Scorecard: A Progress Report on Al Qaida's Objectives." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol. 29: 509-529.

Hoffman, Bruce. 2003. "Al Qaeda, Trends in Terrorism, and Future Potentialities: An Assessment." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol. 26: 429-442.

7/27: The American War on Terror

Kaufmann, Chaim. 2004. "Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas: The Selling of the Iraq War." *International Security*, Vol. 29 (1): 5-48.

Byman, Daniel. 2006. "Remaking Alliances for the War on Terrorism." *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 29 (5): 767-811.

1 Page Research Proposal Due: 5 PM

7/28: The Impacts of 9/11 on Americans

Jackson, Richard. 2007. "Constructing Enemies: 'Islamic Terrorism' in Political and Academic Discourse." *Government and Opposition* Vol. 42 (3): 394-426.

Hoge, Charles, et. al. 2004. "Combat Duty in Iraq and Afghanistan, Mental Health Problems, and Barriers to Care." *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Vol. 351 (1): 13-22.

7/29: The Future of Anti-American Terrorism

Neumayer, Eric and Thomas Plumper. 2011. "Foreign Terror on Americans." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 48 (3): 3-17

Striegher, Jason-Leigh. 2013. "Early Detection of the Lone Wolf: Advancement of Counter-terrorism Investigations with an Absence or Abundance of Information and Intelligence." *Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counter Terrorism*, Vol. 8 (1): 35-53.

Stenersen, Anne. 2013. "'Bomb-Making for Beginners': Inside an Al-Qaeda E-Learning Course." *Perspectives on Terrorism*, Vol. 7 (1): 25-37.

Third week Response Paper Due, 12 PM

Week 4: Theories of Counter-Terrorism

8/1: Politics of Counter-Terrorism

Byman, Daniel. 2007. "US Counter-Terrorism Options: A Taxonomy." *Survival*, Vol. 39 (3): 121-150.

Hoffman, Bruce. 1999. "Is Europe Soft on Terrorism?" *Foreign Policy*, Vol. 115: 62-76.

Crenshaw, Martha, *et. al.* 1999. "How Terrorism Ends." *United States Institute of Peace Special Report* Number 48.

8/2: Democracy and Counter-Terrorism

Perliger, Arie. 2012. "How Democracies Respond to Terrorism: Regime Characteristics, Symbolic Power, and Counterterrorism." *Security Studies* Vol. 21: 490-528.

Abrahms, Max. 2007. "Why Democracies Make Superior Counterterrorists." *Security Studies* Vol. 16 (2): 223-253.

8/3: Counter-Terrorism Strategies

Miller, Gregory. 2007. "Confronting Terrorisms: Group Motivation and Successful State Policies." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 19: 331-350.

Farley, Jonathan. 2003. "Breaking Al Qaeda Cells: A Mathematical Analysis of Counterterrorism Operations (A Guide for Risk Assessment and Decision-Making)." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* Vol. 26: 399-411.

8/4: Counter-Terrorism and State Sponsorship

Byman, Daniel and Sarah Kreps. 2010. "Agents of Destruction? Applying Principal-Agent Analysis to State-Sponsored Terrorism." *International Studies Perspectives* Vol. 11: 1-18.

Byman, Daniel. 2005. "Passive Sponsors of Terrorism." *Survival: Global Politics and Strategy*, Vol. 47 (4): 117-144.

8/5: International Counter-Terrorism

Sandler, Todd. 2003. "Collective Action and Transnational Terrorism." *World Economy*, Vol. 26 (6): 779-802.

Monar, Jorg. 2007. "Common Threat and Common Response? The European Union's Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Problems." *Government and Opposition* Vol. 42 (3): 292-313.

Fourth Week Response Paper Due, 12 PM

Week 5: Impacts of Counter-Terrorism

8/8: Counter-Terrorism Successes and Failures

Cronin, Audrey. 2006. "How Al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups." *International Security*, Vol. 31 (1): 7-48.

Lyll, Jason and Isaiah Wilson. 2009. "Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars." *International Organization*, Vol. 63 (1): 67-106.

8/9: Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights

Piazza, James and James Walsh. 2009. "Transnational Terror and Human Rights." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 53 (1): 125-148.

David, Darren and Brian Silver. 2004. "Civil Liberties vs. Security: Public Opinion in the Context of the Terrorist Attacks on America." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 48 (1): 28-46.

8/10: The Future of Counter-Terrorism

Ressler, Steve. 2006. Social Network Analysis as an Approach to Combating Terrorism: Past, Present, and Future Research. *Homeland Security Affairs*.

Zussman, Asaf and Noam Zussman. 2006. "Assassinations: Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Israeli Counterterrorism Policy Using Stock Market Data." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 20: 193-206.

8/11: Final Class Discussion, Summation and Discussion

8/12: RESEARCH PAPER DUE at Midnight