



POSC 282 – Terrorism and Counterterrorism Winter 2019

Instructor: Jon R. Olson

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Office Hours: Tuesdays from 8AM to 9:30AM; 12:30PM to 2PM

Thursdays from 8AM to 9:30AM; 12:30PM to 2PM

Office hours are available by appointment. Please schedule your appointment directly with your instructor.

Course Dates: January 8th through March 12th, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:10AM – 11:50AM

Classroom: Willis Hall, Room 204

You are responsible for reading and understanding this entire syllabus.

This syllabus does not address every rule and regulation pertinent to academic or behavioral situations. See the instructor if you have any questions or concerns. This document is subject to amendment and revision as circumstances require.

Course Description

This course focuses on the historic and modern use of violence or the threat of violence by non-state actors to secure political outcomes. We will review the strategy and tactics of various terror groups, use case studies to understand the logic of terrorism, assess why some groups succeed while others fail, and study terrorist organizations' efforts at recruitment and indoctrination. These topics will be addressed from theoretical and practical perspectives, with input from expert guest speakers. Finally, we will assess counterterrorism measures, including the moral, ethical, legal, and practical approaches to creating security in the modern world.

Competence Statement

At the conclusion of this course, the student will be able to discuss the various forms of terrorism, identify factors that contribute to the rise of terrorist groups or movements, and effectively articulate which strategies to defeat or discredit terrorism have previously worked, including under what circumstances success has been achieved. Additionally, students will be able to discuss counterterrorism strategy options and delineate the pros and cons of various approaches to defeating terrorism.

Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the idea of terror as a concept and challenge common myths associated with contemporary terrorism;
2. Conceptualize preventive measures for overcoming various forms of terrorism, including counterterrorism, diplomacy, education, and non-violence on the local, state, and national level;
3. Identify domestic and global terrorist networks and groups;
4. Analyze the operational/operative philosophy of the terrorist in respect to their mindset, worldview, social rules, norms, expectations, and motivations;
5. Examine the historical background and theoretical explanations of terrorism;
6. Assess terrorist tactics, target selection, and best practices in detection of those tactics;
7. Examine economic, political, legal, intelligence, and law enforcement implications and consequences of terrorism;
8. Understand the capabilities, functions, and activities of federal agencies responsible for responding to terrorism;
9. Know the role of federal, state, and local governments in security operations and terrorism countermeasures;
10. Articulate how counterterrorism policies and strategies are impacted by politics.

Required Texts

Martin, Gus (2018). *Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives, and Issues* (6th ed). Thousand Oaks, California; SAGE Publications, Inc. (ISBN: 978-1-1506385815 (Paperback Edition))

Puri, Sami (2016). *Fighting and Negotiating with Armed Groups: The Difficulty of Securing Strategic Outcomes*. The International Institute for Strategic Studies, London; Routledge Press. (ISBN: 978-1-138-23856-5 (Paperback Edition))

Lutz, James and Brenda Lutz (2013). *Global Terrorism* (3rd ed). New York, New York; Routledge Press. (ISBN: 978-0-415-53945-6 (Paperback Edition))

Supplementary Readings, Databases, and Sources:

As determined by your professor throughout the course, you will be provided this material via Moodle or as handouts. **Be sure to check Moodle regularly for supplementary reading assignments.**

Attendance

Students are expected to attend all class sessions. See your instructor if you will miss a class.

Course Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess your performance in this course:

Research Paper:	30 Points
Group Project:	35 Points (25 points group grade / 10 points individual grade)
Short Papers:	10 Points (Two points for each paper, five papers in total)
Final Exam:	20 Points
Participation:	5 Points

Total:	100 Points

Bonus points are available, but will not exceed five points in total. See below for more information.

All papers will be graded using the scoring matrix located at the end of this syllabus.

Final Grades

Final grades will be assigned based on the following points attained:

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
67-69	D+
63-66	D
60-62	D-
59 and below	F

Evaluating Written Assignments

Written assignments will be assessed based on content, the demonstration of higher order/critical thinking skills, organization and style/mechanics (i.e., format, grammar, spelling and readability). If you believe your writing skills need improvement or you would like specific assistance in preparing your writing assignments, ***you are encouraged to take advantage of the writing assistance available at Carleton College.***

Copies of Assignments

You are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments turned in for the course as well as returned, graded papers. ***If we encounter any grading questions, you must be able to produce your original work for verification.***

Late Assignments

Incomplete assignments will receive a grade of “zero.” Alternative arrangements can be made for due dates on assignments on a case-by-case basis, but you must coordinate with your instructor ahead of time to avoid catastrophe.

Writing Format

Unless instructed otherwise, all writing assignments for this course should be word-processed, spelling and grammar-checked, double-spaced, have the correct margins, and follow appropriate citation format. Please use **Times New Roman 12-font** on all papers.

Assignments for this Course

Research Paper (30 Points)

You will choose a topic related to terrorism or counterterrorism. The options are limited only by your own creativity and sense of curiosity. ***Clear your topic with your instructor before you embark on detailed research and writing.*** You’ll want to select a topic that deeply interests you, and one that will contain enough detail to draft a 12-15 page paper. See writing format guidelines above.

Group Project (35 Points)

You will be randomly assigned to a group at the beginning of the term. Your group will then settle on a detailed research topic. Your deliverables for the project include a research paper (team effort) that fully covers the topic, and a group presentation to the class toward the end of the course. The group presentation should last approximately 20 minutes; there will be additional time for Q&A after your group finishes your presentation.

Five Short Papers (10 Points)

You will draft a short reflection paper that discusses an assigned topic. Short papers should be no more than three pages in length. See writing format guidelines above.

Final Exam (20 Points)

You will select one question from a list of questions and you will draft a paper that fully covers the topic. See writing format guidelines above. ***The due date for your final exam will be noon on Friday, March 15th, 2019.*** You will receive two bonus points if you submit your final exam at the beginning of class on Tuesday, March 12th, which is the last session.

Participation (5 Points)

This grade is entirely subjective and will be determined by the instructor at the end of the term. A grade of “5” means you attended class, fully engaged in the discussions in a respectful, thoughtful manner, and contributed to your group’s efforts to complete a professional final product. A grade lower than “5” would reflect lesser participation or success in these areas.

Bonus Opportunity

If you feel you would like to – or really need to – earn extra credit, you may approach your professor to discuss bonus opportunities. Be forewarned – this option will require solid academic work, and potentially another paper. So, make the most of the above opportunities to succeed with your graded assignments.

You can earn a total of five extra credit points for completing this bonus option. Five points means you have completed the assignment in an exemplary fashion.

Student Conduct

You are expected to treat all participants in the course with courtesy and respect. Your comments to others should be factual, constructive, and free of harassing statements. You are encouraged to disagree with other students, but such disagreements need to be based on facts and documentation (rather than prejudices and personalities).

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Course Schedule

Session One – Tuesday, January 8th, 2019

Course Introduction

- Individual Introductions
- Review Course Syllabus, Books, and Assign Groups and Group Presentation Dates (Academic Draft Day)
- Initial Class Discussion on Terrorism and Counterterrorism
- Instructor's Expectations for the Semester

Part One - The Study of Terrorism

Session Two – Thursday, January 10th, 2019

How Do We Define Terrorism?

- Martin – Chapter 2, pages 20 - 41
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 2, pages 6 - 15

What is Terrorism?

- Review timeline inside front and back covers of *Understanding Terrorism*
- Martin – Chapter 1, pages 1 – 19
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 1, pages 1 – 5

What Drives Someone to Join a Terrorist Group? Is It a Rational Choice?

- Martin – Chapter 3, pages 42 – 66

Session Three – Tuesday, January 15th, 2019

State-Sponsored Terrorism

- Martin – Chapter 4, pages 70 – 98
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 4, pages 53 – 72
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 10, pages 230 – 255
- Puri – Chapter 1, pages 28 – 36

Short Paper One Due

Session Four – Thursday, January 17th, 2019

Political Terrorism

- Martin – Chapter 7, pages 155 – 195
- Martin – Chapter 8, pages 197 – 224
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapters 7 and 8, pages 134 – 194
- Puri – Chapter 1, pages 16 – 27

Session Five – Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019

Terrorism Driven by Dissident, Ethnic, and Nationalist Causes

- Puri – Chapter 1, pages 28 – 36 (Review)
- Puri – Chapter 2, pages 41 – 68
- Puri – Chapter 3, pages 69 – 79
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 6, pages 106 – 130
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 9, pages 195 - 227
- Martin – Chapter 5, pages 100 – 124
- Martin – Chapter 9, pages 226 – 234

Short Paper Two Due

Session Six – Thursday, January 24th, 2019

Religious-Based Terrorism (in the Historical Context)

- Martin – Chapter 6, pages, 126 – 154
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 5, pages 73 – 102
- Puri – Chapter 4, pages 97 – 108
- Puri – Chapter 5, pages 137 – 148

Session Seven – Tuesday, January 29th, 2019

Terrorism, Drugs, and Transnational Organized Crime

- Martin – Chapter 9, pages 235 - 251
- Research Assigned Transnational Organized Crime Groups
- Moodle Reading Assignments

Short Paper Three Due

Session Eight – Thursday, January 31st, 2019

U.S. Domestic Terrorism / Environmental and Animal Rights / “Lone Wolf” Terrorism

- Martin – Chapter 12, pages 313 - 352
- Research Assigned U.S. Domestic Terror Organizations
- Moodle Reading Assignments

Session Nine – Tuesday, February 5th, 2019

Cyberterrorism

- Research Assigned Cyber Topics
- Moodle Reading Assignments

The Tools of Terrorism

- Martin – Chapter 10, pages 254 – 288
- Martin – Chapter 11, pages 290 – 312
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 3, pages 25 – 51

Session Ten – Thursday, February 7th, 2019

Terrorism Financing

- Read Juan Zarate's Article on "*Treasury's War: The Unleashing of a New Era of Financial Warfare*"

Insurgency – Part I

- Martin – Chapter 8 (Review)
- Martin – Chapter 15, pages 424 – 438
- Puri – Chapters 1 to 5 (Review/Skim)

Session Eleven – Tuesday, February 12th, 2019 (*Evening Session / Weitz Movie Theater*)

Insurgency – Part II

- Comp Time / No Class
- 7PM - We will watch the movie, "*The Battle for Algiers*"
 - Discussion to follow
 - Research the Algerian struggle for independence from France

Part Two - The Study of Counterterrorism

Session Twelve – Thursday, February 14th, 2019

Counter-Insurgency – Part I

Guest Speaker – CPT Bethany May, U.S. Army Intelligence Officer

- U.S. military counterinsurgency operations in Syria

Break

Counter-insurgency – Part II

- Martin – Chapter 13, pages 355 – 392
- Lutz and Lutz – Chapter 12, pages 274 – 295
- How to defeat an insurgency – Discussion

Research Paper Due

Session Thirteen – Tuesday, February 19th, 2019

Guest Speaker – Jon Watson, FBI Intelligence Analyst, Minneapolis Field Division

- FBI's Role in Counterterrorism
- Profiles of People Who Join Terrorist Groups
- Challenges in Detecting and Stopping Terrorism

Short Paper Four Due

Session Fourteen – Thursday, February 21st, 2019

Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

- Research Weapons of Mass Destruction
- The Terrorist Threat with WMD - Discussion

Group One Presentation

Group Two Presentation

Session Fifteen – Tuesday, February 26th, 2019

Intelligence and Counterterrorism

- How the U.S. Intelligence Community Supports Counterterrorism

Group Three Presentation

Group Four Presentation

Session Sixteen – Thursday, February 28th, 2019

Detention and Interrogation Operations / Criminal Prosecutions of Terrorists

Guest Speakers on Guantanamo Bay

Monte Miller – Assistant Hennepin County Attorney

CPT Jon Schliesing – MN National Guard

David XXX –

Assign Final Exam – Take Home

Session Seventeen – Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 (***Evening Session / Boliou 104***)

- Comp Time / No Class
- 7PM - We will watch the movie, "***The Gatekeepers***"
 - Discussion to follow

Short Paper Five Due

Session Eighteen – Thursday, March 7th, 2019

Group Five Presentation

Group Six Presentation

Session Nineteen – Tuesday, March 12th, 2019

Modern Challenges with Terrorism / Violent Extremist Groups

- Research the Islamic State, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, Al-Shabab, Abu Sayyaf, and related Salafist Jihadi and Takfirist extremist groups
- Martin – Chapter 14, pages 394 – 422
- Martin – Chapter 15, pages 438 – 447
- Research Mercenary Organizations

Course review

Reminder: ***Final exams submitted at the beginning of this final class receive two bonus points.***

Final exams are due to your instructor by noon on Friday, March 15th.

Paper Grading Criteria

Focus:

Did the author craft a paper or essay commensurate with the question and thesis?
Has the author clearly identified the thesis early in the paper?
Does the author fully develop the thesis?
Has the author avoided pointless or distracting departures from the thesis?

Critical Analysis:

Does the paper offer adequate analysis?
Does the author marshal convincing evidence to support the thesis?
Does the author consider, explicitly or implicitly, counter-arguments to or weaknesses in the thesis and supporting evidence?
Are judgments and conclusions logically supported?
Does the conclusion adequately address, resolve, or support the thesis?
Has the author avoided personal slants in the paper, using facts and data to support conclusions?

Organization:

Are the organization and flow of the paper logical?
Is the paper balanced, quantitatively and qualitatively?

Readability and Style:

Has the author used effective transitions from one argument to the next?
Has the author avoided long, cumbersome sentences and paragraphs?

Professionalism:

Has the author carefully proofread the text of the paper?
Did the author ensure the essay was free of spelling and punctuation errors?

Concluding Arguments:

Has the author professionally completed the assignment by drawing final conclusions?

I will assess these factors and reach your final grade for the assignment based on how well you address the above criteria.