

IS 553: Terror and Terrorism

Instructor: Ryan Kennedy

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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm. (or by appointment)

Course Description:

Since September 11, 2001, terrorism has become a central concern for policy makers and international studies scholars. The impact of terrorism and the policies associated with the “war on terrorism” have become fundamental references in the current political debate.

This course looks at several questions regarding terrorism. What is terrorism? How has the threat of terrorism changed over time? What motivates different terrorist groups? When does terrorism succeed or fail? How do terrorist groups structure and fund themselves?

Students in this class will be introduced to a variety of information dealing with the general topic of terrorism. Readings are drawn from psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, policy analysts and the terrorists themselves. At the end of the course, students should have a strong background for discussing and analyzing current events and discourse on terrorism.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be asked to write two short papers (5 pages each) on prompts given by the professor and listed on the syllabus. These papers should utilize the readings, discussion in class, and the student’s own logic to build a solid response to the prompt.

Students will also complete a longer (10 page) take home final, which will ask several essay questions covering topics in the course. Students will be expected to give a thorough response to all of the questions, with direct references to the readings (including parenthetical and bibliographic citation, see attachment).

The reading load for the course is relatively heavy. However, students will not be expected to draw on outside reading for their papers.

Finally, students will be graded on their participation in class. This participation is operationalized in terms of both quantity and quality of participation. Discussion will be an important part of this class, and **student should have read and be ready to discuss the readings before coming to class**. Students will receive 50 percent of the total participation points for class attendance. Each student will have two unexcused absences, after which each additional absence will reduce the student’s participation score by two points. Attendance will be taken starting on the third day of class. Students can also participate in online discussions using Carmen. This online forum is open for students to

discuss current events or comment on the readings. I will monitor the discussion for grading and set up prompts for discussion, but will keep my participation minimal. **In both the classroom and internet discussion, please be respectful and courteous to your classmates.**

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Short paper #1	20 pts.
Short paper #2	20 pts.
Final exam	40 pts.
Class participation	20 pts.
Total	100 pts.

The grading scale is:

93-100	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-
> 60	E

Readings:

Two books are required for this class:

Daniel Byman. (2005). *Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism*. Cambridge University Press.

Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer (eds.). (2005). *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment*. McGraw-Hill. **Please make sure you have the latest version and/or that all of the readings are present in your version.**

Both of these books should be available at the various textbook stores, including the campus bookstore and SBX. Other readings are available on the Carmen course website. **Students should familiarize themselves with the Carmen website as soon as possible.**

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. All cases of suspected

plagiarism, in accordance with university rules, will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

Plagiarism via the internet is not only dishonest, it's also liable to be caught. Papers copied from the internet do not fit well with course-specific writing prompts and search engines make finding the plagiarized material very easy. In addition, faculty at Ohio State have access to databases designed specifically to catch plagiarism (and purchased papers).

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Outline of Readings and Topics:

Week 1: Introduction and Definition

- U.S. Dept. of State. (2005). "Chapter 1: Legislative Requirements and Key Terms." *Patterns of Global Terrorism*. Washington, DC: State Dept.
- "The Definition of Terrorism." *Guardian Unlimited* (May 7, 2001).
- Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, p. 7-44.
- John Mueller, "Six Rather Unusual Propositions About Terrorism," *Terrorism and Political Violence*.

Week 2: The Post-Colonial Era

- Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, p. 45-86.
- Alastair Horne. (1987). "The Battle of Algiers." *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962*. Penguin Books. p. 190-207.
- Barry Rubin. (1994). *Revolution Until Victory? The Politics and History of the PLO*. Harvard University Press. p. 1-65.

Week 3: Left-wing Terrorism

- Hans Josef Horchem. (1991). "The Decline of the Red Army Faction." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 1(3): 61-75.
- Alison Jamieson. (1990). "Entry, Discipline and Exit in the Italian Red Brigades." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 2(1): 1-21.
- Ehud Sprinzak. "The Psychopolitical Formation of Extreme Left Terrorism in a Democracy: The Case of the Weathermen." In Walter Reich (ed.). *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*. Princeton University Press. p. 65-85.

Week 4: Right-wing Terrorism

- Mark Juergensmeyer. (2001). "Soldiers for Christ." In *Terror in the Mind of God*. Berkeley University Press. p. 19-43.
- Michael Barkun. (1989). "Millenarian Aspects of 'White Supremacist' Movements." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 1(4): 409-434.
- Daniel Levitas. (2002). "Militia Madness." In *The Terrorist Next Door: The Militia Movement and the Radical Right*. Thomas Dunne Books. p. 301-316.
- Mike German. (June 5, 2005). "Behind the Lone Terrorist, A Pack Mentality." *The Washington Post*.

Week 5: Types and Causes of Terrorism

- Martha Crenshaw, "The Logic of Terrorism," in *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, p. 54-66.
- Daniel Byman. (1998). "The Logic of Ethnic Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 21(2): 149-169.
- Mark Juergensmeyer, "The Logic of Religious Violence," in *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, p. 136-155.
- Gordon H. McCormick, "Terrorist Decision Making." *Annual Review of Political Science* 6: 473-507.
- US State Dept. (2005). "Chapter 8: Foreign Terrorist Organizations." *Patterns of Global Terrorism*: 183-262.
- Pape, Robert A. (2003). "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, 97: 343-361.

Week 6: Weapons of Terrorism

- Bruce Hoffman, "The Modern Terrorist Mindset," in *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, p. 75-95.
- Bruce Hoffman, "The Logic of Suicide Terrorism," in *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, p. 260-270.
- Graham Allison. (2004). "How to Stop Nuclear Terror." *Foreign Affairs*.
- Potter et. al. (2004). "The Four Faces of Nuclear Terror and the Need for a Prioritized Response." *Foreign Affairs*.
- Jessica Stern, *The Ultimate Terrorists*, p. 48-68.

Paper One: Take the point of view of a fictitious left-wing, right-wing, or ethno-nationalist terrorist group and discuss how you should, and should not, use violence. Please note the impact of recruiting, international support, and other goals.

Week 7: State Sponsors of Terrorism

- Daniel Byman, *Deadly Connections*, p. 1-78, 155-186, and 219-272.

Week 8: The Irish Republican Army

- Richard English, *Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA*. Oxford University Press, p. 81-147
- Ed Moloney, *A Secret History of the IRA*, p. 3-92, 455-492.

Week 9: Hezbollah

- Daniel Byman, "Should Hezbollah Be Next?" *Foreign Affairs* 82(6): 54-66.
- Byman, *Deadly Connections*, p. 79-166.
- Hala Jaber, "The Party of God," in *Hezbollah: Born With a Vengeance*. Columbia. p. 47-74.
- Martin Kramer, "The Moral Logic of Hizballah." (Available on course website)

Week 10: Al-Qaida

- Anonymous, "Through our Enemies' Eyes." p. 15-28, 45-68.
- Bruce Hoffman. (2002). "Rethinking Terrorism and Counterterrorism Since 9-11" *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 25: 303-316.
- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. "Monograph on Terrorism Financing: Introduction and Executive Summary."
- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. "Public Hearing #15: Overview of the Enemy."
- Raymond Ibrahim, *The Al Qaeda Reader*, p. 11-16, 220-225.
- Gunaratna, Rohan. (2004). "The Post-Madrid Face of Al Qaeda." *Washington Quarterly*, 27(3): 91-100.

Paper Two: What are the future directions for the IRA, Hezbollah, or Al-Qaeda? Draw on what we've learned about other groups and the characteristics of these groups to predict how they will evolve.