

The Politics International Terrorism

Political Science
548

Winter 2012
Tues & Thurs. 2:30 – 4:18
Mendenhall Labs 0191

Instructor: Jason Keiber
Office: 2012 Derby Hall

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Weds. 10:00 – 12:00
or by appointment

Course Description

Few international security issues generate as much interest and controversy as the debate over terrorism. In this advanced undergraduate course we will focus on the politics of international terrorism. To accomplish this, we will examine the term 'terrorism' and the phenomena it purports to describe. This will include a bit of history and an exploration of the causes and logic of terrorism. As for 'politics', we will touch on the international politics of confronting terrorism as well as the politics behind framing certain actors and behavior as 'terrorists and terrorism' in the first place.

Course Requirements and Grading Scheme

You cannot do well in the class if you do not read the material. All readings will be on Carmen.

Homework	Attendance	Presentation	Data Play	Midterm	Final
35%	5%	5%	5%	25%	25%

Homework – For each class, you will have to fill out a basic reading guide for the readings due that day. You will submit this on Carmen. Each submission will be graded out of 5 points.

Attendance – Attendance is graded. I will allow you one unexcused absence. However, you cannot miss any graded assignment/exam without a legitimate excuse (e.g. doctor's note). More on this below.

Presentation – Students will do a group presentation on a terrorist group. This requires the group to meet at least once outside of class.

Data Play – Students will submit a very short paper looking at and analyzing data from a terrorism database. More on this later.

Midterm & Final – These exams will be relatively straightforward, and require students to synthesize material covered in class.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

There are two broad objectives for this course. First, this course is designed to provide you with rudimentary knowledge about international terrorism. You will be familiar with the relevant history and, more so, the contemporary landscape of terrorism. Second, you will learn the skills and vocabulary necessary to critically engage terrorism-related issues as they arise in the media and in policy debates.

OTHER POLICIES

Carmen, Email, and Communication

It is your responsibility to check Carmen for the readings and other course news. In addition, I rely heavily on email to make announcements, and it is your responsibility to regularly check your OSU email and ensure that you receive these communications. Also, you should feel free to communicate with me via email. Communication can make your life much easier!!! Just make sure that when you write me an email, take some time to compose your email. Try starting with, "Hi Jason," and writing in complete sentences. **If u r like srsly typin like this, i will b rflmao bcuz, imho, it is dum. Me, FTW! lol! ;)**

Minding Our Manners

Class discussion is important, and every viewpoint is welcome. Make sure to treat each other with respect and listen to the views of others respectfully and with an open mind. Also, if you feel uncomfortable for whatever reason, please feel free to chat with me outside of class.

Absences

Occasionally students need to be absent from class for legitimate reasons (e.g. personal illness). To be excused from class and/or to make up a graded assignment or exam, I need to be informed ***before*** the class session and provided with some form of documentation. An excessive number of excused absences could indicate an abuse of this system, however, and may require a case-by-case judgment from me regarding the appropriate course of action.

Contesting Grades

I'm not perfect. If I make an obvious mistake on your grades (say, I added up the points wrong), just tell me. For substantive challenges, attach a short paragraph explaining your position and resubmit your assignment for reconsideration. To prevent squabbling over grades at the end of the quarter, all grade appeals must be submitted within one week of the assignment's return to you.

** Right to Revise Syllabus

I reserve the right to revise the syllabus, and will notify the class of any changes.

Academic Misconduct

I am a pretty easy-going instructor, but when it comes to academic misconduct I will not hesitate to pursue the appropriate punishment. 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/resource_csc.asp). Don't hesitate to ask me if you have any questions about this.

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/>.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Tues. Jan 3 Introduction

Thurs. Jan 5 Defining Terrorism and the Power of Naming

Igor Primoratz. 1990. "What Is Terrorism?" *Journal of Applied Philosophy* 7 (2): 129 – 138.

Michael Bhatia. 2005. "Fighting Words: Naming Terrorists, Bandits, Rebels and Other Violent Actors." *Third World Quarterly* 26 (1): 5 – 22.

Tues. Jan 10 Context and Controversy

Eqbal Ahmad. 1998 *Terrorism: Theirs and Ours*

Timothy Garton Ash. 2001. "Is There a Good Terrorist?" *New York Review of Books* 48 (19).

CNN Debate (links on Carmen)

Thurs. Jan 12 "New" vs. "Old" Terrorism

Martha Crenshaw, 2007. "The Debate over 'New' vs. 'Old' Terrorism" *APSA Paper*

Tues. Jan 17 Historical "Waves" of Terrorism

David Rapoport. "The Four Waves of Rebel Terror and September 11". *Anthropoetics* 8, no. 1 (2002)

Thurs. Jan 19 Modern Origins

Martin Miller "The Intellectual Origins of Modern Terrorism in Europe" in *Terrorism in Context*. 27-62

Tues. Jan 24 History of al Qaeda

Selections from the "9/11 Commission", Peter Bergen Article, Selections from Bin Laden interviews

Thurs. Jan 26 al Qaeda Today

Mark Sageman. 2009. "Confronting al Qaeda." *Perspectives on Terrorism*. Vol.3, No.4

Leah Farrall 2011. "How al Qaeda Works". *Foreign Affairs*

OBL Postmortem Reading TBD

Tues. Jan 31 A Critical Perspective on Terrorism

Mahmood Mamdani. 2002. "Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: A Political Perspective on Culture and Terrorism." *American Anthropologist* 104 (3): 766-775.

Juergensmeyer - "Is Religion the Problem?" *The Hedgehog Review*, Spring 2004, 21-33

Thurs. Feb. 2 MIDTERM.

Tues. Feb. 7 Simulation????

Thurs. Feb 9 Structural Causes

Michael Mousseau. 2002/2003. "Market Civilization and its Clash with Terror." *International Security* 27:3, pp. 5-29

Tues. Feb 14 (Social) Psychological Causes

Jerrold M. Post. 2010. "When Hatred is Bred in the Bone: the Social Psychology of Terrorism" *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, 1208

Mike German, "Behind the Lone Terrorist, a Pack Mentality" from *The Washington Post*, June 5th, 2005

Thurs. Feb 16 The Logic and Strategy of Terrorism: I

McCormick (2003) "Terrorist Decision Making" *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 6:473-507

Tues. Feb 21 The Logic and Strategy of Terrorism: II

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

Thurs. Feb 23 The Logic and Strategy of Terrorism: III

Max Abrahms (2006). "Why Terrorism Does Not Work." *International Security* Vol. 31, No.2

Tues. Feb 28 Counterterrorism

TBA

Thurs. March 1 Critical Counterterrorism

Joseba Zulaika 2010. "Who's Afraid of Truman Capote?"

Tues. March 6 The Case for Engagement

Silverstein. 2007. "Parties of God: The Bush Doctrine and the Rise of Islamic Democracy." *Harpers*.

Thurs. March 8 Weighing the Risks for Future Policy

John Mueller and Mark Stewart (2010) "Hardly Existential" *Foreign Affairs*

LaFree, Yang, & Crenshaw (2009) "Trajectories of Terrorism" *Criminology & Public Policy*. 8(3)

FINAL EXAM - TBD