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.

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**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

Tues. Jan 10  Context and Controversy

Thurs. Jan 12  “New” vs. “Old” Terrorism

Tues. Jan 17  Historical “Waves” of Terrorism

Thurs. Jan 19  Modern Origins

Tues. Jan 24  History of al Qaeda

Thurs. Jan 26  al Qaeda Today

Tues. Jan 31  A Critical Perspective on Terrorism

Thurs. Feb. 2  MIDTERM.

Tues. Feb. 7  Simulation????
Thurs. Feb 9  Structural Causes

Tues. Feb 14  (Social) Psychological Causes
    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

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

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

Tues. Feb 28  Counterterrorism
    TBA

Thurs. March 1  Critical Counterterrorism

Tues. March 6  The Case for Engagement

Thurs. March 8  Weighing the Risks for Future Policy
    John Mueller and Mark Stewart (2010 ) “Hardly Existential” *Foreign Affairs*

**FINAL EXAM - TBD**