

**INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM****Office Hours and Contact Information:**

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*"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety"*

-- Benjamin Franklin, 1789

**I. Course Description:**

This course examines the causes, conduct, and consequences of international terrorism. Topics will include the definition of terrorism; the historical antecedents of modern terrorism; the motivations, organizations and support networks of terrorists; the nature of crisis management; the responses of the World community; the effects of terrorism on free societies; and the linkages of terrorist states to international terrorism. The ability of civilization to withstand this type of attack on its fabric is discussed.

Terrorism is hardly new; it has been around in various forms since antiquity. However, increasingly deadly terrorism, including suicide terrorism, has been expanding since at least the 1970's. This is due, in part, to increased availability of explosives and other chemical and biological weapons. Perhaps more important, we will investigate the deeper psychological and cognitive effects of terrorism, as well as religious, and political causalities. Additionally, we will be discussing counter-terrorism paradigms.

Since 9/11/2001, large areas of American domestic policy, and even larger areas of our foreign policy, are formulated primarily as responses to terrorism. In just two years the United States has fought two wars, both justified on the argument that they would reduce terrorist threats. While the administration argues that the "war on terrorism" is going well, critics argue that that our policy responses have been ineffective, actually counter-productive – likely to provoke more terrorism, not less – or too damaging to our standards of liberty and justice. Part of our goal, by investigating both causes of and policy responses to terrorism, is to arm you as citizens with the tools to evaluate policy.

**II. Course Objectives:**

1. To acquire an understanding of the historical foundations of contemporary international terrorism from the point of view of both international relations (between nations) and comparative politics (within nations)
2. To understand political, social, and economic theories regarding the causes of terrorism, its control, and the consequences of implementing those controls
3. To identify geographical regions and states where the roots of terrorism are prevalent, precisely identifying those root causes where possible
4. To analyze primary/umbrella terror groups, their organizational and inter-organizational characteristics, including their recruiting, financing, and operating strategies
5. To articulate informed opinion about international terrorism, its interface with transnational organized crime, other socio-economic developments, and global impact
6. To examine the roles of militancy, religion, ethnicity, and other interests in identity-based conflicts, intractable conflicts, uprisings, wars, and war-like situations
7. To appreciate the challenges of international terrorism intelligence analysis, conflict de-escalation, and intervention

## **Course Syllabus**

### **Political Science 142O: International Terrorism**

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#### **III. Materials**

- 1. Required Texts: All materials are required.**
  - a. Chaliand, The ***History of Terrorism***.
  - b. Hoffman, Inside ***Terrorism***.
  - c. Gupta, ***Understanding Terrorism & Political Violence***.

#### **IV. Grades & Evaluations**

300 Total points are possible for this course. The grading scale is as follows: 270-300pts = "A" range, 240-269pts = "B" range, 200-239pts = "C" range, 180-199pts = "D" range, Below 180pts = F

- 1. Examinations 1- Exam@ 100pts.** There will be **One (1) take-home (midterm exam)**. The exam will consist of a series of questions based on the readings that you will be allowed to select from to answer. Each answer will be no more than 2-3pages.
- 2. Research Paper 15 pages= (200pts. Total).** You are required to select two terrorist groups and write a comparative research paper. You will be comparing the goals and actions of both, and the counter-terrorism tactics. The paper should reflect thorough research into your specific topic. **Citations and references are required.** You will be required to turn in both an electronic (plagiarism check) and "hard copy" of the paper. **Late papers will lose 25 points per day/late- I will not accept paper's more than 3 days late.** Feel free to turn papers in early!
- 3. Make-ups.** Make-up exams will only be given to students with approved excuses for their absence. **Missing an exam without an excused absence will result in an automatic failing grade.** See the instructor to schedule make-up exam. Make-up exams should be scheduled ASAP following the missed test.

#### **V. General Information**

- 1. Attendance.** Class meets three-lecture hours/week. Students are expected to arrive on time for every meeting. If you have commitments that might conflict with your attendance then you consider other course options.
- 2. Participation & Discussion.** Students are expected to come prepared, having read for each class meeting, and take part in all discussions on lectures, assigned readings, and in-class projects. Students will be evaluated on the quality and quantity of participation.
- 3. Cheating and or plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Students cheating on exams or papers (i.e., not writing them themselves) will receive a quarter grade of "F" and may be referred for discipline pursuant to University policy.
- 4. All work submitted by students for evaluation must meet the minimum criterion for college-level work.**
  - a. **All** papers (except blue books) must be typed; double-spaced, and be consistent with basic style guidelines (APA, APSA, MLA, Chicago, etc.).
  - b. All work must meet the basic requirements of grammar and logical structure expected in college writing.
- 5. Cell phones and other communications devices must be turned off during class. Please do not abuse computer note-taking in class (**no web surfing**). I will deduct points for abuse or suspend usage of all laptops in the class.**
- 6. The instructor will provide advance warning of deviations from the syllabus when they affect reading and writing assignments and/or grading criteria or processes.**
- 7. Students with disabilities who may need academic accommodations should discuss options with their professors during the first two weeks of class.**
- 8. Students are expected to have all assignments in on time. Late papers (without prior approval or proof of illness) WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED! NO EXCEPTIONS!**

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#### **VI. COURSE CALENDAR- Fall 2008**

Note: This is a general schedule of events for the quarter- it is subject to modification.

#### **Reading Assignments:**

|  |  |               |
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| Week 1<br>9/29-10/3                      | Introduction                                 |               |
| Week 2<br>10/6-10/10                     | History of Terrorism                         | Chaliand/Blin |
| Week 3<br>10/13-10/17                    | History of Terrorism                         | Chaliand/Blin |
| Week 4<br>10/20-10/24                    | History of Terrorism                         | Chaliand/Blin |
| <b>**Week 5- Midterm</b><br>10/27-10/31  | Inside Terrorism                             | Hoffman       |
| Week 6<br>11/3-11/7                      | Inside Terrorism                             | Hoffman       |
| Week 7<br>11/10-11/14                    | Inside Terrorism                             | Hoffman       |
| Week 8<br>11/17-11/21                    | Understanding Terrorism & Political Violence | Gupta         |
| Week 9<br>11/24-11/28                    | Understanding Terrorism & Political Violence | Gupta         |
| <b>**Week 10- Paper Due</b><br>12/1-12/5 | Understanding Terrorism & Political Violence | Gupta         |
| <b>**Week 11</b>                         | <b><u>FINAL EXAM WEEK</u></b>                |               |

\* = Fall 2008 Holiday(s):

Veterans Day- Tuesday- 11/11  
Thanksgiving Holiday- 11/27-11/28