This course is a systematic examination of the origins and tactics of terrorism as well as of the policies that democratic states have used to defend themselves from terrorism. We will analyze the logic of these unconventional violent acts as well as the political uses of the terms “terrorism,” “terrorist,” “freedom fighter,” “patriot,” and “guerrilla.” An historical and cross-cultural perspective will inform our study of the causes of terrorism and the range of responses to terrorism. These past international and domestic policy responses and trade-offs are discussed as we examine responses to terrorism and guerrilla warfare in the 21st century.

Please note that this is NOT a course on counterterrorism tactics or specifically on US policy in its War on Terrorism; if you are looking for that type of course please look elsewhere. From a social science perspective, I find the ‘terrorist’ experiences in which military tactics have failed to defeat terrorism especially interesting – both why some groups using tactics labeled by their targets as ‘terrorism’ have been able to survive and how governments have come to terms with such failures (e.g., IRA in Ireland, Irgun and PLO in Palestine, Muqtada al-Sadr in Iraq) and how Al Qaeda and ISIS might survive into the future.

Readings: Most readings are available on our TritonEd course site; some you will have to access directly via the Web. Each week also lists ‘Suggested Readings’; these are not required and are provided for your further exploration.

TopHat software: students are required to purchase a license for using this software. You may purchase a five year license useable across classes that use TopHat, or one for this quarter use only. To get started please go to https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Top-Hat-Overview-and-Getting-Started-Guide and to purchase your subscription, go to https://support.tophat.com/s/article/Student-Purchasing-a-Top-Hat-Subscription

Course Requirements: Grading will be based on class participation (10% via TopHat in-class software) a midterm (40%) and final exam (50%). A simulation of peace creation efforts will be held week 7; students can earn extra credit for assuming a role in the simulation. The final exam is take-home; it will be distributed on the last day of class and is due at the time of our regularly scheduled final exam. You will need to use Turnitin.com; instructions will be provided in class. Please plan accordingly. You are responsible for material in the readings and that which is presented in lecture. PowerPoints summarizing the lectures will be available on the course TritonEd web site, but lectures are not PodCast. Cheating on exams will result in failure of the entire course.

In line with UCSD policy, make-up finals are offered only if a student has a valid reason for not taking the final at the regularly scheduled time. Valid reasons include: serious illness and family disasters. Conflicting finals (either multiple finals on the same day or two finals at the same time) are NOT considered a legitimate reason – students are aware of the final exam schedule when scheduling their courses.
Readings

Week 1: Terrorism – Problems of Definition and Classification

Eqbal Ahmad, “Terrorism: Theirs and Ours” presentation at the University of Colorado, October 12, 1998.
“Exodus” selections

Suggested Readings:


Week 2: Debating the Origins of Terrorism

Bruce Hoffman, “The Modern Terrorist Mindset: Tactics, targets and technologies’ Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, St. Andrews University, Scotland, October 1997

Suggested Readings:

Week 3: Organizing and Financing Terrorism

Kevin Siqueira, “Political and Militant Wings within Dissident Movements and Organizations” Journal Of Conflict Resolution, Vol.4 9 No. 2, April
Michael Freeman and Moyara Ruehsen, “Terrorism Financing Methods: An Overview” Perspectives on Terrorism 7:4

Suggested Readings:
Week 4: Terrorism in the Name of Revolution: Guerrilla Warfare and State Response

Carlos Marighella, *Minimanual of the Urban Guerrilla*  


Week 5: Terrorism in Modern Democracies


Fernando Reinares “3/11 Madrid Bombings: An Assessment after 5 Years” video of a presentation http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-311-madrid-bombings-assessment-after-5-years (~2 hours) THIS IS ONLY ACCESSIBLE ONLINE


Suggested Readings:


Week 6 TUE: MIDTERM EXAMINATION

Week 6 (THUR) : The Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli Cases

Yehuda Lapidot, “Introduction”, “The Irgun Establishment” and “The Irgun Abroad” published online, http://www.etzel.org.il/english/index.html but chapters are on TritonEd


Week 7: Cycles of Violence

Véronique Dudouet, “Dynamics and factors of transition from armed struggle to nonviolent resistance” Journal of Peace Research May 2013 50: 401-413

David Steele, “Creative Approaches to Conflict Transformation in Societies Affected by Extremist Religion”

Sachedina, The Islamic Roots of Democratic Pluralism, pp. 102-31
Amstutz, The Healing of Nations, pp. 91-113
Gopin, Between Eden and Armageddon, pp. 51-64
Gopin, To Make the Earth Whole, pp. 12-20
Appleby, the Ambivalence of the Sacred, pp. 57-63, 81-91, & 117-20

Week 8: A New Terrorism?

Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” American Political Science Review Vol. 97, No. 3 August 2003

Thomas Homer-Dixon, “The Rise of Complex Terrorism,” Foreign Policy 128 52-62


Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon, “A New Kind of Terrorist” Brookings Institution

January 22, 2015

Suggested Readings:
The National Counterterrorism Center, 2010 Report on Terrorism Office of the Director of National Intelligence, April 2011

International Institute for Strategic Studies, IISS Strategic Comments “ISIS gains ground in sub-Saharan Africa” Volume 21, Comment 40 - December 2015

Week 9 Responding to Terrorism in the 21st Century: Goals and Strategies

Bruce Hoffman and Kim Cragin, “Four Lessons from Five Countries” RAND Review summer 2002

Jonathan Powell, “How to Talk to Terrorists”

Eric Rosand, Alistair Millar, and Jason Ipe, “Civil Society and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: Opportunities and Challenges” Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation, United Nations September 2008


White House, National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, September 2006 compare with 2011 version


Suggested Readings:
Week 10: So What About ISIL?

*ISIL’S EVOLVED IRREGULAR THREAT*, Report for the Strategic Multilayer Assessment, Noetic Corporation November 2015
Charles Lister, “Profiling the Islamic State” Brookings Doha Center Analysis Paper, December 1, 2014