

IR6685: Terrorism and Political Violence (W-E)

Term 1, 2012-2013: 3 Credit Hours

Location: Kadena AB, Japan

Meeting Times and Dates: 22-23 Sep., 29-30 Sep.

Instructor: Clifton W. Sherrill
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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

An examination of the origins and significance of contemporary political violence with an emphasis on the phenomenon of terrorism. The course employs an interdisciplinary, case-study approach.

Course Objectives

After taking this course, students should have an understanding of the history of terrorism, recognition of its primary modern sponsors, means, and goals, and appreciation of the efficacy of counterterrorism policies as evaluated against the empirical record. Students should also acquire a basic understanding of insurgency as well as counterinsurgency strategy and the challenges confronting it.

Required Texts

- Hoffman, Bruce G. Inside Terrorism, revised edition. (Columbia University Press, 2006). ISBN: 9780231126991
- Kilcullen, David. The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN: 9780199754090

Additional assigned readings will be available electronically through TROY library databases or through provided websites.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in class discussion. Students should obtain a TROY e-mail account and check it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class.

A. Exams

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam in this course. The midterm will account for 25% of the course grade. The final exam will account for 35% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and material discussed in class. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer questions, and essay questions.

B. Critical Essays

Two critical essays will be assigned, each constituting 10% of the term grade. Essays will be limited to no more than five pages. Detailed essay instructions will be provided. Essay due dates and topics are as listed:

Essay #1: Due August 26, 2012 - How Can the UN Reach Consensus on a Definition of Terrorism?
Essay #2: Due September 23, 2012 - Will Major Political Violence End in Afghanistan by 2013?

C. Book Reviews

Two critical book reviews will be assigned, each constituting 10% of the term grade. Students will select books in consultation with the professor. Each book review is limited to no more than five pages. Detailed book review instructions will be provided.

Review #1 is due September 9, 2012

Review #2 is due October 7, 2012

D. Attendance

Regular attendance is imperative for understanding the subject as well as for maximizing your chances to succeed on the exams. By university policy, TROY's coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes. Attendance will be taken in compliance with College policy.

Grading Policy

90 - 100 A	70 - 79 C	0 - 59 F
80 - 89 B	60 - 69 D	

Americans with Disabilities Act

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

Academic Honesty

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the "Standards of Conduct" as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these guidelines and to comply therewith. Cheating or plagiarism will result in an F for the course, will be reported to appropriate officials, and may subject the student to further discipline from the University. The instructor uses on-line software to help detect plagiarism. Please note that no assignment prepared for or submitted in a different course may be used in this course without prior approval of the instructor.

Library Resources

Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <https://www.library.troy.edu> These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, and Lexis-Nexis. Remote access is available via the student's Troy User ID and Password. Specific help for Global Campus students, including a dedicated librarian, is available at <https://www.uclibrary.troy.edu>

Course Schedule

Week 1 - (Aug. 13 - 19) Course Introduction, Defining Terrorism, History of Terrorism

- Hoffman, Ch. 1-3
Boaz Ganor, "Defining Terrorism – Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?" IDC-Herzliya, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (Available at <http://www.ict.org.il/ResearchPublications/tabid/64/Articlsid/432/Default.aspx>)

Week 2 (Aug. 20 - 26) Religion and Terrorism

- Hoffman, Ch. 4
- Robert S. Leiken, "Europe's Angry Muslims," Foreign Affairs (July-August 2005) (Available in Academic Search Complete)
- Christopher Henzel, "The Origins of Al-Qaeda's Ideology: Implications for U.S. Strategy," Parameters (Spring 2005): 69-80 (Available via Google Search)
- Islamism Reading (posted on Blackboard website)

ESSAY # 1 DUE

Week 3 (Aug. 27 – Sep. 2) Suicide Terrorism; Motivations

- Hoffman, Ch. 5, 8
- Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," American Political Science Review 97, vol. 3 (August 2003): 343-61. (Available in JSTOR)
- Scott Atran, "The Moral Logic and Growth of Suicide Terrorism," The Washington Quarterly (Spring 2006): 127-144. (Available in Academic Search Complete)
- Gordon H. McCormick, "Terrorist Decision Making," Annual Review of Political Science 6, no. 1 (2003): 473-507 (Available in Academic Search Complete)
- Max Abrahms, "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counter-terrorism Strategy," International Security 32, no. 4 (Spring 2008): 78-105). (Available in Academic Search Complete).

Week 4 (Sep. 3 - 9) Media; Terrorism and WMD

- Hoffman, Ch. 6-7, 9
- Brigitte Nacos, et al., "Post-9/11 Terrorism Threats, News Coverage, and Public Perceptions in the United States," International Journal of Conflict and Violence 1, no. 2 (2007): 105-126. (Available at <http://ijcv.org/index.php/ijcv/article/viewFile/10/10>)
- Ashton Carter et al., "The Day After: Action Following a Nuclear Blast in a U.S. City," The Washington Quarterly 30, no. 4 (Autumn 2007): 19-32. (Available in Academic Search Complete).
- Matthew Bunn and Anthony Wier, "The Seven Myths of Nuclear Terrorism" Current History (April 2005): 153-61 (Available in ProQuest Central)
- John Parichini, "Putting WMD Terrorism into Perspective," The Washington Quarterly 26, no. 4 (Autumn 2003): 37-50. (Available in Academic Search Complete).

BOOK REVIEW #1 DUE

Week 5 (Sep. 10 -16) Counter-Terrorism – Law & Force

- Audrey Kurth Cronin, “How Al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups,” International Security 31, no. 1 (Summer 2006): 7-48. (Available in Academic Search Complete).
- Michael Crawford and Jami Miscik, “The Rise of Mezzanine Rulers: The New Frontier for International Law,” Foreign Affairs 89, no. 6 (Nov/Dec 2010): 123-30. (Available in Academic Search Complete).

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6 (Sep. 17 - 23) Insurgency

- Kilcullen, Ch. 1-3

ESSAY #2 DUE

Saturday, Sep. 22

Defining Terrorism
History of Terrorism
Religion and Terrorism

Sunday, Sep. 23

Suicide Terrorism
Motivations
Terrorism and the Media
Terrorism and WMD

Week 7 (Sep. 24 - 30) Counterinsurgency

- Kilcullen, Ch., 4-5
- Daniel Byman, “Friends Like These: Counterinsurgency and the War on Terrorism,” International Security 31, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 79-115. (Available in Academic Search Complete).

Saturday, Sep. 29

Counterterrorism Strategies
Insurgency
Historical Cases and Theories

Sunday, Sep. 30

Counterinsurgency
Development of COIN Strategy
Afghanistan & Iraq

Week 8 (Oct. 1 - 7) Case Studies (Hamas, Hezbollah, Al-Qaeda)

- Khobar Towers Indictment (Available at www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel01/khobar.pdf)
- Michael Herzog, “Can Hamas Be Tamed?” Foreign Affairs (Mar/Apr 2006): 83-94. (Available in Academic Search Complete).
- Ahmed S. Hashim, “The World According to Usama Bin Laden,” Naval War College Review 54, no. 4 (Autumn 2001).

- Paul Miller, “Finish the Job: How the War in Afghanistan Can Be Won,” Foreign Affairs 90, no.1 (Jan/Feb 2011): 51-61. (Available in Academic Search Complete).
- Department of State, Country Reports on Terrorism (Latest annual report) (Available at <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/index.htm>)

BOOK REVIEW #2 DUE

Week 9 (*Oct. 8 - 14*)

- **FINAL EXAM**

Note: The above schedule, readings and procedures in this course are subject to change.