

INAF 5244

Instructor: Dr. Jez Littlewood

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Term: Fall, 2011

Class: Wednesday: 08.35-11.25

Room: DT-1318

Office Hours 2011-2012

Monday: 13.00 to 15.00

Tuesday: 10.30 to 12.30

Assignments

#1: Sept. 28, 2011

Review essay: 20%

#2: Oct. 5 to Nov. 23, 2011

Presentation: 15%

#3: Oct. 5 to Nov. 23, 2011

Case study paper: 15%

#4: Nov. 30, 2011

Group debate: 10%

#5: Dec. 5, 2011

Briefing paper on a terrorist organization: 40%

**Terrorism & International Security
Preliminary Outline for 2011F****SUMMARY**

This course examines terrorism, counter-terrorism, and the impact terrorism has on international security. There is special emphasis on current debates in terrorism studies. Students will develop an academic and historical appreciation of the subject through the literature on the theory and practice of terrorism. The course draws on case studies from North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, and South Asia. Throughout the course students will be engaged in the examination and critique of many contentious issues: all students must, therefore, be willing and able to approach this subject with a critical and enquiring mind.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To develop an informed historical and critical contemporary perspective and understanding of terrorism and counter-terrorism.
2. To examine the different theories on the strategy of terrorism, root causes of terrorism and why individuals and organizations support, facilitate, or take part in terrorist activity.
3. To consider how and when terrorism can be countered.
4. To develop research and analytical capabilities through an examination of suicide bombings, radicalization, CBRN terrorism, critical infrastructure protection, and whether or not terrorism works.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

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|------------------------------|--|
| 01. Wednesday, September 14: | Terrorism: <i>introduction and course overview</i> |
| 02. Wednesday, September 21: | Terrorism in theory: <i>definitions and concepts</i> |
| 03. Wednesday, September 28: | Terrorism in practice: <i>historical and contemporary perspectives</i> |
| 04. Wednesday, October 5: | The strategy of terrorism & its impact on international security |
| 05. Wednesday, October 12: | Roots of terrorism: <i>exploring the debate on causal factors</i> |
| 06. Wednesday, October 19: | Radicalization: <i>who becomes a terrorist?</i> |
| 07. Wednesday, October 26: | Supporting terrorism: <i>sponsorship & material support</i> |
| 08. Wednesday, November 2: | Counter-Terrorism: <i>national & international strategies</i> |
| 09. Wednesday, November 9: | Public safety and protecting critical infrastructure post 9/11 |
| 10. Wednesday, November 16: | Strategies to end terrorism |
| 11. Wednesday, November 23: | Suicide bombings, mass casualties, & CBRN weapons |
| 12. Wednesday, November 30: | Group Debate(s): |
| | Debate One: Does terrorism work? |
| | Debate Two: Does the death of Osama Bin Laden matter? |

OVERVIEW

This course is intended as an introduction to the study of terrorism from an academic perspective. Students are not required to have any prior knowledge of terrorism literature for this course.

ORGANIZATION OF CLASS

A typical class is organized around blocks of time incorporating a lecture from the instructor, presentations by students, small group work within class, and discussion. An illustrative outline is:

08.35-09.05	Lecture from instructor
09.05-09.35	Student presentations
09.35-10.05	Discussion on required readings, pair & share, & small group work
10.05-10.20	Break
10.20-10.50	Application of learning through analysis of terrorist groups and case studies
10.50-11.15	Critical conversation / Q & A discussion
11.15-11.25	Course administration

For each class students are expected to have read the **three** required readings for each week of the course. This provides core literature on the topic. Introductory lectures occur most weeks. These lectures provide a framework for understanding the issue under discussion and identify key concepts and contemporary challenges. The class operates in seminar mode. Presentations by students are followed by a Q & A session on the presentations (peer review and comment), group work on assigned topics or readings, and the use of case studies to apply learning. The final section of each week's class involves a critical assessment of the topic under discussion.

This is an academic course: for your assignments you are expected to use official documents, articles from journals and periodicals, books, and other high-quality sources from think tanks, government departments and agencies, and the media as your principal sources of information.

Students should read a quality newspaper, such as the *New York Times*, and magazine, such as *The Economist*, on a regular basis and make use of resources such as <http://www.foreignpolicy.com> and subscription-based services offered by the library, such as Jane's *Intelligence Weekly* and Jane's *Terrorism and Security Monitor*.

Useful texts

Students should consider buying **one of either** Richardson, or Crenshaw, or Hoffman

Martha Crenshaw, 'Explaining Terrorism' (London & New York; Routledge, 2011). *Excellent & highly readable collection of key essays from Crenshaw.*

Bruce Hoffman, 'Inside Terrorism' (New York, Columbia University Press, 2006). *Now in its second edition, one of the best introductory books on the subject.*

Louise Richardson, 'What Terrorists Want' (New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2006). *A very good introduction to contemporary terrorism in historical context.*

Lawrence Wright, 'The Looming Tower' (New York, Vintage, 2006). *An award winning book on the origins of the September 11, 2001, attacks.*

Daniel Byman, 'The Five Front War' (Wiley, 2007). *An assessment of the many different policy areas that counter-terrorism must embrace if it is to be effective.*

Bruce Lawrence (Ed), 'Messages to the World: the statements of Osama Bin Laden' (London & New York, Verso, 2005). *A useful reference for AQ-related statements up to 2005.*