

# TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM

**Seminars: Mondays, 4-6pm**  
**Office Hours: TBA**

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## Course Description

This course explores a wide range of questions in order to provide students with a deeper understanding of the origins and evolution of modern terrorism, and the challenges posed by terrorist groups to states with an emphasis on the United States. The course is divided into three parts. In Part I, we will examine the nature, objectives, strategies, and organization of terrorism and terrorist groups. We will also discuss the political, psychological, socioeconomic, and religious causes of terrorist violence. Part II consists of student presentations on active terrorist organizations. Part III focuses on counterterrorism. Based on recent American experience in combating terrorism, we will analyze the strengths and weaknesses of counterterrorist tools and strategies, and the challenges of balancing civil liberties and security.

## Requirements

Students must read the assigned material before each session and be prepared to discuss it. In our first class meeting, students will choose one terrorist group and will be responsible for delivering a presentation about it on November 13. In addition, every seminar participant will write a policy paper and a research paper. Detailed instructions for these assignments will be given in class. Because events will continue to unfold during the course, additional readings may be assigned. Students should also regularly read major newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*.

## Grading

Class participation and presentation:	30%
Policy Paper (due Nov. 6)	30%
Research Paper (due Dec. 11)	40%

## Readings

Most of the required readings are included in the books listed below. They are supplemented by a few articles and reports as indicated in the course outline. The articles are available on reserve.

Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer, eds., Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment (Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw Hill, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2006).

Brigitte Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding Threats and Responses in the Post-9/11 World (New York: Longman, 2006).

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006).

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press, paperback edition, 2003).

Martha Crenshaw, ed., Terrorism in Context (University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995).

Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2004).

Walter Reich, ed., Origins of Terrorism: Psychology, Ideologies, States of Mind (Washington, DC: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1998).

U.S. Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism 2005  
Available on-line at: <http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/c17689.htm>

The 9/11 Commission Report  
Available on-line at:  
<http://www.9-11commission.gov/report/index.htm>

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

### **Part I: THE TERRORIST THREAT**

#### DEFINING TERRORISM (September 11)

U.S. Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism 2005, “Definitions,” Chapter 1.

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, Chapter 1.

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, pp. vii-xii and chapters 1, 2.

Timothy Garton Ash, “Is there a Good Terrorist?” The New York Review of Books, Vol. 48, No. 19 (November 29, 2001).

Audrey Cronin and James Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism, chapter 2.

ROOT CAUSES, MOTIVATIONS, AND JUSTIFICATIONS (I) (September 18)  
Audrey Cronin and James Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism, Chapter 1

Walter Reich, ed., Origins of Terrorism, Chapters 1, 2.

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, pp. 130-40, Chapter 3

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, Chapter 4

ROOT CAUSES, MOTIVATIONS, AND JUSTIFICATIONS (II) (September 25)

Michael Mousseau, "Market Civilization and Its Clash with Terror," International Security, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Winter 2002/03), pp. 5-29.

C. Knight, M. Murphy, and M. Mousseau, "The Sources of Terrorism," International Security, Vol. 28, No. 2 (Spring 2003), pp. 192-98.

Alan B. Krueger and Jitka Maleckova, "Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection," The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 17, No. 4 (November 2003), pp. 119-44.

Jerrold M. Post, et al, "In Their Own Words: Interviews with 35 Incarcerated Middle Eastern Terrorists," Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol. 15, No. 1 (Spring 2003), pp. 171-184.

STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM (October 2)

Department of State, Patterns of Global Terrorism 2005, "State-Sponsored Terrorism," pp. 85-93.

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, Ch. 6, "States."

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, pp. 258-267.

TERRORIST METHODS, STRATEGIES, TACTICS (October 16)

Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism," International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 49-80.

Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Bombing," American Political Science Review, Vol. 97, No. 3 (August 2003), pp. 343-361.

Eric Lipton and Eric Lichtblau, "Online and Even Near Home, a New Front Is Opening

in the Global Terror Battle,” The New York Times, September 23, 2004.

Michael B. Oren, “Life Among the Bombs,” The New York Times, February 24, 2004.

#### AL-QAIDA AND RADICAL ISLAMIST TERRORISM (October 23)

Audrey Kurth Cronin, “How al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups,” International Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 7-48.

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, pp. 282-295.

Brigadier General Russell D. Howard (Ret.), “Understanding Al Qaeda’s Application of the New Terrorism – The Key to Victory in the Current Campaign,” in Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer, eds., Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment, Chapter 3.

Bernard Haykel, “The Enemy of My Enemy is Still My Enemy,” New York Times, July 26, 2006.

#### HEZBOLLAH (October 30)

Daniel Byman, “Should Hezbollah Be Next?” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 82, no. 6, pp. 54-66.

Walter Reich, Origins of Terrorism, Chapter 8.

Steven Erlanger and Richard Oppel Jr., “A Disciplined Hezbollah Surprises Israel with Its Training, Tactics and Weapons,” New York Times, August 7, 2006.

#### CBRN TERRORISM (November 6)

Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, pp. 267-281.

Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer, eds., Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment, Chapter 5. (Read only the articles by Adam Dolnik, Richard Pilch, and Michael Eastman and Robert Brown.)

**\*\*Policy Papers Due in Class\*\***

#### **PART TWO: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS ON TERRORIST GROUPS**

(November 13)

#### **PART THREE: COUNTERTERRORISM PRE AND POST 9/11**

RESPONSES TO TERRORISM (I):  
DIPLOMACY, INTELLIGENCE, AND FINANCIAL INTERDICTION (November 20)

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, Chapter 4 and pp. 140-156.

The White House, "The National Security Strategy of the United States," Sept. 2002  
Available on-line at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.pdf>

The White House, "National Strategy for Combating Terrorism," February 2003.  
Available on-line at:  
[http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/counter\\_terrorism/counter\\_terrorism\\_strategy.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/counter_terrorism/counter_terrorism_strategy.pdf)

Audrey Cronin and James Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism, Chapter 3

William F. Wechsler, "Strangling the Hydra: Targeting Al Qaeda's Finances," in Hoge, Jr., and Rose, eds., How Did This Happen, pp. 129-143.

Richard Betts, "Fixing Intelligence," Foreign Affairs Vol. 81, No. 1 (Jan./Feb. 2002), pp. 43-59.

RESPONSES TO TERRORISM (II):  
DETERRENCE, MILITARY FORCE, AND TARGETED ASSASSINATION  
(November 27)

Audrey Cronin and James Ludes, eds., Attacking Terrorism, Chapters 6, 7, 8, 11

Robert Trager and Dessislava Zagorcheva, "Deterring Terrorism: It Could Be Done," International Security, Vol. 30, No. 3 (Winter 2005/06), pp. 87-123.

Catherine Lotrionte, "When to Target Leaders," The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 26, No. 3 (Summer 2003), pp. 73-86.

Steven David, "Israel's Policy of Targeted Killing," Ethics & International Affairs, Vol. 17, (Spring 2003), pp. 111-126.

Yael Stein, "By Any Name Illegal and Immoral: Response to 'Israel's Policy of Targeted Killing,'" Ethics & International Affairs, Vol. 17 (Spring 2003), pp. 127-137.

LAW ENFORCEMENT, CIVIL LIBERTIES, AND THE MORALITY OF  
COUNTERTERRORISM (December 4)

Brigitte Nacos, Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding Threats and Responses in

the Post-9/11 World, Chapter 9.

Mark Bowden, "The Dark Art of Interrogation," Atlantic Monthly (October 2003).

Tim Golden, "Administration Split Over Tribunals," New York Times, October 25, 2004.

Anthony Lewis, "Making Torture Legal," The New York Review of Books, July 15, 2004.

TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM IN THE FUTURE (December 11)

Paul Pillar, Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy, Chapter 8.

9/11 Commission Report, Ch. 12, "A Global Strategy," pp. 361-398 and Ch. 13, "A Different Way of Organizing Government," pp. 399-428.

Paul Pillar, "Counterterrorism after Al Qaeda," in Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer, eds., Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment, Chapter 8.

Karen DeYoung, "U.S. Counterterrorism Efforts Remain Uncoordinated," Washington Post, August 8, 2006.

**\*\*Research Papers Due in Class\*\***