TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM

Seminars: Mondays, 4-6pm
Office Hours: TBA
Professor Dessie P. Zagorcheva
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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.


**COURSE OUTLINE**

**Part I: THE TERRORIST THREAT**

DEFINING TERRORISM (September 11)


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


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)


STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM (October 2)


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

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

TERRORIST METHODS, STRATEGIES, TACTICS (October 16)


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


AL-QAIDA AND RADICAL ISLAMIST TERRORISM (October 23)


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.


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.


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.


Available on-line at:

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.


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


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.


**TERRORISM AND COUNTERTERRORISM IN THE FUTURE (December 11)**


**Research Papers Due in Class**