

## **POLS 4138K: International Terrorism, Fall 2019**

Department of Political Science, Georgia Southern University

### **Instructor Information**

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Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:00 pm and 5:00-6:00  
pm, 2:00-3:00 pm, and by appointment  
Class Location: Carroll Building 1023  
Course Time: Tuesdays & Thursdays (TR): 12:30 -  
1:45 pm

### **Course Overview**

This course examines a particular form of political violence known as terrorism and the groups and individuals that are involved in it. Terrorism is not new, but is constantly changing in tactics, scope and organizational structure. In this course, we will explore main themes and debates in the academic literature on terrorism by focusing on the following key questions: What is terrorism? How do terrorist groups emerge? Why do some terrorists “go global” while others are more local? Why do some terrorist groups use suicide bombing as their main strategy, while others use a different tactic? Who supports terrorist groups and why? To explore these questions we will look into a range of national, international and transnational terrorist groups.

Part I of this course focuses on defining terrorism, analyzing causes of terrorism and comparing historical trends with new terrorism. Part II explores various dimensions of international terrorism with a specific focus on targets and tactics. Part III analyzes the organization and control of terrorist groups by looking into the methods of group formation and recruitment. It also includes a brief analysis of counter terrorism to conclude our discussion on terrorism.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to

- Understand various dimensions of terrorism
- Compare and contrast differing types and forms of terrorism
- Differentiate between domestic, international and transnational terrorism
- Compare different tactics of terrorism

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of key concepts, theories, and methods
- Students will explore the complex interrelationships between political, economic, social, cultural, and historical forces
- Students will develop a mastery of critical thinking skills by evaluating political developments from an observational and theoretical standpoint in their research
- Students will develop a mastery of writing skills of political phenomena by communicating their perspectives, empirical findings, interpretations and the conclusions of their research on political issues, policies, institutions, and behavior

### **Course Format**

The readings will be drawn from a variety of sources including books and journals. There is no required textbook for this course. All the readings will be available on Folio. I hope that our sessions will be engaging,

informative, and participatory. We will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, and other critical thinking exercises. I value and will solicit your input on class activities both at the beginning of the semester as well as around midterm. I will make every reasonable effort to incorporate these ideas in the classroom.

## Important dates

Course Add or Drop for Fall semester 2019: August 19-20. October 14 is the last day to withdraw without academic penalty; See the Policy for Limiting Individual Course Withdrawals for additional Information <http://em.georgiasouthern.edu/registrar/students/withdrawal/>

## Requirements

### 1. Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation are worth 50 points of your grade. I expect all students to attend class regularly. On many days, we will spend a few minutes writing about various topics from the text or lecture. Occasionally, you will hand in these writings for credit. These writing activities will facilitate critical thinking and will also guide some of our discussion. Furthermore, please finish the assigned readings *by the date* they appear in the syllabus. Read critically and be prepared to comment on the readings in class. I encourage you to ask questions and make relevant comments *at any time* during class. I will excuse 3 absences during the semester. Use it wisely. If you wish to be excused for subsequent absences based on medical conditions or other emergencies please submit proper documents or inform me in writing, earlier. Any additional absences, above and beyond the excused absences will lead to 5 point deduction (each). To get full credit for attendance and participation, it is important that you ask relevant questions and participate regularly in class discussion.

### 2. Reading Quizzes

Over the course there will be seven reading quizzes based on the respective day's reading/s. Each reading quiz is worth 20 points, constituting a total of 140 points of your final grade.

### 3. Presentation

Over the course there will be 6 group presentations. Each student will be assigned a group and will participate in one presentation. Each group will consist of 5/6 members and will discuss in details the topic assigned. Details about the presentations will be discussed in class. Class presentation is worth 50 points.

### 4. Exams

There will be two exams. Each exam is worth 60 points for a total of 120 points.

### 5. Article Review

There will be one article review, where you will be reading an article on the topic of terrorism and writing a review of this paper. This article review is worth 50 points. I will assign the article for you to review and discuss the specific instructions for writing this review in class.

### 6. In-class assignments

There will be frequent in-class assignments based on documentaries that you watch in class and articles that you read in class. A tentative schedule for these assignments is provided in the syllabus. However, some of these assignments will be assigned on short notice. If it is announced in class, on days that you are absent, it is your duty to find out when and what assignments are due. Missing these assignments can affect your

overall grade, so make sure you know about these and complete it on time. These assignments will have due dates and the general late submission policies apply to these as well. Not all of these assignments will be graded.

## Grade Summary

- Attendance and Participation: 50 points
- Reading Quizzes: 140 points (7 x 20)
- Presentation: 50 points
- Exams: 120 points (60 x 2)
- In-class Assignments: 40
- Article Review: 50
- **TOTAL: 450 points**

## Assessment Scale

A	100-90	B	89-80	C	79-70	D	69-60	F	59 or below
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## Course Policies

### 1. Attendance

To successfully complete this course, attendance is mandatory. Any absences, other than the three allowed absences will result in grade point deduction (5 points will be deducted for each subsequent absence). Only extreme cases of emergency and prior notice will be considered.

### 2. Late Papers

Papers handed in after the deadline will receive a 5 point deduction (this means any time after the deadline), and then an additional 5 points for each day (24 hours), it is late. If there is a problem completing an assignment on time, please contact me well in advance of the due date.

### 3. Student Conduct and Classroom Courtesy

Classroom courtesy is an essential component of creating an effective learning environment. All students have the right to learn without unnecessary distractions. These distractions include: cell phones, talking during lectures (unless recognized by the instructor), reading newspapers, falling asleep, etc. If you need a cell phone for emergency purposes, leave it on vibrate. Entering and leaving are also significant sources of distraction. It is your responsibility to be on time and to stay for the entire period. In circumstances where you need to leave early, tell the instructor beforehand. Repeated disruptions of class will lead to a reduction in your final grade. Most importantly, class discussions of the issues in political science can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly. All members of the community are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their professional interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Academic discourse, including discussion and argumentation, is to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner that is respectful of and understanding toward both peers and professors.

### Scholarly Comments

- are respectful of diverse opinions and open to follow up questions and/or disagreement
- are related to class and/or the course material
- focus on advancing the discussion about issues related to the course and/or course material rather than personal beliefs, and
- are delivered in normal tones and a non-aggressive manner.

### Unacceptable Comments

- are personal in nature. This includes attacks on a person's appearance, demeanor, or political beliefs.
- include interrupting the instructor or other students. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized.
- often use the discussion to argue for political positions and/or beliefs. If political discussions arise, they must be discussed in a scholarly way (see above).
- may include using raised tones, yelling, engaging in arguments with other students and being threatening in any manner.
- include ignoring the instructor's authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

## 4. Academic Integrity

Students are expected to uphold the Student Conduct Code as upheld by Georgia Southern University. The following list of 32 violations of the Student Conduct Code is an example of behaviors that may result in disciplinary action by the University. It is not to be regarded as all-inclusive. In the event that there arises ambiguity, inconsistency, or a need for further clarification regarding what constitutes a violation of the Student Conduct Code, the Dean of Students shall make the final determination. Any student or student organization found to be responsible for misconduct is subject to University sanctions.

### Cheating

- submitting material that is not yours as part of your course performance
- using information or devices that are not allowed by the faculty
- obtaining and/or using unauthorized materials
- fabricating information, research, and/or results
- violating procedures prescribed to protect the integrity of an assignment, test, or other evaluation (among other things use of mobile phones, tablets, laptops during exams is strictly prohibited)
- collaborating with others on assignments without the faculty's consent
- cooperating with and/or helping another student to cheat
- demonstrating any other forms of dishonest behavior

### Plagiarism

- directly quoting the words of others without using quotation marks or indented format to identify them
- using sources of information (published or unpublished) without identifying them
- paraphrasing materials or ideas without identifying the source
- unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic material.

All members of the community recognize the necessity of being honest with themselves and with others. The integrity of the educational experience is diminished by cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying, and employing other methods of deceit. None of these should be used as a strategy to obtain a false sense of success. The need for honest relations among all members of the community is essential.

## 5. Disabilities

Georgia Southern University is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities as required under federal law. Disabilities may include ADD or AD/HD, autism spectrum disorder, brain injury, chronic medical conditions, communication disorders, hearing loss, learning disabilities, mobility impairment, psychological disorders, visual impairment or temporary injuries. The purpose of disability accommodation is to provide equal access to the academic material and equal access to demonstrate mastery of the material. If you have a disability and need accommodations, please contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center (SARC). You will need to meet with a SARC staff member who can help you

gather documentation of your disability or refer you to an appropriate resource for assessment. Once documentation of the disability is approved, SARC staff will provide you with an accommodation letter detailing the approved accommodations which you should present to me so we can discuss and implement your accommodations. Disability accommodations work best starting at the beginning of the semester, but can be approved and started at any point in the semester. Accommodations start at the time the accommodation letter is presented to faculty within reasonable timelines; accommodations are not given retroactively. SARC on the Statesboro campus is located on the second floor of Cone Hall and the phone number is (912) 478-1566. SARC for Savannah and Liberty campuses is located on the second floor of Memorial College Center and the phone number is (912) 344-2572.

## 6. Syllabus Change

This syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## *Tentative* Course and Reading Schedule

Copies of the readings are/will be available online at the Folio website.

### Introduction to the Course

Tuesday, August 20

- Overview: Discuss syllabus, class policies and semester plans
- What is terrorism?

## Part I. What is terrorism? Causes, historical trends and new terrorism

### 1. Defining Terrorism

Thursday, August 22

- Chapter 1: Defining Terrorism in *Essentials of Terrorism*.
- Weinberg, L., Pedahzur, A., & Hirsch-Hoefler, S. (2004). The challenges of conceptualizing terrorism. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 16(4), 777-794.

### 2. Historical Perspectives and Ideological Origins of Terrorism

Tuesday, August 27

- Shughart II, W. F. (2006). An analytical history of terrorism, 1945 - 2000. *Public Choice*, 128(1-2), 7-39.

Thursday, August 29

- Rapoport, D. C. (1984). Fear and trembling: Terrorism in three religious traditions. *The American Political Science Review*, 658-677.

### 3. New Terrorism

Tuesday, September 3

- **READING QUIZ 1**
- Tucker, D. (2001). What is new about the new terrorism and how dangerous is it?. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 13(3), 1-14.

- Kurtulus, E. N. (2011). The “new terrorism” and its critics. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 34(6), 476-500.

#### 4. Causes of Terrorist Violence

Thursday, September 5

- Chapter 3 in *Essentials of Terrorism*.

#### Dissident Terrorism

Tuesday, September 10

- **READING QUIZ 2**
- Chapter 6 in *Essentials of Terrorism*.

#### Religious Terrorism

Thursday, September 12

- Chapter 7 in *Essentials of Terrorism*.

#### State Terrorism

Tuesday, September 17

- **READING QUIZ 3**
- Chapter 5 in *Essentials of Terrorism*.

Thursday, September 19

- **PRESENTATION 1: Shining Path**

Tuesday, September 24

- Review and Discussion of Part I

Thursday, September 26

- **EXAM I**

### Part II. International Terrorism: Targets and Tactics

#### 1. International Terrorism

Tuesday, October 1

- Hoffman, Bruce (2006). The Internationalization of Terrorism: (Chapter 3). In *Inside Terrorism*, 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 63-80.

Thursday, October 3

**NO CLASS**

- International Studies Association South (ISA-South) Annual Conference 2019 at Memphis.

**Tuesday, October 8**

**Understanding Al-Qaeda**

- **READING QUIZ 4**
- Hoffman, Bruce (2003). Al Qaeda: Trends in Terrorism, and future Potentialities, RAND documents, pp 1-17.
- Burke, Jason (2004). Al Qaeda, *Foreign Policy*, 18-26.

**Thursday, October 10**

**Understanding ISIS**

- Wood, G. (2015). What ISIS Really Wants? *The Atlantic*.
- Walt, S. M. (2015). ISIS as Revolutionary State. *Foreign Affairs*, 94(6), 7.

## **2. Methods and Strategies**

**Tuesday, October 15**

- **READING QUIZ 5**
- Asal, V., & Rethemeyer, R. K. (2008). The nature of the beast: Organizational structures and the lethality of terrorist attacks. *The Journal of Politics*, 70(02), 437-449.
- Pape, R. A. (2003). The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. *American political science review*, 97(03), 343-361.

**Thursday, October 17**

- PRESENTATION 2: Tamil Tigers

**Tuesday, October 22**

### **Narco-terrorism**

- **READING QUIZ 6**
- Makarenko, T. (2004). The crime-terror continuum: tracing the interplay between transnational organized crime and terrorism. *Global Crime*, 6(1), 129-145.
- Longmire, S. M., Longmire, L., & John, P. (2008). Redefining terrorism: Why Mexican drug trafficking is more than just organized crime. *Journal of Strategic Security*, 1(1), 35-52.

**Thursday, October 24**

- PRESENTATION 3: FARC

**Tuesday, October 29**

- Discussing the present status of FARC

## **Part III. Terrorism: Organizational Structure and Counter-terrorism**

### **1. Group formation and recruitment**

**Thursday, October 31**

- **READING QUIZ 7**
- Hegghammer, T. (2013). The recruiter's dilemma: Signaling and rebel recruitment tactics. *Journal of Peace Research*, 50(1), 3-16.

- Krebs, V. E. (2002). Mapping networks of terrorist cells. *Connections*, 24(3), 43-52.
- Understanding Paris Attacks

**Tuesday, November 5**

- Presentation 4: Boko Haram

**2. Counter-terrorism: Methods and Tactics****Thursday, November 7**

- Chapter 10 in *Essentials of Terrorism*.

**Tuesday, November 12**

- Presentation 5: The Taliban

**Thursday, November 14**

- The Boston Marathon Bombing: Documentary

**Tuesday, November 19**

- PRESENTATION 6: Aum Shinrikyo

**Thursday, November 21**

- Understanding a contemporary violent event in Japan

**THANKSGIVING BREAK****November 26 - November 29****Tuesday, December 3**

- In class assignment

**Thursday, December 5**

- Review and Discussion on Parts II and III

**Tuesday, Dec 10**

- FINAL EXAM
- 12:30 - 2:30 pm