

University of Utah
Political Science Department

Political Violence and Terrorism
POLS 5450-01 (MID E 5645-01)

Spring 2006
Mon 6:00-8:30 PM OSH 234

Instructor: Kristian Alexander
Office: OSH 325
Office hours: Wednesdays 4:00-6:00
and by prior appointment

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Course Description and Objectives

Given the controversial nature of the subject matter, and the events of September 11, 2001, much of the public discourse is often emotionally charged and lacking factual grounding and objective analysis. This course will attempt to get at the roots of terrorism and analyze the various facets associated with this phenomenon. We will examine questions such as: Why does terrorism occur? What are its international and domestic sources? How do scholars in the field of terrorism research explain this phenomenon? How can we best explain the organizational structures and methods of certain actors that employ terrorism as a means of political action? What can be done to prevent terrorism? Students will be introduced to different examples of contemporary terrorism, with a particular focus on religious fundamentalism in the Middle East and the post 9/11 security environment.

The course will be taught in a seminar style, with a combination of lecture and discussion. This is a reading intensive class and will demand a critical examination of a wide variety of issue areas.

Course Requirements

This is a lecture and discussion course, the success of which depends heavily on your preparation for each class meeting and your enthusiasm you bring to class discussion. Lectures and discussions will be supplemented by several Video/DVD documentaries and possibly one or two guest speakers. I will be asking you questions during each class and expect you to participate actively. Occasionally, I will ask you to form small groups and have you discuss certain pertinent concepts, issues or questions. Engage respectfully with your peers who may not share your opinions.

I reserve the right to make minor changes to the syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class in advance.

Grades are based on the requirements below. Final grades are based on standard scoring

- Attendance and Participation (10%)
- Review of one article (15%)
- Take-Home Midterm (30%)
- Take-Home Final (35%)
- 2 Short In-Class Quizzes (10%)

Attendance and Class Participation (10%): Your participation grade will consist of participation in class discussion (thoughtful comments, answering questions posed by the instructor, raising critical questions) and in-class exercises (group discussions). In order to get the most out of this course, you must be prepared when you come to class. You are required to complete the readings prior to class meeting and to be ready to discuss them. Attendance will affect your participation, and excessive absences will result in a lower grade. An excused absence means you have a medical excuse or documented emergency.

Take-Home Midterm (30%): The take home midterm will be handed to students in class on Monday, March 6th and is due no later than Friday, March 10th in my office (OSH 325) by 3:00 PM of that day. It will consist of 2 questions that will ask you to critically analyze a concept or issue based on the readings and lecture material. You will have several days to work on this assignment and are required to use the assigned articles and authors to make your case. The papers should be typed, double spaced, use 12 inch font, and not to exceed 6-8 pages total. Any paper that goes beyond 8 pages will not be accepted! It should be referenced and free of spelling and grammatical errors. No additional research is necessary for this assignment but if additional sources are consulted they will have to be adequately referenced. I do not accept electronic submissions; it is the student's responsibility to provide me with a paper copy of all work. Students may not consult orally with any other fellow student during the given test phase.

Review of one article (15%): Everyone will choose one of the ‘Recommended Readings’ listed in the course outline and write a 1-2 page (max.!) (single-spaced; bullet point format is acceptable but sentences should be complete) review of an article of your choosing. In it you should address the major hypotheses, ideas, and information provided by the author(s). What examples does the author provide to substantiate his/her argument? Do you agree or disagree with the basic argument(s)? Why or why don’t you find the argument convincing? Briefly explain! Your review should also include one discussion question that might tie into the primary readings for that day or stimulate further debate. You will not be required to formally present your review in class but should be ready to address some of the aspects mentioned in the article and explain how this is of interest to the overall discussion of the day. This review will be handed to the instructor at the end of each class period. If a student fails to show up for his/her assigned review day, they will automatically forfeit the credit allocated to this assignment. There will be absolutely no late hand-ins and once you sign up for an article you will be held responsible for it. A sign-up sheet will be handed out the first week of class and each of the available articles up for review can only be signed up for by one student. Only once all of the designated articles have been signed up for will I allow the rest of the students to add their name to the respective articles. There will be no more than 2 students responsible for any given article.

Take-Home Final Exam (35%): Same rules apply as with the take home midterm. The take home final will be handed to students in class on Monday, April 24th and is due no later than Friday, April 28 in my office (OSH 325) by 3:00 PM of that day. It will most likely consist of 2 questions that will require you to analyze a concept or issue based on the readings and lecture material that will have been covered since the midterm. The final will not be comprehensive. The papers should be typed, double spaced, use 12-inch font, and not to exceed 6-8 pages total. Any paper that goes beyond 8 pages will not be accepted! It should be referenced and free of spelling and grammatical errors. No additional research is necessary for this assignment but if additional sources are consulted they will have to be adequately referenced. I do not accept electronic submissions; it is the student’s responsibility to provide me with a paper copy of all work. Students may not consult orally with any other fellow student during the given test phase.

Short In-Class Quizzes (10%): These brief in-class quizzes will test the students’ comprehension and understanding of that weeks core readings (**NOT** the ‘Recommended Readings’). They will be administered at the beginning of class and will last no more than approximately 5 minutes. You will be asked to answer one or two short questions demonstrating that you have done the readings for that week. Please make sure you are on time for class. If you can not make it to class that day I will require you to provide me with a documented excuse so that you will be allowed to make up for this quiz during my official office hours.

Student Academic Conduct: The University of Utah's policies pertaining to Academic Misconduct and Dishonesty will be carefully observed and strictly enforced in this class. This policy appears on pages 11-13 of the 2000-2002 General Catalog and in the electronic Policy and Procedures Manual at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-10.html>

Plagiarism Note

Any instance of plagiarism, or other forms of academic misconduct, will result in a failing grade for that assignment and may also result in a failing grade for the course. The University's definition of plagiarism is as follows:

“Plagiarism” means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

ADA Statement: The University of Utah, Department of Political Science seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/> 162 Olpin Union Bldg, 581-5020 (V/TDD) to make arrangements for accommodations. This information is available in alternative format with prior notification.

Course Materials and Readings

Gus Martin, *Understanding Terrorism. Challenges, Perspectives, and Issues* (1st ed.), (Thousand Oakes, California: Sage Publications, 2003).

Thomas J. Badey (ed.), *Violence and Terrorism. Annual Editions 06/07* (9th ed.), (Guilford, Conn.: Dushkin/McGraw-Hill, 2006).

These books are available for purchase at the University bookstore. In addition, several articles, necessary for assignments, will be placed on electronic reserve (as well as regular reserve) at Marriott Library. They can be viewed, printed or downloaded at (<http://ereserve.lib.utah.edu/webpac-1.2-bin/DoReserve>). It is the students' responsibility to obtain a copy of these articles. They are indicated with an asterisk (*) in the course outline.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Monday January 9th, 2006

Topic: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: Monday January 16th, 2006

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday!

No Class!

Week 3: Monday January 23rd, 2006

Topic: Academic Research and the Policy Nexus

Andrew Silke, "An Introduction to Terrorism Research," in: Andrew Silke, ed. (2004) *Research on Terrorism. Trends, Achievements & Failures*. London: Frank Cass, pp.1-29*

Andrew Silke, "The Devil You Know: Continuing Problems with Research on Terrorism," in: Andrew Silke ed.(2004) *Research on Terrorism. Trend, Achievements & Failures*. London: Frank Cass, pp.57-71*

John Horgan, "Understanding Terrorism," in: John Horgan (2005) *The Psychology of Terrorism*. London: Routledge, pp.23-46*

Ibrahim Karawan, "Middle East Studies After 9/11. Time For An Audit," in: *Journal of Democracy*, Vol.13, No.3, July 2002, pp.96-101*

Recommended Readings:

Michel Wieviorka, "Terrorism in the Context of Academic Research," in: Martha Crenshaw ed., (1995) *Terrorism in Context*. Penn State University Press, pp.597-606*

Ariel Merari, "Academic Research and Government Policy on Terrorism," in: Clark McCauley ed., (1991) *Terrorism Research and Public Policy*. Portland, OR: Frank Cass, pp.88-102*

Week 4: Monday January 30th, 2006

Topic: Towards a Working Definition of Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 1, pp.6-11

Martin, Chapter 2

Marc Nicholson, "An Essay on Terrorism," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.2-4

Boaz Ganor, "Terror as a Strategy of Psychological Warfare," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07, pp.5-8

John Collins, "Terrorism is a Meaningless Label," in: Michelle E. Houle ed., (2005) Terrorism. Greenhaven Press, pp.139-146*

Recommended Readings:

Thomas J. Badey, "Defining International Terrorism: A Pragmatic Approach," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 03/04, pp.2-10*

Boaz Ganor, "Defining Terrorism: Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 03/04, pp.11-19*

Week 5: Monday February 6th, 2006

Topic: The Causes of Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 3, pp.55-65

Martha Crenshaw, "The Causes of Terrorism," in: Charles W. Kegley, Jr. (2003) The New Global Terrorism. Characteristics, Causes, Controls. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, pp.92-105*

Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Sources of Contemporary Terrorism," in: Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes eds., (2004) Attacking Terrorism. Elements of a Grand Strategy. Washington: Georgetown University Press, pp.19-45*

Daniel Pipes, "Economic Problems Do Not Cause Terrorism," in: Laura K. Egendorf ed., (2004) Terrorism. Opposing Viewpoints. Greenhaven Press, pp.92-99*

Paul R. Pillar, "U.S. Military and Economic Power Caused Resentment Among Muslims," in: Mitchell Young ed. (2003) The War on Terrorism. Greenhaven Press, pp.36-44*

-----**FIRST SHORT IN-CLASS QUIZ**-----

Recommended Readings:

Karen Armstrong, "Ghosts of Our Past," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism, 06/07, pp.18-21

Martha Crenshaw, "Why America? The Globalization of Civil War," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism, 03/04, pp.22-28

Week 6: Monday February 13th, 2006

Topic: Theoretical Explanations of Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 3, pp.65-72

Gordon H. McCormick, "Terrorist Decision Making," in: *Annual Review of Political Science*, no.6, 2003, pp.473-507*

Joseph S. Tuman (2003) *Communicating Terror. The Rhetorical Dimensions of Terrorism*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Pub., pp. 17-30, 47-50, and 60-68*

Recommended Readings:

Martha Crenshaw, "Theories of Terrorism: Instrumental and Organizational Approaches," in: David C. Rapoport ed., (2001) *Inside Terrorist Organizations*. Portland, OR: Frank Cass, pp.13-31*

John Horgan, "Individual Approaches," in: John Horgan (2005) *The Psychology of Terrorism*. Routledge, pp.47-79*

Week 7: Monday February 20th, 2006

President's Day Holiday!

No Class!

Week 8: Monday February 27th, 2006

Topic: State Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 4

David Claridge, "State Terrorism? Applying a Definitional Model," in: *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol.8, No.3, pp.47-63*

Noam Chomsky, "America is a serious Terrorist Threat," in: Laura K. Egenorf ed., (2004) *Terrorism. Opposing Viewpoints*. Greenhaven Press, pp.43-51 (Monthly Review, vol.53, November 2001)*

Recommended Readings:

Martin Slann, "The State as Terrorist," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 99/00*, pp.82-85

Ann M. Lesch, "Osama bin Laden's "Business" in Sudan," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 05/06*, pp.49-54*

Gary Sick, "Iran: Confronting Terrorism," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.54-61

Week 9: Monday March 6th, 2006

Topic: Religious Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 8

Mark Juergensmeyer, "Terror in the Name of God," *Current History*, November 2001, Vol. 100, No.649, pp.357-361*

Shibley Telhami, "Understanding the Challenge," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 05/06*, pp.157-161*

Robert Jay Lifton, "'In the Lord's Hands' America's Apocalyptic Mindset," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 05/06*, pp.145-151*

Recommended Readings:

Mark Sedgwick, "Al-Qaeda and the Nature of Religious Terrorism," in: Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer (2006) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment. Readings and Interpretations*. 2nd ed., McGraw Hill Pub., pp.187-206*

Magnus Ranstorp, "Terrorism in the Name of Religion," in: Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer (2006) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment. Readings and Interpretations*. 2nd ed., McGraw Hill Pub., pp.153-167*

Take-home midterm handed out today!

Take-home midterm due latest Friday, March 10 in my office (OSH 325) or in my mailbox at the main Political Science Department (OSH 252) by 3:00 PM!

NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!

Week 10: Monday March 13th, 2006

Spring Break: No Class!

Week 11: Monday March 20th, 2006

Topic: International Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 9

Matthew Morgan, "The Origins of the New Terrorism," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.9-15

Rohan Gunaratna, "The Post-Madrid Face of Al Qaeda," in: Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer (2006) Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment. Readings and Interpretations. 2nd ed., McGraw Hill Pub., pp.130-136*

Recommended Readings:

Charles Powell, "Did Terrorism Sway Spain's Election?," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07, pp.94-99

Chris Dishman, "Terrorism, Crime and Transformation," in: Pamala L. Griset and Sue Mahan (2003) Terrorism in Perspective. Thousand Oaks: Sage Pub., pp.59-72*

Week 12: Monday March 27th, 2006

Topic: Strategies and Tactics of Terrorism:

Focus: Suicide Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 10, pp.250-270 (skim)

Earnest Evans, "The Mind of a Terrorist. How Terrorists See Strategy and Morality," World Affairs, Vol.167, No.4, Spring 2005, pp.175-179.

Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," American Political Science Review, Vol.97, No.2, 2003, pp.1-19 (Reprinted)

John Elster, "Motivations and Beliefs in Suicide Missions," in: Diego Gambetta ed., (2005) Making Sense of Suicide Missions. Oxford University Press, pp.233-258*

Mia Bloom, "Devising a Theory of Suicide Terrorism," in: Mia Bloom (2005) Dying to Kill. The Allure of Suicide Terrorism. NY: Columbia University Press, pp.76-100*

Recommended Readings:

Michael Bond, "The Making of a Suicide Bomber: What Drives Someone to Kill Themselves While Killing Others?," in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism, 06/07, pp.25-27

Christopher Dickey, "Inside Suicide Inc.," in: Newsweek, April 15, 2002, pp.26-32 (Reprinted in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 04/05, pp.46-49)*

Scott Atran, "Genesis of Suicide Terrorism," in: Science, Vol.299, March 7, 2003, pp.1534-1539*

Week 13: Monday April 3rd, 2006

Topic: The Role of the Media

Martin, Chapter 11

Brigitte L. Nacos, "Accomplice or Witness? The Media's Role in Terrorism," *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 04/05*, pp.120-124*

Robert E. Denton, Jr., "Language, Symbols, and the Media," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism, 06/07*, pp.132-137

Recommended Readings:

Marc Lynch, "Watching al-Jazeera," in: *Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2005, Vol.29, Issue 3, pp.36-45*

Gabriel Weimann, "www.terror.net. How modern Terrorism uses the Internet," Special Report 116, March 2004, *The United States Institute of Peace*, pp.1-12*

Week 14: Monday April 10th, 2006

Topic: Women and Terrorism

Karla J. Cunningham, "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism, 06/07*, pp.170-185

Rhiannon Talbot, "Myths in the Representation of Women Terrorists," in: *Eire-Ireland*, Fall 2001(Reprinted in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 03/04, pp.140-149)*

-----**SECOND SHORT IN-CLASS QUIZ**-----

Recommended Readings:

Alison Jamieson, "Mafiosi and Terrorists: Italian Women in Violent Organizations," in: *SAIS Review*, Vol.20, No.2, pp51-64 (Reprinted in: Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 03/04, pp.150-156)*

Christopher Dickey, "Women of Al Qaeda," *Newsweek*, December 12, 2005, pp.27-36*

Week 15: Monday April 17th, 2006

Topic: Strategies and Approaches for Combating Terrorism

Martin, Chapter 13

James Steinberg, "Counterterrorism. A New Organizing Principle for American National Security?," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.189-192

John M. Deutsch and Jeffrey H. Smith, "Smarter Intelligence," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 03/04*, pp.210-214*

Bruce Hoffman, "Al-Qaeda and the War on Terrorism: An Update," in: *Current History*, December 2004, Vol.103, No.677, pp.423-427*

Recommended Readings:

Daniel Byman, "Measuring the War on Terrorism: A First Appraisal," in: *Current History*, December 2003, Vol.102, No.668, pp.411-416*

Patrick D. Buckley and Michael J. Messe, "The Financial Front in the Global War on Terrorism," in: Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer (2004) *Defeating Terrorism. Shaping the New Security Environment*. McGraw Hill Pub., pp.51-61*

Paul R. Pillar, "Counterterrorism after Al Qaeda," in: Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer (2006) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism. Understanding the New Security Environment. Readings and Interpretations*. 2nd ed., McGraw Hill Pub., pp.474-483*

Week 16: Monday April 24th, 2006

Topic: Future Threats and Trends

Martin, Chapter 14

Robert Lenzner and Nathan Vardi, "The Next Threat," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.202-204

Corine Hegland and Greg Webb, "The Threat," in: *Annual Editions. Violence and Terrorism 06/07*, pp.205-211

Take-home final handed out today!

Take-home final due latest Friday, April 28 in my office (OSH 325) or in my mailbox at the main Political Science Department (OSH 252) by 3:00 PM!

NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED!

