

3543 Terrorism, Political Violence and Antisemitism

Course description

This course is designed to introduce the primary ideas and problems associated with the study of terrorism, political violence, and antisemitism. It covers the historical antecedents of these modes of hatred, how they have evolved as a tactic, and the complexities of defining them. The nature and psychology of modern terrorists, antisemites and their organizations/networks will also be discussed. Finally, students will be exposed to the major post cold war U.S. national security policies designed to combat terrorism, violence and antisemitism and discuss their effectiveness. Special emphasis will be placed on the various methods of financing such as fundraising, state sponsorship, charitable contributions, extortion, and criminal activities.

Level of Preparation

This is an introductory course. No previous coursework in the field is required, although a familiarity with the major methods of terrorist financing will be helpful.

Learning Objectives

- Explore and distinguish what terrorism, political violence and antisemitism are and what they are not, why actors resort to these forms of hatred, and organizations operate which promote them.
- Apply the knowledge we have developed to discussions about effective policymaking
- Foster a greater awareness of the civic responsibilities related to security issues, and develop leadership skills in this area
- Improve research and writing skills through assigned papers
- Exposure to a variety of primary sources including manifestos, intelligence documents, court documents, and scholarly writings in the field
- Practice interdisciplinary methods of analysis in order to form logical and persuasive arguments

List of Topics

Week 1

Defining Terrorism, Antisemitism and Political Violence

Introductions and Syllabus review.

- Despite the variety of definitions, there are important recurring elements.
- Implications for defining terrorism, political violence and antisemitism: national and international policies require concrete definitions in order to be effective.

Week 2-4

Inside the Mind of a Radical

- Actors may be motivated by a very wide variety factors including psychological traumas, religious fanaticism, and radical ethno-nationalism.
- The variety of psychological profiles and their often irrational nature makes identifying and preventing potential individuals extremely difficult.

Week 5-6

Financing- State Sponsorship, Charity Fronts, and Criminal Activities

- Terrorist financing is shifting from the hierarchical organization of the 1970's and 80's to a polarized system where, on one end there is an increased decentralization of organizations financing terror in favor of informal remittance systems, and on the other there is an increase in state sponsorship of terror.

Week 7

Terrorism, antisemitism and political violence in Europe

- Terrorist and hate groups have grown their social, political, and economic base in the U.S. and Europe through taking advantage of democratic freedoms and economic opportunities.
- A network of effective charity fronts and radicalized social networks throughout the West has facilitated financing and recruitment for terrorist groups worldwide.

Week 8-9

Policy Strategies

-Ineffective information sharing between intelligence agencies and the lack of reliable human intelligence sources have posed serious challenges for U.S. counter-terrorism strategies.

-Effective long term strategies necessitate a deep awareness of the various ideologies and organizational structures of terrorist groups.

Week 10

Summary and Final Exam

Participatory Learning

Several high profile guest lecturers, who are experts in their field, will be invited to speak with students. In addition, after each lecture, there will be a significant amount of course time allotted for question and answers, as well as general discussion. Each student will also give a brief oral presentation. If time permits, students will watch one film.

Method of Evaluation

Each student will choose one of four topics and give a short 20-30 minute oral presentation during the week that the topic is discussed. A handout will be a required part of the presentation. Each student will also write a short paper between 8-10 pages in length (double spaced). Papers and oral presentation cannot be on the same topic. A final exam will be given on the last week.

Grade breakdown:

Oral presentation- 25% (handout required)

Paper- 30%

Final exam- 30%

Class participation- 15%

Readings and Bibliography

The required reading list will include the following (divided by section). Many of the articles and journal readings will be contained in a course packet. Some materials will also be e-mailed directly to students.

Week 1

Introductions and Syllabus review

Defining Terrorism, Antisemitism and Political Violence

Russell Howard and Reid Sawyer, *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment — Revised and Updated* (Guilford, Conn: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin, 2006). ISBN: 0-07-287307-8. (referred to as **H&S**).

Hoffman, "Defining Terrorism," in **H&S**, pages 3-23.

Pillar, "The Dimensions of Terrorism and Counterterrorism", in **H&S**, pages 24-45.

Wistrich, Robert. *A Lethal Obsession: Antisemitism – From Antiquity to the Global Jihad*, Random House, 2010

Ed. Small, Charles, Asher, *Global Antisemitism: A Crisis of Modernity*, 2013.

Week 2

Inside the Mind of a Radical

Aristotle, *The Origin of Tyranny*

Martha Crenshaw, *The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Strategic Choice*, **H&S**, pp. 54-66

Anarchists:

John Most, *Advice for Terrorists*, pp. 104-112

Russian Revolutionaries:

Nikolai Morozov, *The Terrorist Struggle*, pp. 76-82

G. Tarnovski, *Terrorism and Routine*, pp. 83-93

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Comments on Terrorism*, pp. 186-195

Radical Islamists:

Qutb, Sayyid The America I have Seen, 1951

<http://www.theiramerica.org/the-america-that-i-have-seen-by-sayyid-qutb-ash-shaheed/>

Al Banna, Hassan, Selected readings

Supplemental Readings:

Jessica Stern, *Terror in the Name of God*, Part I, pages 3-137.

Week 3 (cont.)

Paul Berman, *Terror and Liberalism*, (pp. 22-120).

Week 4 (cont.)

Mark Sedgwick, *Al-Qaeda and the Nature of Religious Terrorism*, H&S, pp. 187-206

Quintan Wiktorowicz, *A Genealogy of Radical Islam*, H&S, (207-229)

Sayyid Qutb, *Milestones*, Introduction, Chapters I, IV, VII, XII

Ayman Al Zawahiri, *Knights Under the Prophet's Banner*

"The New Bolsheviks; Understanding Al Qaeda" by Frederick Kagan

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.23460/pub_detail.asp

Supplemental Readings:

Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower*, Prologue, Chapters 1-3

Week 5

Financing- Charity Fronts, State Sponsorship, and Criminal Activities

Charity Fronts

David E. Kaplan, Monica Ekman, and Aamir Latif, "The Saudi Connection: How billions in oil money spawned a global terror network" *US News and World Report*, December 15, 2003.

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/031215/15terror.htm>

Steven Emerson, *Jihad Incorporated*, pp. 307-380

Week 6

State Sponsorship/ Criminal Activities

U.S. Department of State website:

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/2005/64337.htm>

Jean-Charles Brisard. 2002. "Terrorism Financing: Roots and trends of Saudi terrorism financing." New York: JCB Consulting

<http://www.nationalreview.com/document/document-un122002.pdf>

Criminal Activities, Hawala, and other methods

David E. Kaplan. 2005. "Paying for Terror." *U.S. News and World Report*. 26 November.

<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/news/articles/051205/5terror.htm>

Patrick M. Jost and Harjit Singh Sandhu, *The Hawala Alternative Remittance System and its Role in Money Laundering*, Interpol, 2000.

<http://www.interpol.int/Public/FinancialCrime/MoneyLaundering/hawala/default.asp>

Week 7

Terrorism, antisemitism and political violence in Europe

Finkelkraut, Alain The Imaginary Jew, University of Nebraska Press, 1997.

Kepel, "The War for Muslim Minds," Chapter 7

Feder, "The Muslim Brotherhood in France," The National Interest

<http://www.inthenationalinterest.com/Articles/September%202005/September2005Feder.html>

Policy Strategies

Week 8

H&S, Chapter 8

Movie: The Battle of Algiers

Week 9

H&S, Chapter 9

The 9/11 Commission Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (W.W. Norton, [2004]), chaps. 12 and 13.

Supplemental Reading:

The National Security Strategy of the United States of America
<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/64884.pdf>

Week 10

Summary and Final exam

