

**POLS 3335: Political Terrorism
Fall 2012**

Instructor: Dr. Ryan Kennedy
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Class Time: 10:00-11:30am Tuesdays and Thursdays
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 10am-12pm

Course Description:

Since September 11, 2001, terrorism has become a central concern for policy makers and international studies scholars. The impact of terrorism and the policies associated with the “war on terrorism” have become fundamental references in the current political debate.

This course looks at several questions regarding terrorism. What is terrorism? How has the threat of terrorism changed over time? What motivates different terrorist groups? When does terrorism succeed or fail? How do terrorist groups structure and fund themselves?

Students in this class will be introduced to a variety of information dealing with the general topic of terrorism. Readings are drawn from psychologists, sociologists, political scientists, policy analysts and the terrorists themselves. At the end of the course, students should have a strong background for discussing and analyzing current events and discourse on terrorism.

Assignments and Grading:

Students will be asked to write a 5 page policy memo (not including bibliography, tables and charts, appendices, etc.) on a topic dealing with terrorism. This memo should address an issue which the student thinks is important for the target audience – a policy-maker dealing with terrorism. The memo can utilize the readings, discussion in class, outside resources, and the student’s own logic to build a solid argument. Students will be graded on how well they support their argument(s). All direct references and quotations should be referenced using both in-text and bibliographic citation (See “Guidelines for Writing Policy Memos” and “APA Citation Guide” on Blackboard). **DO NOT WAIT TO START ON THIS!** Writing a good 5 page policy memo is just as difficult and time-consuming as writing a 20 page research paper. You should select a topic early and start researching.

Students will also complete a midterm and a final exam. The exams will be a combination of multiple choice, list identifications, and essay questions. Review sheets for the exams will be distributed at least a week prior to the test.

The reading load for the course is heavy. Students should prioritize the readings and read primarily for content, making notes as the course progresses of material that will be useful for their posts, exams, and papers (see “Reading for Research” note on Blackboard)

Finally, students will be graded on their participation in class. This participation is operationalized in terms of both quantity and quality of participation. Discussion will be an important part of this class, and **student should have read and be ready to discuss the readings before coming to class**. Students will receive 50 percent of the total participation points for class attendance. Each student will be allowed two unexcused absences, after which each additional absence will reduce the student’s participation score by two points. Attendance will be taken starting on the third day of class. Students can also posts in the online discussions using Blackboard to boost their participation grade. This is especially true for responses to other students’ posts, and discussion of current events. **In both the classroom and internet discussion, please be respectful and courteous to your classmates.**

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Midterm Exam	100 pts.
Final Exam	150 pts.
Policy Memo	100 pts.
Class participation	50 pts.
Total	400 pts.

Readings:

All readings are available on the Blackboard Learn course website. **Students should familiarize themselves with the Blackboard Learn website as soon as possible!!!**

Note that the University of Houston has moved to using the Blackboard Learn (as opposed to the Vista) system. There are 2 ways to log on to Learn. You can log on to Learn via: <http://www.uh.edu/blackboard/>. Just click on the WHITE Blackboard Learn button, under the blue button. Use your CougarNet Id and Password to log on and then you will see all of your UH.

OR

<https://accessuh.uh.edu/login.php>. Just log on using your CougarNet Id and Password to log on and then you will see all of your UH services and you will see a LEARN button – click on it.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas. The Department of Political Science adheres to the University Policy on Academic Honesty:

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/general/acade2.html#honesty>

Plagiarism via the internet is not only dishonest, it's also liable to be caught. Papers copied from the internet do not fit well with course-specific writing prompts and search engines make finding the plagiarized material very easy. In addition, faculty at the University of Houston use a database (turnitin) designed specifically to catch plagiarism from the internet (and purchased papers).

If you are caught plagiarising a paper, the standard punishment is failure in the course. In some situations, students may be referred for further disciplinary action, which may include being expelled from the university.

To protect yourself from charges of plagiarism, and to get in the habit of using proper citation, you should reference a style sheet for a major citation format (MLA, Tarabian, APA, APSA, etc.) and use it to properly cite your resources in your papers. A short APA style sheet is available for your reference on WebCT.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Center for Students with DisABILITIES will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The CSD is located in CSD Building #568, Room #110, telephone (713) 743-5400, TDD (713) 749-1527, <http://www.uh.edu/csd/index.htm>.

Outline of Readings and Topics:

Week 1: Introduction to course (8/28, 8/30)

Overview of course goals, objectives and structure. Introduction to course resources and expectations. Watch Battle of Algiers movie in class. (Use this time to get ahead on the readings!!!)

Week 2: Definition and Impact of Terrorism (9/4, 9/6)

- Hoffman, Bruce. (1999). *Inside Terrorism*. NY: Columbia University Press. p. 7-44.
- Rapoport, David C. (2004). "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism." In Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes (eds.). *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, p. 46-73.
- Mueller, John. (2005). "Six Rather Unusual Propositions About Terrorism," *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 17: 487-505.
- Hoffman, Bruce. (2010). "American Jihad." *The National Interest* (May/June): 17-27.
- Nance, Malcolm. (2008). "How (Not) to Spot a Terrorist." *Foreign Policy* (May/June): 74-76.
- Kurzman, Charles. (2011). "Why is it So Hard to Find a Suicide Bomber these Days?" *Foreign Policy Online*.
- Byman, Daniel. (2010). "The Case for Calling Them Nitwits." *The Atlantic* (July/August).

Recommended:

- U.S. Dept. of State. (2005). *Patterns of Global Terrorism*. Washington, DC: State Dept. (Ch. 1, "Legislative Requirements and Key Terms.")
- Gadarian, Shana Kushner. (2010). "The Politics of Threat: How Terrorism News Shapes Foreign Policy Attitudes." *The Journal of Politics* 72(2): 469-483.

Week 3: The Post-Colonial Era (9/11, 9/13) – 9/12 Last Day to Drop Without Grade

- Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, p. 45-86.
- Byman, Daniel. (1998). "The Logic of Ethnic Terrorism." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 21(2): 149-169.
- Frenett, Ross and M.L.R. Smith. (2012). "IRA 2.0: Continuing the Long War – Analyzing the Factors Behind Anti-GFA Violence." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24(3): 375-395.

Recommended:

- Horne, Alastair. (1987). "The Battle of Algiers." *A Savage War of Peace: Algeria 1954-1962*. NY: Penguin Books. p. 190-207.
- Rubin, Barry. (1994). *Revolution Until Victory? The Politics and History of the PLO*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. p. 1-65.

Week 4: Left-wing Terrorism (9/18, 9/20)

- Sprinzak, Ehud. "The Psychopolitical Formation of Extreme Left Terrorism in a Democracy: The Case of the Weathermen." In Walter Reich (ed.). *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, p. 65-85.
- Jamieson, Alison. (1990). "Entry, Discipline and Exit in the Italian Red Brigades." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 2(1): 1-21.
- Krueger, Alan B. and Jitka Maleckova. (2002). "Education, Poverty and Political Violence." NBER Working Paper.
- Piazza, James A. (2011). "Poverty, Minority Economic Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism." *Journal of Peace Research* 48(3): 339-353.
- Benmelech, Efraim, Claude Berrebi and Esteban F. Klor. (2012). "Economic Conditions and the Quality of Suicide Terrorism." *Journal of Politics* 74(1): 113-128.

Recommended:

- Horchem, Hans Josef. (1991). "The Decline of the Red Army Faction." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 1(3): 61-75.

Week 5: Right-wing/Domestic Terrorism (9/25, 9/27)

- Jurgensmeyer, Mark. (2001). *Terror in the Mind of God*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. (Ch. 2, "Soldiers for Christ," p. 19-43.)
- Barkun, Michael. (1989). "Millenarian Aspects of 'White Supremacist' Movements." *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 1(4): 409-434.
- Levitas, Daniel. (2002). *The Terrorist Next Door: The Militia Movement and the Radical Right*. NY: Thomas Dunne Books. (Ch. 39, "Militia Madness," p. 301-316.)
- Mike German. (June 5, 2005). "Behind the Lone Terrorist, A Pack Mentality." *The Washington Post*. Available online: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/04/AR2005060400147.html> (last accessed 1/2/2008).
[Does fighting terrorism need to trade-off with civil liberties?]

Week 6: Types and Causes of Terrorism (10/2,10/4)

- Arreguin-Toft, Ivan. (2012). "Contemporary Asymmetric Conflict Theory in Historical Perspective." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24(4): 635-657.
- McCormick, Gordon. (2003). "Terrorist Decision Making." *Annual Review of Political Science* 6: 473-507.
- Pape, Robert A. (2003). "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*, 97: 343-361.
- Abrahms, Max. (2008). "What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorist Strategy." *International Security*, 32(4): 78-105.

Recommended:

- Piazza, James A. (2008). "A Supply-Side View of Suicide Terrorism: A Cross-National Study." *Journal of Politics*, 70(1): 1-12.
- US State Dept. (2005). *Patterns of Global Terrorism*. Washington, DC: US State Dept. (Ch. 8, "Foreign Terrorist Organizations," p. 183-262).

Week 7: Midterm Exam (10/9, 10/11)

- 3/1 – Midterm Review
- 3/3 – Midterm Exam

Week 8: Tools of Terrorism (10/16, 10/18)

- Stern, Jessica , (1999). *The Ultimate Terrorists*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. ("Getting and Using the Weapons, p. 48-68.)
- Chyba, Christopher F. (2002). "Toward Biological Security." *Foreign Affairs*, 81(3): 122-136.
- Holt, Thomas J. (2012). "Exploring the Intersections of Technology, Crime, and Terror." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24(2): 337-354.
- Rid, Thomas. (2012). "Think Again: Cyberwar." *Foreign Policy Online*.

Recommended:

- Graham Allison. (2004). "How to Stop Nuclear Terror." *Foreign Affairs*.
- Potter et. al. (2004). "The Four Faces of Nuclear Terror and the Need for a Prioritized Response." *Foreign Affairs*.

Week 9: State Sponsors of Terrorism (10/23, 10/25)

- Daniel Byman, *Deadly Connections*, p. 1-78.
- Byman, Daniel. (2008). "Rogue Operators." *The National Interest* (July/August): 32-39.

Week 10: Religious Militants (10/30, 11/1) – 11/2 Last Day to Drop With a ‘W’

- Dekmejian, *Spectrum of Terror*, p. 85-145.
- Gal Luft. (2007). “The Palestinian H-Bomb: Terror’s Winning Strategy,” *Foreign Affairs*, 81(4): 2-7.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. (2006). “The Logic of Religious Violence.” In Howard et. al. (eds.). *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw Hill, p. 168-186.

Recommended:

- Robert S. Leiken. (2005). “Europe’s Angry Muslims.” *Foreign Affairs*, 84(4): 120-135.

Week 11: Hezbollah (11/6, 11/8)

- Byman, *Deadly Connections*, p. 79-166.
- Norton, Augustus Richard. (2007). *Hezbollah: A Short History*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Daniel Byman. (2005). “Should Hezbollah Be Next?” *Foreign Affairs* 82(6): 54-66.
- Rotella, Sebastian. (2012). “Before Deadly Bulgaria Bombing, Tracks of a Resurgent Iran-Hezbollah Threat.” *Foreign Policy Online* (July 30).

Week 12: Al-Qaida (11/13, 11/15)

- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. “Public Hearing #15: Overview of the Enemy.”
- National Commission on Terrorist Attacks on the United States. “Monograph on Terrorism Financing: Introduction and Executive Summary.”
- Gunaratna, Rohan. (2004). “The Post-Madrid Face of Al Qaeda.” *Washington Quarterly*, 27(3): 91-100.
- Farrall, Leah. (2011). “How al Qaeda Works.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(2): 128-138.
- McCants, William. (2011). “Al Qaeda’s Challenge.” *Foreign Affairs* 90(5): 20-32.

Recommended:

- Ibrahim, Raymond. (2007). *The Al Qaeda Reader*. NY: Broadway. (p. 11-16, 220-225.)
- Bruce Hoffman. (2002). “Rethinking Terrorism and Counterterrorism Since 9-11” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 25: 303-316.
- Anonymous (Scheuer, Michael). (2003). *Through our Enemies’ Eyes*. Washington, DC: Potomac Books Inc. (p. 15-28, 45-68.)

Week 13: Counter-terrorism Policy (11/20) – No class 11/22, Happy Thanksgiving!

- Watch Frontline – “The Torture Question” on your own.
- Glenn Frankel, “Prison Tactics a Longtime Dilemma for Israel,” *Washington Post*, June 16, 2004.
- Dana Priest and Barton Gellman, “U.S. Decries Abuse But Defends Interrogations,” *Washington Post*, December 26, 2003.
- Alan M. Dershowitz, “There is a need to bring an unfortunate practice within the bounds of law.”

Week 14: Counter-Terrorism Policy II (11/27, 11/29)

- Watch Frontline – “Are We Safer?” – in class with discussion
- “National Strategy for Combating Terrorism,” White House document (23 pgs.). Available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nsct/2006/nsct2006.pdf>.
- Gause III, F. Gregory. (2005). “Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?” *Foreign Affairs*, 84(5).

Recommended:

- Byman, *Deadly Connections*, pp. 273-312.

Week 15: Counter-Terrorism Policy III (12/4, 12/6)

- Cook, Jr., John. (2007). “Marketing Osama.” *The Week*, p. 52-53.
- Nye, Jr., Joseph S. (2004). “The Decline of America’s Soft Power.” *Foreign Affairs*, 83(3).
- Brachman, Jarret. (2010). “Watching the Watchers.” *Foreign Policy* 182: 60-67.

POLICY MEMOS DUE ONLINE 12/6

Final Exam Day. Tuesday, December 18, 11:00am.-2:00pm.