

**INR 3933: The Politics of Terror, Summer 2007**  
Department of Political Science, Florida State University

## 1 Instructor Information

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Office Hours: 11:00AM–12:00PM  
Class Location: BEL 004

## 2 Course Description

This course introduces students to the study of terrorism as a political act. We explore both terror by governments as well as by the opposition. We will compare different theories that attempt to explain why, how and when governments and the opposition use terror tactics to pursue their goals. Different research strategies of studying terrorism will be considered throughout with emphasis placed on developing a project related to increasing scholarly understanding of terrorism. This course focuses less on substantive examples of terrorism than on theories that can help explain terrorism.

## 3 Course Objectives

I have three main objectives for this course. First, my goal is to introduce you to important theories and concepts related to the study of terrorism. Second, since many students have limited exposure to important cases of terrorism, we investigate several prominent historical and contemporary cases of oppositional and state terrorism. Third, students will develop the basic skills necessary to produce original research on terrorism.

## 4 Course Format

The course is structured to consider various theoretical approaches in the study of terrorism. The readings largely will be drawn from the textbooks, although I will regularly assign readings from journals and other texts.

I believe strongly that learning occurs in many ways and strive to engage you beyond simply lecturing. Instead, we will engage in a variety of activities including lectures, personal writing exercises, partner and group work, class discussions, video clips, demonstrations, problem-solving activities, simulations, debates, and other critical thinking exercises. I also firmly believe in democracy and will solicit your opinions regarding the course generally, and the success or failure of certain exercises specifically. This course will require a great deal of reading and participation on your part. If you are not prepared each day and do not engage in the discussions, debates, and other activities, you will not be successful.

## 5 Requirements

### Required Books

1. Badey, Thomas J. 2007. *Violence and Terrorism* 10th ed. New York: McGraw Hill. ISBN 0-07-319739-4.
2. Hoffman, Bruce. 2007. *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0231126999.
3. *The 9/11 Commission Report*. 2004. New York: Norton. ISBN 0-393-32671-3.
4. Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler. *The Political Economy of Terrorism*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0-521-61650-6.

All of the books are available at the bookstore and online. *The 9/11 Commission report* is available for free as a PDF on the Internet. You can find all of the books on Amazon.com or Addall.com at a reduced price.

Many of the articles for the class will be on reserve at the library. You can also find most of the journal articles on JSTOR ([www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)). I will also place readings on blackboard that are not available on JSTOR, and these are noted in the syllabus (\*). I expect you to read a newspaper everyday. You can choose any paper you would like, but I would recommend the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)) or Christian Science Monitor ([www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)) as they generally have the best coverage of international events. Current political developments that relate to terrorism are fair game as test material.

### Assessment

1. **Attendance and Participation (20%)**—attendance and participation are required. I may call on you randomly so you need to be prepared each day. We will meet a total of 30 times during the summer, and each day you will receive a point for showing up and one for participating.
2. **Tests (40%)**—The tests are a mixture of multiple choice and essay. There is one midterm exam and a final. The final is cumulative.
3. **Research Papers and Projects (40%)**
  - (a) **Term Paper (30%)**—you are an analyst for a consulting firm that gives risk assessment for corporations considering operating in countries with active terror groups. Your task in this paper is to provide an evaluation of whether you think a particular firm should operate in a location of your choice (DUE on the last day of class). You can choose any country which has faced a terror group since 1945. The paper should include a discussion of:
    - i. How did the group develop (a brief history of the organization)?
    - ii. Why they are considered a terrorist group

- iii. What are their political goals?
- iv. How their political goals may affect the corporation’s activities
  - v. Which theory or approach best explains the reasons members of the group participate?
  - vi. How the group could either succeed or fail
- vii. Whether the government is currently able to limit the efficacy of the organization
- viii. What the government could do to make the climate safer for business operations

The paper must be between 6 and 10 pages (not including a title or works cited page). The format must be Times New Roman font, 12 pt, 1 inch margins. A rough draft is due on Friday June 8th. I will return the drafts with comments by Monday June 11th. The rough drafts are worth 20% of the final grade, however; if you do not turn in a rough draft, I will not grade your final draft.

- (b) **State Terror Project (10%)**—choose one state terror event from a list provided by the instructor and apply Claridges 7 criteria of state terror to the event. In the paper you should:
  - i. Define State Terrorism and Terrorism.
  - ii. Discuss whether Claridge’s model explains your chosen event(s).
  - iii. Argue whether or not a model of terrorism can be applied to both states and oppositional groups.

The paper must be 3-5 pages and has the same formatting and restrictions as the term paper outlined above (DUE Monday June 4th).

**Assessment Scale**

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	60 or below
A	93-96	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A-	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

**6 Course Policies**

**Make-up Exams and Assignments**

Unexcused absences from exams will result in a 0 for the assignment. I also DO NOT accept any late papers. The paper is due in hard copy on the date assigned by the time the class begins or the student earns a 0 for the assignment.

To qualify for a make-up test a student must:

- 1. notify me of the absence in advance (e-mail or call me)
- 2. provide documentation

Assignments are due at the beginning of the class on the date indicated in the schedule. I will not accept e-mail copies or papers placed under my door. Please make hard copies of your papers *as you work on them*. Do not be afraid to print out multiple rough drafts. I do not accept excuses about dogs, computers, or traffic. Be responsible.

## Academic Honor Code

Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code published in The Florida State University Bulletin and the Student Handbook. The Academic Honor System of The Florida State University is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the university community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and social responsibility on the part of the university community.

Please see the following web site for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code.  
<http://www.fsu.edu/Books/Student-Handbook/codes/honor.html>

## Americans with Disabilities Act

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should: (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type. This should be done during the first week of class. For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the Student Disability Resource Center, 97 Woodward Avenue, South, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167, (850) 644-9566 (voice), (850) 644-8504 (TDD), [sdrc@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:sdrc@admin.fsu.edu)  
<http://www.fsu.edu/staffair/dean/StudentDisability/>

## 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, especially as they relate to terrorism, can lead to strong feelings and heated debate. Because this is a college classroom, all discussion must be respectful and scholarly.

## 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 persons 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 instructors authority to maintain the integrity of the classroom environment.

### Syllabus Change Policy

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

## 7 Course Schedule

### Week 1—What is Terrorism?

Wed. May 9th—Introductions, Syllabus, Procedures

Thurs. May 10—Defining Terrorism

-\*Ross, Jeffrey. Introducing Oppositional Terrorism. Chapter 1 in *Political Terrorism: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. pp. 1-27.

-Hoffman, Bruce. pp. 13-44.

Fri. May 11—What Terrorism is Not

-\*Stohl, Michael. 1983. Demystifying Terrorism: The Myths and Realities of Contemporary Political Terrorism, in M. Stohl (ed.) *The Politics of Terrorism, Second Edition: Revised and Expanded*. Marcel Dekker, pp. 1-19.

### Week 2—Different Approaches to Understanding Terrorism

Mon. May 14—The Rationalist Approach to Understanding Terror

-David Lake. 2002. Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty First Century. *International Organization* 56 (1): 15-29.

-\*Crenshaw, Martha. 2002. “The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Strategic Choice,” in R.D. Howard & R.L. Sawyer (eds.) *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, New York: McGraw Hill, pp. 54-66.

-Enders and Sandler. (skim pp. 1-8) pp. 9-14.

Tues. May 15—The Rationalist Approach Continued

-Kydd, Andrew & Barbara Walter. 2002. Sabotaging the Peace: The Politics of Extremist Violence, *International Organization*, 56(2):263-296.

-Enders and Sandler. pp. 52-83.

Wed. May 16—Political Psychology and Understanding Terror

-Jeff Victorof. 2005. The Mind of a Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(1): 3-42

Thurs. May 17—Political Psychology and Understanding Terror Continued

-\*Martha Crenshaw. 2000. The Psychology of Terrorism: An Agenda for the Twenty First Century. *Political Psychology* 20(2)

-Ganor, Boaz. 2006. Terror as a Strategy of Psychological Warfare. In Badey pp. 5-9

-Borum, Randy. 2006. Understanding the Terrorist Mind-Set. In Badey pp. 22-25.

Fri. May 18—Sociological Approach to Understanding Terror

-\*Mark Juergensmeyer. (2001) *Terror in the Mind of God*. University of California Press. Chapters 1 and 11.

### **Week 3—The History of Terrorism and Suicide Terrorism**

Mon. May 21—A Brief History of Terrorism

-Bruce Hoffman. Chapter 2. pp. 45-65.

-James M. Poland. *Understanding Terrorism*. Chapter 2. pp. 25-51.

Tues. May 22—Is there a New Terrorism?

-Morgan, Matthew. The Origins of the New Terrorism. In Badey pp. 9-16.

-Walter Laqueur, *Postmodern Terrorism, The New Global Terrorism*, 151-159.

-Jessica Stern, *The Protean Enemy*, *Foreign Affairs* (July/Aug 2003).

Wed. May 23—Suicide Terrorism

-Scott Atran. 2003. The Genesis of Suicide Terrorism. *Science* 299(5612): 1534-1539.

-Robert A. Pape. 2005. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361.

Thurs. May 24—Suicide Terrorism Continued

-\*Mia Bloom. 2005. *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror*. Columbia University Press. Chapters 1 and 4.

-Bond, Michael. The Making of a Suicide Bomber: What Drive Someone to Kill Themselves While Killing Others? In Badey 25-28.

Fri. May 25—FILM—Paradise Now

**Week 4—State Terror and State Sponsored Terror**

Mon. May 28—EXAM #1

Tues. May 29—Can a State be a Terrorist?

-Paul Wilkinson, "Can A State Be Terrorist?" *International Affairs* (Summer 1981), 467-472.

-\*Bruce Falconer, "Murder by the State," *Atlantic Monthly*.

-\*David Claridge, *State Terrorism? Applying a Definitional Model, Terrorism and Political Violence* (Autumn 1996), 47-63.

Wed. May 30—State Terror Continued

-David Pion-Berlin and George Lopez, *Of Victims and Executioners: Argentine State Terror, 1975-1979*, *International Studies Quarterly* (March 1991), 63-86.

-\*Walter, Eugene V. 1969. *Terror and Resistance*, Oxford University Press, chaps. 1, 2.

Thurs. May 31—State Sponsored Terrorism

-State Sponsors of Terrorism Overview, 88-90 in Department of State, *Country Reports on Terrorism, 2004* <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/45322.pdf>

-Leon Romaniecki, *The Soviet Union and International Terrorism*, *Soviet Studies* (July 1974), 417-440.

-State Sponsored Terrorism. In Badey pp. 36-55.

Fri. June 1—SIMULATION

**Week 5—Terrorism, Insurgency, and International Terrorism**

Mon. June 4 (State Terror Paper Due)—Insurgency and Terrorism

-Ariel Merari. 1993. "Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 5(4): 213-251.

-\*Mao Tse Tung. 2000. *On Guerrilla Warfare*. University of Illinois Press. Chapters 1 & 2.

Tues. June 5—Insurgent/Terror Groups

-James Poland. *Understanding Terrorism*. Chapter 5. pp.113-140.

Wed. June 6—Insurgent/Terror Groups Continued

-Bruce Hoffman. Chapter 3. pp. 67-87

-Arlene B Tickner. *Colombia and the United States: From Counternarcotics to Counterterrorism*. In Badey pp. 72-79.

-Jeffrey A. Nedoroscik. 2006. *Extremist Groups in Egypt*. In Badey pp. 58-71.

-Alon Ben-Meir, "Root Causes of Chechen Terror," In Badey pp. 80-82.

Thurs. June 7—Al-Qaeda and Transnational Terror

-9/11 Commission Report, pp. 1-70.

-Council on Foreign Relations website, *Who and What is Al Qaeda?*, <http://www.cfr.org/publication/9126/>

Fri. June 8—FILM—"In Search of Bin Laden"

**Week 6—Counterterrorism and US Foreign Policy**

Mon. June 11—Counterterror

-Stephen M. Walt, Beyond Bin Laden: Reshaping US Foreign Policy, *International Security* 26: 3 (Winter 2001/02), pp. 56-78.

-Posen, Barry R. 2001/02. The Struggle Against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Security, and Tactics, *International Security*, Winter, pp. 39-55.

Tues. June 12—Counterterrorism Continued

-James Steinberg. 2006. Counterterrorism. In Badey pp. 186-192.

-Yonah Alexander. 2002. Combating Terrorism: Strategies of Ten Countries. University of Michigan Press. Chapter 1.

-John Mueller. 2005. "Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism", *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 17:487-505.

Wed. June 13—Human Rights and Counterterror

-Roth, Kenneth. 2004. The Law of War in the War on Terror, *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb, 83(1).

-Hoffman, Paul. 2004. Human Rights and Terrorism, *Human Rights Quarterly*, 26(4): 932-955

Thurs. June 14—FILM—FRONTLINE—"The Enemy Within"

Fri. June 15—Final Exam, Final Paper Due