



PSC 4980: Terrorism
Spring 2017
Tuesday and Thursday, 11:00-12:15
Snyder Memorial 3066

"I have never met anyone who wanted to be a terrorist. They are desperate people." — John Perkins

Professor:

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Snyder Memorial 3064

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Department of Political Science and Public Administration on Facebook

Office Hours:

Tuesday and Thursday, 9:00 - 11:00, 12:15 - 13:45, or by appointment.

Course Description:

This course will give students an historical, empirical, and theoretical overview of the causes, strategies, and goals of terrorists, insurgents, and the uses of political violence. In addition, counterterrorism strategies will be discussed. This course is worth three (3) credit hours.

Course Overview:

Terrorism is one of the more significant issues of our time. In this courses, students will gain an nuanced understanding of terrorism and potential responses to terrorism. What are the causes of terrorism? What factors lead to an individual joining a militant group? Why do groups take up arms against the status quo? What do terrorists and militant groups hope to achieve? Which tactics are most successful for terrorists? Which are the least successful tactics and why? How can states counter terrorism and militancy? What does the future hold for terrorism and counterterrorism? These are just a few of the important questions that will be explored in this course.

Learning Objectives:

- Students will gain an understanding of the causes of terrorism and motivations of terrorists.
- Students will analyze best and worst practices in terrorist strategies.
- Students will analyze best and worst practices in counterterrorism strategies.
- Students will increase competence and confidence in both oral and written communication through practice.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Textbooks:

Both books are required. Additional readings are available on Blackboard. Read the news daily.

1. Nacos, B., *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, 5th edition, 2016. Price: \$85.95
2. Martin, C., *Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives, and Issues*, 5th edition, 2015. Price: \$99.00
3. Wright, L., *The Terror Years*, 1st edition, 2016. Price: \$28.95

University Policies

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

Academic Accommodations The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

Grade Policy:

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

Grading:

Midterm Exam	25%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.	
Final Exam	25%
- This in-class exam will consist of short answer and essay questions.	
Group Presentation	10%
- The group presentation will require each member to prepare and present their group's research. Presentations will last 10 minutes.	
More information to follow.	
Group Paper	25%
- Each student is required to participate in a group research paper.	
Individuals will be graded collectively and as individuals. The group research paper will be 15 to 20 double-spaced pages. More information to follow.	
Attendance	15%
- Students are expected to attend class. Each student will receive two unexcused absences. After two unexcused absences, student's will be penalized with 1/3 letter grade deduction for attendance.	

Academic Honesty:

"The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants' trust that others' work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities."

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

Important Dates:

Midterm Exam	2 March 2017
Final Exam	10:15 - 12:15, 4 May 2017
Group Presentations	Final week of class
Group Papers	7 May 2017

Course Schedule:

10 January: Introduction to the syllabus and expectations

12 January: A brief introduction to game theory

1. Game Theory and Terrorism
2. Humphreys, M., Political Games, pp, 1-16 (Blackboard).

17 January: 1st Impressions and terrorism

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 1
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 1

19 January: Defining terrorism

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 2
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 2

24 January: A brief overview of the causes of terrorism

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 3
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 6

26 January: Terror from above and below

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapters 4 and 5.

31 January: Religion and terrorism 1

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 6

2 February: Religion and terrorism 2

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 5

7 February: Terror from the left and right

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 7

9 February: The international and global context of terrorism

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 8
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 3

14 February: Organizing capacities and terrorism

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 9

16 February: Financing terror operations

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 8

21 February: Strategies of terrorists I

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapters 10 and 11.

23 February: Strategies of terrorists II

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapters 14 and 15

28 February: Terrorism and minorities

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 7
2. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 9

2 March: Test I

7 March: Spring Break

9 March: Spring Break

14 March: Case studies I: The Middle East

1. US Department of State Country Reports on the Middle East and North Africa
2. Slater, J., "Terrorism and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," Middle East Policy, 2015 (Blackboard)
3. Azani, E., "The Hybrid Terrorist Organization: Hezbollah as a Case Study," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 2013 (Blackboard)
4. Davidson, A., " Hamas: Government or Terrorist Organization?" NPR, 6 December 2006

16 March: Case studies II: Latin America

1. Jensen, M., "Terrorism in Latin America: Infographic," War on the Rocks, 15 July 2014
2. Sullivan, M., and Beittel, J., "Latin America: Terrorism Issues," Congressional Research Service, 15 December 2016
3. Farah, D., "Transnational Organized Crime, Terrorism, and Criminalized States in Latin America," US Army War College, 2012

21 March: Case studies III: Al-Shabaab

1. Mair, D., "#Westgate: A Case Study: How al-Shabaab used Twitter during the Ongoing Attack," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, 2017 (Blackboard)
2. Masters, J., and Mohammed, A., "CFR Backgrounds: Al-Shabab," 13 March 2015
3. Joosse, P., Bucarius, S., and Thompson, S., "Narratives and Counternarratives: Somali-Canadians on Recruitment as Foreign Fighters to Al-Shabaab," The British Journal of Criminology, 2015 (Blackboard)

23 March: Case studies IV: Boko Haram

1. Cook, D., "Boko Haram: A New Islamic State in Nigeria," James B. Baker Institute, 2014
2. Agibiboa, D., "Why Boko Haram Exists: The Relative Deprivation Perspective," African Conflict & Peacebuilding Review, 2013 (Blackboard)
3. Thurston, A., "The Disease is Unbelief: Boko Haram's Religious and Political Worldview," Brookings, 2016

28 March: Case studies V: Al-Qaeda

1. The Terror Years, pp. 1-145

30 March: Case studies VI: The Islamic State

1. The Terror Years, pp. 148-285

4 April: Case studies VII: Europe

1. Bosi, L., "Explaining Pathways to Armed Activism in the Provisional Irish Republican Army, 1969-1972," Social Science History, 2012 (Blackboard)
2. Nesser, P., and Stenersen, A., "The Modus Operandi of Jihadi Terrorists in Europe," Perspectives on Terrorism, 2014 (Blackboard)
3. Alcantara, C., "45 Years of Terrorists Attacks in Europe, visualized," Washington Post, 19 December 2016
4. Tarabay, J., "Europe Under Siege," The Atlantic, 11 August 2016

6 April: Case studies VIII: The United States

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 12
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 4

11 April: Counterterrorism I: A brief overview

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 13
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 10

13 April: Counterterrorism II: Different approaches

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapters 11-12

18 April: Counterterrorism III: Homeland security

1. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 13
2. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 14

20 April: Conclusions

1. Understanding Terrorism, chapter 15
2. Terrorism and Counterterrorism, chapter 17

25 April: Group Presentations I

27 April: Group Presentations II