

**PSC/IR 273**  
The Politics of Terrorism  
Fall 2014  
9:40am-10:55am, Dewey 2162

**Alexander Lee**

**Instructor:**

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Office: Harkness Hall 327  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:30-2

**Course Goals:**

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Over the past century, terrorism has become a common feature of world politics, enabling small groups of individuals to have a disproportionate influence on the politics of both developed and underdeveloped countries. This course explores some of the fundamental questions of terrorism: Why individuals join terrorist groups, why terrorist groups adopt certain tactics such as suicide bombing, how terrorist groups organize themselves, and what counterterrorism strategies are effective? It aims to develop critical thinking about these basic questions, knowledge of the details of a few selected cases, and give students experience constructing social-scientific arguments.

**Textbooks:**

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Burleigh, Michael. *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009.

Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside Terrorism* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). New York: Columbia University Press.

**Grading:**

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Class Participation — 20%  
Midterm — 20%  
Data Exercise — 30%  
Final — 30%

**Course Policies:**

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Unexcused late work will be penalized a whole letter grade, and an additional letter grade for every additional 24 hours of lateness. Plagiarism or cheating will be treated seriously and reported to the Board of Academic Honesty.

**Course Requirements:**

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*Attendance and Reading:* Students will be required attend discussion sections on six specific regularly scheduled class dates, generally Thursdays. On these Thursdays (indicated in the syllabus) students should come prepared to discuss the readings for that week and the previous week. Students will be asked to sign up for specific section locations on the first day of class

*Midterm:* A midterm exam on October 17<sup>th</sup> will ask students to identify and explain key concepts from the first six (6) weeks of the course.

*Final:* A final exam will ask students to identify and explain key concepts from the last eight (8) weeks of the course, and write essays on themes covering the whole of the course material.

*Data Exercise:* Students will be expected to produce an essay of between 1500 and 2000 words that identifies a questions or puzzle concerning terrorism, develops a hypothesis about its solution, relates

the questions and answer to the course readings, and provides statistical evidence to support the hypothesis. The statistical evidence should be drawn from one of three data sources:

The Global Terrorism Database: <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/>

The Lee Dataset of Bengali Nationalists: Blackboard Server

Gallup Survey of International Reactions to the Death of Osama Bin Laden:

<http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/33503>

## Readings

### Weeks 1: Definitions

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*Introduction: September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Introduction to Statistics: September 4<sup>th</sup>*

### Weeks 2: Introduction and Definitions

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*Introduction to Data Sources: September 9<sup>th</sup>, Lecture: September 11<sup>th</sup>*

*Readings:*

Hoffman, Bruce (2006). "Defining Terrorism" (Chapter 1). In *Inside Terrorism* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed). New York: Columbia University Press, 1-41.

Tilly, Charles (2004). "Terror, Terrorism, Terrorists." *Sociological Theory* 22(1): 5-13.

### Week 3: The History of Terrorism

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*Lecture: September 16<sup>th</sup>, September 18<sup>th</sup>*

*Readings:*

Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside Terrorism*, 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 63-80. 257-295

David C. Rapoport, "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism," in Audrey Kurth Cronin and James M. Ludes, Eds., *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*, pp. 46-73.

Burleigh, Michael. *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. HarperCollins, 2009. P. 27-59

### Week 4: The Strategies of Terrorist Groups

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*Lecture: September 23<sup>rd</sup>, Section: September 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Readings:*

Crenshaw, Martha (1998). "The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist behavior as a product of strategic choice." (Chapter 1). In Walter Reich, Ed. *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind* (2nd ed.), 7-24.

Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter (2006). "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security* 31(1): 49-80.

## **Week 5: The Collective Causes of Terrorism**

Lecture: September 30<sup>th</sup>, Section: October 2<sup>nd</sup>

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### *Readings:*

Li, Quan. "Does democracy promote or reduce transnational terrorist incidents?." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49.2 (2005): 278-297.

Drakos, Konstantinos, and Andreas Gofas. "The Devil You Know but Are Afraid to Face Underreporting Bias and its Distorting Effects on the Study of Terrorism." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50.5 (2006): 714-735.

Piazza, James A. "Incubators of Terror: Do Failed and Failing States Promote Transnational Terrorism?." *International Studies Quarterly* 52.3 (2008): 469-488.

## **Week 6: The Red Army Faction**

Lecture: October 7<sup>th</sup>, October 9<sup>th</sup>[Cross Tab for Data Exercise Due]

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### *Readings:*

Burleigh, Michael. *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009. P.221-267.

Hans Josef Horchem,, "The Lost Revolution of West Germany's Terrorists," *Terrorism and Political Violence*, vol. 1, no. 3, July 1989, pp. 353-360.

Donatella della Porta, *Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1995. 36-50, 137-142

## **Week 7:**

Midterm: October 16<sup>th</sup>

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## **Week 8: The Individual Causes of Terrorism**

Lecture: October 21<sup>st</sup>, Section: October 23<sup>rd</sup>

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### *Readings:*

Krueger, Alan B., and Jitka Maleckova. "Education, Poverty and Terrorism: Is there a causal connection?." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17.4 (2003): 119-144.

Lee, Alexander. "Who Becomes a Terrorist?: Poverty, Education, and the Origins of Political Violence." *World Politics* 63.02 (2011): 203-245.

Gambetta, Diego, and Steffen Hertog. "Engineers of Jihad." (2007).

## **Week 9: The IRA**

Lecture: October 28<sup>th</sup>, October 30<sup>th</sup>[Topic for Data Exercise Due]

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### *Readings:*

Burleigh, Michael. *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009. P.287-345.

Richard English, *Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA*, (pp. 337-84) New York: Norton, 2002.

## **Week 10: Networks and Group Structure**

*Lecture: November 4<sup>th</sup>, Section: November 6<sup>th</sup>*

### *Readings:*

Zelinsky, Aaron, and Martin Shubik. "Research Note: Terrorist Groups as Business Firms: A New Typological Framework." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 21.2 (2009): 327-336.

Koschade, Stuart. "A Social Network Analysis of Jemaah Islamiyah: The applications to counterterrorism and intelligence." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 29.6 (2006): 559-575.

Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni and Calvert Jones (2008). "Assessing the Dangers of Illicit Networks: Why al-Qaida May be Less Threatening Than We Think." *International Security* 33(2): 7-44.

## **Week 11: The PLO**

*Lecture: November 11<sup>th</sup>, November 13<sup>th</sup>*

### *Readings:*

Burleigh, Michael. *Blood and Rage: A Cultural History of Terrorism*. New York: HarperCollins, 2009. P. 152-188, 380-396

Barry Rubin, *Revolution Until Victory? The Politics and History of the PLO* (Harvard, 1994) P.1-43

Hassan, Nasra. "An Arsenal of Believers." *New Yorker*, November 19, pp. 36–41. 2001.

## **Week 12: Suicide Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 18<sup>th</sup>, Section: November 20<sup>th</sup>*

### *Readings:*

Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside Terrorism*, 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, 131-171.

Pape, Robert A. "The strategic logic of suicide terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97.3 (2003): 343-361.

Ashworth, Scott, et al. "Design, inference, and the strategic logic of suicide terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 102.02 (2008): 269-273.

## **Week 13**

*Thanksgiving, No Class*

## **Week 14: Al-Qaida**

*Lecture: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, December 4<sup>th</sup> [Data Exercise Due]*

### *Readings:*

*The 9/11 Commission Report* (2004). New York: W. W. Norton, 47-70; 145-173; 215-253.

Lawrence, Bruce (2005). *Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama Bin Laden*. London: Verso, 23-30; 58-62.

Silber, Mitchell. *The Al-Qaeda Factor: Plots Against the West*. College Station: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012. P. 107-143

### **Week 15: Counterterrorism**

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*Lecture: December 9<sup>th</sup>, Section: December 11<sup>th</sup>*

#### *Readings:*

Hoffman, Bruce (2006) *Inside Terrorism*, 2nd ed. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 131-156.

Stern, Jessica. "Mind over martyr: How to deradicalize Islamist extremists." *Foreign Affairs* (2010): 95-108.

Bergen, Peter, and Katherine Tiedemann. "Washington's Phantom War: The Effects of the US Drone Programs in Pakistan." *Foreign Affairs* 90 (2011): 12-18

Kaplan, Robert D. "Hunting the Taliban in Las Vegas." *Atlantic Monthly* 298.2 (2006): 81-83.

### **Week 16**

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*Final Exam, Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.*