**PSC/IR 273**

The Politics of Terrorism

Fall 2016

2:00-3:15pm Mondays and Wednesdays

**Alexander Lee**

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10-12

**Course Goals:**

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:**

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

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

**Grading:**

Class Participation ⎯ 20%

Midterm ⎯ 20%

Data Exercise ⎯ 30%

Final ⎯ 30%

**Course Policies:**

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:**

*Attendance and Reading:* Students will be graded on their attendance and participation in discussion classes, indicated in individual weeks.

*Midterm:* A midterm exam on October 13th 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 the Global Terrorism Database: <http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/> Additional details on the Data exercise will be explained in class on September 28th.

**Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction**

*Introduction: August 31st*

**Weeks 1-2: Definitions**

*Lecture: September 7th*

*Discussion: September 12th*

*Readings:*

Hoffman, Bruce (2006). “Defining Terrorism” (Chapter 1). In *Inside Terrorism* (2nded). New York: Columbia University Press, 1-41.

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

**Weeks 2-3: The History of Terrorism**

*Lecture: September 14th, September 19th*

*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.

**Week 3: The Red Army Faction**

*Lecture: September 21st*

*Readings:*

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

**Week 4: The IRA**

*Lecture: September 26th*

*Lecture on the Data Exercise: September 28th*

*Readings:*

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

**Week 5: The Strategies of Terrorist Groups**

*Lecture: October 3rd*

*Discussion: October 5th*

*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 6: Fall Break**

*No Class*

**Week 7: Black September**

*Lecture: October 17th*

*Midterm: October 19th*

*Readings:*

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

**Week 8: Group Structure**

*Lecture on Reading Statistical Papers: October 24th*

*Lecture: October 26th*

*Readings:*

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

Hoffman, Bruce (2006). “Chapter 8” In *Inside Terrorism* (2nded). New York: Columbia University Press, 229-256.

**Week 9: The Collective Causes of Terrorism**

*Lecture: October 31st*

*Discussion: November 2nd*

*Readings:*

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

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

**Week 10: The Individual Causes of Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 7th*

*Discussion: November 9th*

*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 11: Suicide Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 14th*

*Lecture: November 16th*

*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 12: Al Qaida**

*Lecture: November 21st*

*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.

**Week 13: ISIS and Homegrown Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 28thth*

*Lecture: November 30th*

*Readings:*

Byman, Daniel. "Understanding the Islamic State—A Review Essay." *International Security* 40.4 (2016): 127-165.

Stern, Jessica, and John M. Berger. *ISIS: The state of terror*. HarperCollins, 2015. Chapters 2, 4 and Appendix.

Bergen, Peter. *United States of Jihad.* New York: Crown, 2015. Chapters 4 and 5.

**Week 14: Islamic Terrorism**

*Discussion [Previous Two Weeks]: December 5th*

**Weeks 14- 15: Counterterrorism**

*Lecture: December 7th*

*Discussion: December 12th*

*Readings:*

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

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

Boyle, Michael J. "The costs and consequences of drone warfare." *International Affairs* 89.1 (2013): 1-29.

Mueller, John, and Mark G. Stewart. "Evaluating counterterrorism spending." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28.3 (2014): 237-247.

***Final Exam: Sunday, December 18th, 4pm***