**PSC/IR 273**

The Politics of Terrorism

Fall 2013

9:40am-10:55am, B&L 106

**Alexander Lee**

**Instructor:**

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-4

**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 29th.

**Readings**

**Week 1: Introduction**

*Introduction: September 1st*

**Weeks 1-2: Definitions**

*Lecture: September 3rd*

*Discussion: September 8th*

*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 10th, September 15th*

*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 17th*

*Readings:*

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

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 4: The IRA**

*Lecture: September 22nd*

*Discussion: The IRA and the RAF, September 24th*

*Readings:*

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

Sanchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. "The dynamics of nationalist terrorism: ETA and the IRA." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 19.3 (2007): 289-306.

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

*Lecture: September 29th*

*Discussion: October 1st*

*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: The Data Exercise**

*Lecture: October 8th*

**Week 7: Statistical Methods**

*Midterm October 13th*

*Lecture: How to Read Statistical Papers, October 15th*

**Week 8: The Collective Causes of Terrorism**

*Lecture: October 20th*

*Discussion: October 22nd*

*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 9: The Individual Causes of Terrorism**

*Lecture: October 27th*

*Discussion: October 29th*

*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 10: Suicide Terrorism**

*Lecture: November 3rd*

*Discussion: November 5th*

*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 11: The Palestinians**

*No Class November 10th*

*Lecture: November 12th*

*Readings:*

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

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

**Week 12: Al-Qaida**

*Lecture: November 17th*

*Discussion: The PLO and Al-Qaida, November 19th*

*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**

*Thanksgiving, No Class*

**Week 14: Structure, Weapons and Funding**

*Lecture: December 1st*

*Discussion: December 3rd*

*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.

Shapiro, Jacob N., and David A. Siegel. "Underfunding in terrorist organizations." *International Studies Quarterly* 51.2 (2007): 405-429.

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

**Week 15: Counterterrorism**

*Lecture: December 8th,*

*Discussion: December 10th*

*Readings:*

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.

Zussman, Asaf, and Noam Zussman. "Assassinations: Evaluating the effectiveness of an Israeli counterterrorism policy using stock market data." *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 20.2 (2006): 193-206.

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