
PSC/IR 229: Terrorism

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10-11
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Course Info:
Spring 2011
TR 2:00-3:15
Hylan 101

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of topics on transnational terrorism, focusing on theoretical rather than historical approaches. The syllabus is subject to (minor) change, so I'd advise you not to work too far ahead.

Required book: Richardson, Louise. *What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat*. (Random House). This is *not* available through the bookstore, so you'll need to order it elsewhere. Any edition is fine. Other readings will be available through the course page on Blackboard.

Grading: There will be two exams (**Thursday, March 3** and **Tuesday, April 26**), each worth 30% of your grade. 20% will come from group presentations and reports. The final 20% will come from participation in class discussions and activities, and the occasional short assignment.

Presentations: Groups of 2-3 people each will choose a past or present terrorist group (from a list I provide) to research and present on. Topics addressed should include the group's founding, leading members, targets, goals and strategies, state support (if any), notable attacks or other incidents, association with (or transformation to or from) political parties, their current status (have they disappeared or been defeated? How and by whom? Have they splintered?), by what measures would we classify them a terrorist group...I can point you towards resources, so come talk to me if you want some help getting started. Be sure to also take advantage of our amazing political science librarian, Ann Marshall, while doing your research.

I'll distribute a list of terrorist groups. By **Tuesday, January 25**, each student must respond with their ranking of groups (#1 being the group they'd most like to present on, #2 for second-best, etc.). I'll form groups based on interest. Presentations will be on **Thursday, April 14** and **Tuesday, April 19**. On the day the group presents, each group must turn in a written report on the group. This isn't a formal paper; within reason, an outline format is fine, but there must be a bibliography with it. This will be discussed in more detail in class.

1. **Thursday, January 13: Introduction**

2. **Tuesday, January 18: Definitions**

- Richardson, c. 1: What is Terrorism?

3. **Thursday, January 20: A Brief History**
 - Richardson, c. 2: Where Have Terrorists Come From?
4. **Tuesday, January 25: Terrorists Themselves (1)** *Ranking of groups due.*
 - Pape, Robert. *Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*. Random House: 2005. c. 11: Portraits of Three Suicide Terrorists
 - Richardson, c. 3: What Causes Terrorism?
5. **Thursday, January 27: Terrorists Themselves (2)**
 - Sageman, Marc. *Understanding Terror Networks* University of Pennsylvania Press: 2004. c. 4: Joining the Jihad
6. **Tuesday, February 1: Organizations**
 - Stern, Jessica. *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*. Ecco: 2003. c. 8: Commanders and Their Cadres
7. **Thursday, February 3: Strategies of Terrorism**
 - Kydd, Andrew & Barbara Walter. "The Strategies of Terrorism." *International Security* 31(1): 49-80. (2006).
8. **Tuesday, February 8: Suicide Terrorism**
 - Bloom, Mia. *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror*. Columbia University Press: 2005. c. 4: Devising a Theory of Suicide Terror
 - Pape, Robert. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361. (2003).
 - Richardson, c. 5: Why Do Terrorists Kill Themselves?
9. **Thursday, February 10: The Role of Religion**
 - Stern, Jessica. *Terror in the Name of God: Why Religious Militants Kill*. Ecco: 2003. c. 4: History & c. 10: Conclusion/Policy Recommendations
10. **Tuesday, February 15: Weapons of Mass Destruction**
 - Richardson, c. 6: What Changed and What Did Not on September 11, 2001
11. **Thursday, February 17: State Sponsorship**
 - Byman, Daniel. *Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism*. Cambridge University Press: 2005. c. 3: The nature and impact of state support
12. **Tuesday, February 22: Regime Type & Terror**
 - Eyerman, Joe. "Terrorism and Democratic States: Soft Targets or Accessible Systems." *International Interactions* 24(2): 151-170. (1998).

13. **Thursday, February 24: Cyberterrorism and Future Threats**
 - Verton, Dan. *Black Ice: The Invisible Threat of Cyber-Terrorism*. McGraw-Hill/Osborne: 2003. c. 1: Cyber-Terrorism: Fact or Fiction? & c. 2: Black Ice: Cyber-Terrorism's Hidden Dangers
14. **Tuesday, March 1: Review for Exam 1**
15. **Thursday, March 3: Exam 1**
16. **Tuesday, March 8** *No class: Spring Break*
17. **Thursday, March 10** *No class: Spring Break*
18. **Tuesday, March 15: St. Patrick's Day Special (1): *The Wind that Shakes the Barley*** *Warning: this movie has scenes of violence and torture, as well as some pretty thick Irish accents.*
 - Richardson, Introduction
19. **Thursday, March 17: St. Patrick's Day Special (2): *The Wind that Shakes the Barley***
 - *Assignment*: Write a short response to the movie in which you identify at least three theoretical issues we've discussed that appear in the film (and explain their context). Due **Tuesday, March 22**.
20. **Tuesday, March 22: Counterterrorism (1)** *Assignment due.*
 - Howard, Russell D. "Preemptive Military Doctrine: No Other Choice Against Transnational, Non-State Actors." In Howard, Russell D. & Reid L. Sawyer (Eds.). *Defeating Terrorism: Shaping the New Security Environment*. McGraw-Hill/Dushkin: 2004.
 - Byman, Daniel. "US Counter-terrorism Options: A Taxonomy." *Survival* 49(3): 121-150. (2007).
 - Richardson, c. 7: Why the War on Terror Can Never Be Won & c. 8: What is to Be Done?
21. **Thursday, March 24: Counterterrorism (2)**
 - Levitt, Matthew. *Targeting Terror: US Policy Toward Middle Eastern State Sponsors and Terrorist Organizations, post-September 11*. Washington Institute for Near East Policy: 2002. Introduction: One Year On – Whom Are We Fighting? & Part One: Documenting the War on Terror – Whither the Middle East? & Conclusion: Target All Terror
22. **Tuesday, March 29: Intelligence History and Analysis**
 - Baer, Martha et al. *Safe: The Race to Protect Ourselves in a Newly Dangerous World*. Harper Collins: 2005. c. 11: Cracking Codes & c. 12: The Dangers of Data
23. **Thursday, March 31** *No class: MPSA Annual Conference*

24. **Thursday, April 5: Case Study: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Al Qaeda and 9/11 (1)**
 - *Reading TBA*
25. **Tuesday, April 7: Case Study: Afghanistan, Pakistan, Al Qaeda and 9/11 (2)**
 - *Reading TBA*
26. **Tuesday, April 12: Topic TBA**
 - *Reading TBA*
27. **Thursday, April 14: Presentations**
28. **Tuesday, April 19: Presentations & Discussion**
29. **Thursday, April 21: Review for Exam 2**
30. **Tuesday, April 26: Exam 2**