

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 $\frac{3}{4}$ 20% (15% WI)

Midterm $\frac{3}{4}$ 20% (15% WI)

Data Exercise $\frac{3}{4}$ 30% (25% WI)

Final $\frac{3}{4}$ 30% (20% WI)

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 10th 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 question or puzzle concerning terrorism, develops a hypothesis about its

that identifies a question or puzzle concerning terrorism, develops a hypothesis about its solution, relates the question 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 26th.

Writing Intensive Students: WI students must complete all course requirements noted above, and in addition write a twenty-page research paper on a topic related to the course material. The topic must be approved orally by the TA by October 10th, and a rough draft of the first two pages turned in by November 7th. The paper itself is due on the last day of class, and will be worth 25% of the final grade.

Readings

Week 1: Introduction

Introduction: August 29th

Week 2-3: Definitions

Lecture: September 5th

Discussion: September 10th

Readings:

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

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

Weeks 3-4: The History of Terrorism

Lecture: September 12th, September 17th

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 4: The Red Army Faction

Lecture: September 19th

Readings:

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

Week 5: The IRA

Lecture: September 24th

Lecture on the Data Exercise: September 26th

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 6: The Strategies of Terrorist Groups

Lecture: October 1st

Discussion: October 3rd

Readings:

Fortna, Virginia Page. "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." *International Organization* 69.3 (2015): 519-556.

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

Thomas, Jakana. "Rewarding bad behavior: How governments respond to terrorism in civil war." *American Journal of Political Science* 58.4 (2014): 804-818.

Week 7: Black September

Lecture: October 8th

Midterm: October 10th

Readings:

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

Fall Break

No Class

Week 8: Group Structure

Lecture on Reading Statistical Papers: October 22nd

Lecture: October 24th

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.

Klausen, Jytte. "Tweeting the Jihad: Social media networks of Western foreign fighters in Syria and Iraq." *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 38.1 (2015): 1-22.

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

Week 9: Suicide Terrorism

Lecture: October 29th

Discussion: October 31st

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 10: The Individual Causes of Terrorism

Lecture: November 5th

Discussion: November 7th

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: The Collective Causes of Terrorism

Lecture: November 12th

Discussion: November 14th

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.

Coggins, Bridget L. "Does state failure cause terrorism? An empirical analysis (1999–2008)." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59.3 (2015): 455-483.

Thanksgiving

No Class

Week 12: Al Qaida and ISIS

Lecture: November 26th

Lecture: November 28th

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.

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

Week 13: Homegrown Terrorism

Lecture: December 3rd

Discussion [Previous Two Weeks]: December 5th

Readings:

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

McCauley, Clark, and Sophia Moskalenko. "Mechanisms of political radicalization: Pathways toward terrorism." *Terrorism and political violence* 20.3 (2008): 415-433.

Weeks 14: Counterterrorism

Lecture: December 10th

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.

Johnston, Patrick B., and Anoop K. Sarbahi. "The impact of US drone strikes on terrorism in Pakistan." *International Studies Quarterly* 60.2 (2016): 203-219.

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

Final Exam: As per registrar

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