

University of Georgia
INTL 4410: Terrorism
Maymester 2016, M-F 12:30-3:15 PM
Caldwell Hall G-10

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Course Description and Objectives

The current age in world history is by far one of the most peaceful ever recorded. International wars are less frequent and kill fewer people, and while civil conflicts are still alarmingly common, they are less lethal than they have been in past eras. Even the rate of violent crime is experiencing a general downward trend. Despite this, however, the salience of another kind of global violence has rarely been higher: that being, of course, terrorism. Terrorism is not a new phenomenon; indeed, it has been a feature of human civilization for centuries. So why the relatively recent surge in attention paid to it? To fully answer this question, we must begin by examining the history of terrorist activities. What is terrorism? Has it always taken its current form, or has it shifted and adapted with time and place? Who are the terrorists? What can be done to reduce or eliminate its occurrence? The answers to these questions will be difficult, and at times, frustratingly vague. Through the course of this class, we will examine a wide swath of potential explanations, and explore the incidence of terrorism on a sweeping temporal and geographic scale. While the conclusions we reach will be far from black and white, they will undoubtedly be intriguing.

By the end of this course, students should:

- ⌚ Be able to provide a coherent and consistent definition of terrorism
- ⌚ Understand the origins and explanations of terrorism, both in an ancient and modern context
- ⌚ Recognize regional differences in terrorist behavior and motivations
- ⌚ Be familiar with global responses to terrorism and their relative efficacy

Required Reading

Terrorism and Homeland Security: A Text/Reader. Capron, Timothy A. and Mizrahi, Stephanie B. 2015. Sage Publications Incorporated. ISBN 9781412997126

All other materials will be posted on ELC, linked via the syllabus, or e-mailed to all students

Recommended Reading

Due to the constantly shifting nature of the subject, students are encouraged to keep up to date with the news and policy journals such as <http://www.defenseone.com/> or <https://foreignpolicy.com/>, and op-ed pieces from outlets such as the Washington Post (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>) and New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/>)

Course Expectations

Attendance (10% of your grade):

In a class that is simultaneously long (3 hours daily) and short (15 class days in total), regular attendance is vital. That being said, some days you simply cannot make it to class for whatever reason. If you have an excused absence, you will not be penalized (see the attendance policy below for more details) and you will be allowed to make up missed assignments. For unexcused absences, you will be allowed one freebie without losing points in this particular category. However, you will *not* be allowed to make up any missed assignment on the day of an unexcused absence. Any unexcused absence after the freebie will deduct two points from the final grade, up to the full 10 points. Use the freebie wisely.

In addition, frequent tardiness may impact the attendance grade. Late entrance to the class is disruptive and will cause you to miss important announcements made at the start of each lecture. I will contact you individually if this becomes a problem.

Participation (10% of your grade):

Regular and active participation are essential to doing well in this course. Showing up is important, but proving you are engaged with the material is how you indicate that you are learning. Speaking in class, making informed comments, asking probing questions, and responding thoughtfully to prompts are all good ways to participate, but I understand they are not comfortable for everyone. While I encourage you to step outside of your comfort area, I will consider several other options for participation: coming to talk to me before or after class or during office hours; writing out-of-class response papers; e-mailing me questions or comments relevant to the material; volunteering for extra presentations; etc. If you do **none** of the above, but still show up every single day, the best you can hope for is a 5 out of 10 in this section. Please come and talk to me if you anticipate this will be an issue.

It should also be noted that attendance and participation are highly correlated. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Thus, if you miss several days but participate frequently when you are present, you still should not expect full credit in this area. Only in very rare circumstances will the participation score exceed the attendance score. Further, the later into the course you wait to address any gaps in participation, the less likely you will be to receive any consideration. Once again, talk to me early if you anticipate this will be a problem!

Discussion Leadership (20% of your grade):

Each student will be responsible for serving as “discussion leader” for one class. There will be 4 or 5 discussion leaders per class period, starting the end of the first week of class. As a leader, you will be responsible for: providing the class with a concise summary of each of the day's readings, generating interesting questions for class debate, and facilitating discussion related to the topic. Sign-ups will occur early during the first week, and more details will be provided at that time.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam (15% of your grade. each):

There will be two exams during the semester. Both will consist of multiple choice questions and several short answers drawn from the first half of the class (for the midterm) and the second half of the class (for the final). The midterm is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th during class time. The final will take place during the final exam slot: Tuesday, June 7th at our regular time and place.

Terrorist Group Profile (15% of your grade):

The midterm project for the class will be a 5 minute presentation on a terrorist group of your choosing. You will work in groups of 2 or 3. You may select an organization that is currently operational, or one that has since become defunct. More details will be provided closer to time.

National Security Profile (15% of your grade):

The final project for the class will be a 10 minute presentation on the national security/counter-terrorism policy of any country besides the United States. You will work in a group of 3 to 4 people. More details will be provided closer to time, but be advised that this project will be presented to an audience of visiting students.

Course Policies

Attendance:

Since there are only 15 class days, regular attendance is essential. That being said, some absences cannot be avoided. I follow the university's guidelines for excused absences: any class period missed due to a University-sanctioned event (conference/sport/trip), a documented medical reason (e.g. doctor's note), or death or serious injury to a direct relative (mother, father, child, sibling, grandparent) will be counted as excused.

These absences will not count against your grade, and you will be allowed to make up any assignments that happened to fall on the excused date.

All other absences will count as unexcused: illnesses without a doctor's note provided within two days of the absence, sleeping through class, forgetting class, or missing for any other reason will count against your final grade. When in doubt, check with me sooner rather than later to verify whether an absence will be excused or not. You will have one "freebie" unexcused absence, but it is best not to burn the it too early. To repeat, though, any assignments missed due to an unexcused absence (even the "freebie") will be counted as a zero.

Tardiness:

All efforts should be made to get to class promptly. If frequent tardiness becomes a problem, it could potentially impact your attendance grade. If you are wondering "how late is too late?" to show up, the answer is: come as soon as you can. Each day counts as a week of class, and there will be a lot of material covered during each session. We will generally take a break between 1:30-2:00 PM each day. If you are present for the second half of class, you may not lose the full two points for an unexcused absence (after the freebie). Obviously, if you have an excuse for missing a half of class, that will not count against you. Please see me if you have questions.

Grades:

This class will use the standard plus/minus grading system. Grades will be rounded to the nearest point.

A= 93-100	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D= 60-69	F= Below 60
A- = 90-92	B= 83-86	C= 73-76		
	B- = 80-82	C- = 70-72		

Cell Phones:

Cell phones, MP3 players, and other noise-making devices (does anyone use a beeper or pager anymore?) must be silenced and put away during class. Also, there is no reason to have head phones on during class time. Frequent or flagrant disruptions may result in a reduction in the participation grade.

Laptops and Tablets:

Laptops and tablets are permitted in class for note-taking and research purposes *only*. If you choose to use a laptop during class, please be courteous to your instructor and your colleagues: turn off the sound and avoid the temptation to tweet, facebook, or whatever else the kids these days are doing online. If these items become a distraction, I reserve the right to discontinue their use.

Academic Honesty:

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty

policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: www.uga.edu/honesty. Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Questions related to course assignments and the academic honesty policy should be directed to the instructor. Any instance of cheating or plagiarism could be grounds for removal from the course with a grade of WF.

Class Discussion and Debate:

At times during the class, we will be discussing controversial and/or sensitive subjects. It is of the utmost importance that all students conduct themselves in a professional, respectful manner. Personal attacks, hateful speech, or general disrespect to the instructor or your colleagues will not be tolerated. This does not mean you have to agree with everything being said: far from it! If you disagree with anything and can back it up, feel free to challenge your classmates, the textbook, or the instructor. Lively, informed, and passionate debate is at the heart of good learning.

Communicating with the Instructor:

The best way to get in contact with the instructor is through e-mail at swalter7@uga.edu. All students will be expected to check their own UGA e-mail addresses for important updates about the course, assignments, etc. ELC will be used to post course content, but e-mail will be the most common means of communication.

If you have any questions you cannot or do not want to address over e-mail, please feel free to visit my office hours. They are scheduled before and after each class in Caldwell Hall G-10, or by appointment at my office in Candler Hall B02. If you want to guarantee your time, please send me an e-mail before you plan on stopping by.

Staying Informed:

As mentioned in the “Recommended Reading” section, an International Relations scholar is expected to keep up with major events around the world. This course should make you into a better-informed citizen, but a lot of that work falls on you the student. Where you get your news is entirely up to you, but be sure to cite your sources if you try to bring it up as a point in class discussion. Some additional suggested sites include: [Al Jazeera America](#), [NPR](#), or political blogs such as [The Monkey Cage](#), [The Quantitative Peace](#), or [The Duck of Minerva](#).

Changes to the Syllabus:

This syllabus should be considered a general plan and not a hard and fast guide. All efforts will be made to keep test dates and due dates the same as listed, and any changes will be announced well in advance. This notice applies to policies as well as assignments. With that in mind, be sure to come to class and check your e-mail regularly so that you do not miss out on any new information.

Course Schedule

Readings outside of the Capon and Mizrahi (C&M) book will be e-mailed or posted to ELC

Day 1 (Monday, May 16th): Introduction and Definitions

Assignments: Review the Syllabus

C&M Section 1: Introduction to the Study of Terrorism

C&M Section 2: Terrorism Definitions and Typologies

Day 2 (Tuesday, May 17th): Introduction and Definitions (Continued)

Assignments: Review the Syllabus

Review C&M Sections 1 and 2

Day 3 (Wednesday, May 18th): Terrorism Then and Now

Assignment: C&M Section 3: The History of Terrorism

Day 4 (Thursday, May 19th): Terrorist Motivations

Assignments: James Piazza's "Poverty, Minority Economic Discrimination, and Domestic Terrorism" available via ELC

Martha Crenshaw's "The Causes of Terrorism" available via ELC

Day 5 (Friday, May 20th): Terrorist Tactics

Assignments: Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter's "The Strategies of Terrorism" available via ELC

C&M Section 4: Methods, Patterns, and Trends of Terrorists

Day 6 (Monday, May 23rd): Case Study: ISIS, and Project Workday

Assignments: Audrey Cronin's "ISIS Is Not a Terrorist Group" available via ELC

Fareed Zakaria's "Today's New Terrorists Were Radical Before They Were Religious" available [here](#)

Other Readings TBA

Day 7 (Tuesday, May 24th): Terrorist Group Presentations and Exam Review

Assignments: Prepare for presentations

Come with questions

Day 8 (Wednesday, May 25th): Midterm Exam

Assignment: Study

Day 9 (Thursday, May 26th): Regional Focus- Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine

Assignment: C&M Section 5: Israel, Lebanon, and Palestine

Day 10 (Friday, May 27th): Regional Focus- The Middle East and North Africa

Assignment: C&M Section 6: The Middle East and North Africa

Memorial Day, Monday May 30th: No Class!

Day 11 (Tuesday, May 31st): Regional Focus- Europe, Turkey, and Russia

Assignment: C&M Section 9: Europe, Turkey, and Russia

Day 12 (Wednesday, June 1st): Regional Focus- The Western Hemisphere

Assignment: C&M Section 10: The Western Hemisphere, Including Canada, the United States, and South America

Day 13 (Thursday, June 2nd): Response to Terror

Assignments: C&M Section 11: Homeland Security: Before and After 9/11

C&M Section 12: The Special Case of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Terrorism

Day 14 (Friday, June 3rd): Course Wrap-Up and Exam Review

Assignments: C&M Section 14: The Future of Terrorism

Kathy Gilsinan's "How Should the World Respond to Terrorism?" available [here](#)

Stephen Walt's "Monsters of Our Own Imaginings" available via ELC

Come with questions

Day 15 (Monday, June 6th): National Security Presentations

Assignment: Prepare for presentations

Day 16 (Tuesday, June 7th): Final Exam (Regular Time and Room)

Assignment: Study