

Political Science 328

Class Meeting Time: TR 11:30—1:00

Office Hours: W 10:30-1:30

Credits: 3.0

Professor Michael Jasinski

Sage Hall 4624

Email: jasinskm@uwosh.edu

Fall 2017

Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism*or**“The worse, the better” –Georgii Plekhanov*

Course Description: The purpose of the course is to develop an understanding of the phenomenon of terrorism, including theories of terrorism, political violence, and terrorism as a social movement. In addition to providing the historical context, the course focuses on recent and contemporary terrorist groups operating in Europe and the Middle East and on international terrorist groups, and examines approaches used by United States, European Union countries, Russia, and Israel, to cope with their respective terrorism challenges.

Texts: all readings are on D2L.

Political Science Student Learning Outcomes**1) Understand and apply theory frameworks**

Political Science students should be able to

- A. recognize normative and ethical components of politics
- B. understand theoretical foundations of politics in the different subfields
- C. recognize the value of theories for making sense of the past and present
- D. apply theoretical arguments and concepts in the service of explanation or prediction of political phenomena

2) Understand and explain contemporary politics

Political Science students should be able to

- A. demonstrate an understanding of current political debates and themes in the different subfields
- B. connect theory and history in the service of answering “big questions” facing contemporary politics

Assessing the Student Learning Outcomes

--**Three mid-course exams**, each consisting of 6 short essay questions, of which you will answer 5. Each mid-course exam will count for 15% of the final grade. The highest exam score will count an additional 15%. There will be no final exam. A study guide for each exam will be posted on D2L approximately a week prior to each exam. A review session will be held immediately prior to each exam, as indicated on the syllabus.

--**Term Paper**, for which you will pick one of the following options:

Option 1: “Red Team” Exercise in the form of a 15-page (double spaced—bibliography and citations do not count against the 15-page minimum) research paper in which you design/predict a plausible terrorist movement that you believe will occur within the next 10-20 years.

Your project will comprehensively answer the following questions:

Where? What is the country/countries in which this terror group will originate?

Why? What are the preconditions/precipitants causing this terror group to originate? What is the ideal “endgame” of the movement, the objective it is seeking to achieve?

Who? From which parts of society will the leadership and the rank-and-file members of this movement be recruited? What are your sources of recruits, weapons, and money? Who are your friends, domestically and internationally, on whom you can count for political and material support?

How? What is the strategy of the terror movement in achieving its goals? What are the most effective means, methods, and targets of violence? What is the most effective thing the government(s) you are targeting could do to stop you, and what is the likelihood they will implement these policies?

Feel free to address the above-listed questions in the “first person” political manifesto format. Then, at the end, you will “change hats” and address the final question:

So what? What are the implications of the potential emergence of the terror movement you have just forecasted for the US? Should the US stay aloof? Send aid? Send *troops*? Or, perhaps *support the terro... excuse me, freedom fighters*?

--**Option 2:** The Endgame Scenario, in which you will utilize the theories covered in this course to predict the ultimate outcome of a currently ongoing terror campaign. Your paper should contain both a thorough description of the nature of the problem, tactics used both by non-state and state actors, reasons why other possible endgames appear less plausible, and conditions under which your predicted endgame will be finally played out.

--**Option 3:** Terror Leader Profile, in which you will use relevant course readings to analyze the biography of a single prominent terror leader and attempt to discern why that particular individual chose violence as a means to an end, and what were the ultimate political objectives sought in this case.

--**Option 4:** a quantitative research design dealing with some aspect of terrorism or counter-terrorism, consisting of a research puzzle, research question, a literature review, theory, hypotheses, operationalization of concepts, but not including a dataset or actual statistical analysis. This assignment will be graded consistent with the criteria utilized in Political Science 245. If you are taking 245 this semester, you may submit this paper to satisfy both the requirements of this course and of PS 245. If you are currently taking PS 245, you are highly encouraged to take this option, as it will considerably lighten your workload during the semester.

Since the paper will represent the culmination of your scholarly efforts in this course, it should reflect all of the Political Science Learning Goals, which include the understanding of: Theoretical Context of Politics, Historical Context of Politics, Contemporary Politics, Civic and Global Engagement.

The initial submission of the project (in other words, a complete paper, not a draft, outline, or hastily put together collection of thoughts on matters related and unrelated) is worth 10% of the final course grade. The final submission is worth 20%. If you are satisfied with your initial submission grade, you need not resubmit—your initial grade will become your final grade as well.

In addition, your course grade will be affected by the following factors:

-- **Weekly reading summaries.** You are required to submit, by email to the address at the top of this page, weekly summaries of assigned readings. Each summary (which should be about one page, single-spaced) is to address, to the best of your ability, the key points raised in each of the readings. Readings summaries will be graded on a pass-fail basis. You may fail to submit one summary during the semester. Failure to submit each additional summary will lower your course grade by 2 points.

--**Participation in class discussion:** This accounts for the remaining 10% of your course grade. Class participation grade will be assessed as follows:

Frequent and topical participation: 100%

Occasional participation: 85%

No participation, or very rare participation: 70%

All readings summaries submitted on time and to standard: +15% (not to exceed 100%)

--**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. However, you are allowed 2 unexcused absences. However, every additional unexcused absence will reduce your final course grade by 1%. An absence will count as excused if it is caused by a death in the family, illness, or similar events. You must provide relevant documentation to the instructor in order for the absence to be considered excused. Other reasons for excusing an absence may be considered only upon a prior consultation with the instructor.

Academic Honesty: Academic honesty standards will be strictly enforced. Cheating and/or plagiarism in any form will not be tolerated. While you are encouraged to study in groups, all exam and research paper work must be your own. As noted above, however, you are permitted to team up in pairs to work on the research paper.

Political Science majors should take Political Methodology (245) in either their sophomore or first semester of their junior year. PS245 is a prerequisite for the senior capstone, Political Analysis (401), and cannot be taken concurrently.

Grade Scale: Final course grades will be assigned as follows: A: 92 and higher. A-: 90-91; B+: 88-89; B: 82-87; B-: 80-81; C+: 78-79; C: 72-77; C-: 70-71; D: 60-69; F: 0-59.

Course Schedule

Week 1 Course Introduction

Week 2 *"One commands, all others obey."*

Michels, "Political Parties"

Walker, "Motivational Foundations of Political Belief Systems: A Reanalysis of the Operational Code Construct"

Klandermans, "Collective Political Action"
Huddy, "Group Identity and Political Cohesion"

Week 3 "Our desires and pleasures spring from society; we measure them, therefore, by the society and not by the objects which serve for their satisfaction."

Gurr, "Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence"
Art, "The Four Functions of Force."
Darley, "Social Organization for the Production of Evil"

Week 4 "We are very far from having any moral qualms as far as our national war goes."

Merari, "Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency" (Ch. 2)
Ash, "Is There a Good Terrorist?"
Crenshaw, "The Causes of Terrorism"
Friedland and Merari, "Psychological Impact of Terrorism"
Victoroff, "The Mind of a Terrorist"

Week 5 "It was always my wish to turn my body into deadly shrapnel against the Zionists and to knock on the doors of heaven with the skulls of Zionists."

Gere, "Suicide Operations: Between War and Terrorism" (Ch. 15)
Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism"
Pedazhur, "Altruism and Fatalism"
Combs, "New Terrorist Threat. Weapons of Mass Destruction"

Week 6 "We need the real, nation-wide terror which reinvigorates the country and through which the Great French Revolution achieved glory"

Chaliand and Blin, "The Invention of Modern Terror" (Ch. 5)
Chaliand and Blin, "Lenin, Stalin, and State Terrorism" (Ch. 9)
Combs/Schelling, "Terrorism by the State"
Marx, "Thoughts on a Neglected Category of Social Movement Participant: The Agent Provocateur and the Informant"

Exam 1 Tuesday of Week 6

Week 7 "We had showed him respect, and we had done this nice thing for him"

Jones and Libicki, "How Terrorist Groups End", Chapter 2.
"National Strategy for Combating Terrorism"
"The European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy"
"Responding to Terrorism: Crime, Punishment, and War"
Ghosh, "How to Make Terrorists Talk"

Week 8 "Believers, make war on the infidels who dwell around you. Deal firmly with them."

Chaliand and Blin, "Zealots and Assassins" (Ch. 3)
Knapp, "Concept and Practice of Jihad"
Rapoport, "Four Waves of Modern Terrorism"
Asimov, "Guide to the Bible" (excerpts)

Week 9 *"All the bourgeois will have a taste of the bomb"*

Hubac-Occhipinti, "The Anarchist Terrorists of the 19th Century" (Ch. 6)

Ternon, "Russian Terrorism, 1878-1908" (Ch. 7)

Chaliand and Blin, "The 'Golden Age' of Terrorism" (Ch. 8)

Harris, "The Southern Slav Question"

Week 10 *"If you're totally illiterate and living on one dollar a day, the benefits of globalization never come to you."*

Chaliand and Blin, "From 1968 to Radical Islam" (Ch. 11)

Huntington "The Clash of Civilizations?"

Scott, "The Great Divide in the Global Village"

Homer-Dixon, "The Rise of Complex Terrorism"

Exam 2 Tuesday of Week 11

Week 11 *"Based on observations of the policies of my own government, I viewed this action as an acceptable option."*

"Terrorism in the United States"

"Carlos the Jackal"

"Red Army Faction: The Baader-Meinhof Gang"

"Red Brigades"

"Action Directe"

"French Right-Wing Terrorism"

"Basque Nationalist Terror: ETA"

"Terror in Ireland, 1916-1923"

"IRA: Origins and Terror to 1976"

"Nationalist Terror in Northern Ireland, 1976-1996"

"Loyalist Terror in Northern Ireland"

Ottley, "Timothy McVeigh & Terry Nichols: Oklahoma Bombing"

Drake, "Italy in the 1960s"

Metraux, "The Fatal Appeal of Aum Shinrikyo"

Week 12 *"And blood flowed in a stream that colder grew."*

Akhmadov, "The Killing of Maskhadov"

Akhmadov, "The North Caucasus Emirate and Beyond"

Kramer, "Guerrilla Warfare, Counterinsurgency, and Terrorism in North Caucasus"

Cornell, "The War Against Terrorism and the Conflict in Chechnya"

DiMarco, "Losing the Moral Compass"

Gallagher, "Learning Lessons from the Algerian War of Independence"

"Terror in South Africa"

"Tamil Tiger Terror in Sri Lanka"

Week 13 *"I come bearing an olive branch in one hand, and the freedom fighter's gun in the other. Do not let the olive branch fall from my hand."*

Chaliand and Blin, "Terrorism in Time of War" (Ch. 10)
Migaux, "the Roots of Islamic Radicalism" (Ch. 12)
"Arab Nationalism and the Rise of Fatah"
"The Birth of the PLO and the 1967 War"
"The Beginning of International Terrorism"
"The Black September Organization"
"The Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine"
"The Palestinian Intifada"
"Palestinian Terrorist Groups After 1988"
"Hizb'allah"
" Hamas"
Almog, "Cumulative Deterrence and the War on Terrorism"
Allen, "Palestinians Debate 'Polite' Resistance to Occupation"
Hass, "Deterrents that Haven't Deterred"
Hass, "Israel's Closure Policy"
Hass, "The Mirror Does Not Lie"
Hass, "Words Have Failed Us"

Week 14 "Every American is an enemy to us."

Migaux, "Al Qaeda" (Ch. 13)
Hersh, "The Killing of Osama bin Laden"
Gulmonhamad, "The Rise and Fall of the Islamic State"
Hersh, "The Red Line and the Rat Line"

Exam 3 Thursday

Research Paper Due Friday