Instructor Information

Professor Celeste Beesley
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Office Hours: T TH 1:30-3:00 & by appt
Class Locations: HRCB 122
Class Times: T Th 8:00-9:15 am

Course Overview and Objectives

In this course we study the variety of political violence known as terrorism. The course focuses on the definition of terrorism, its relationship to other types of political violence, its causes and effects, tactics of terrorism government responses to terrorism and their effectiveness. We will also discuss changes in terrorism over time, the morality of terrorism and counterterrorism, and its effects on international and domestic politics more broadly. In order to deepen our understanding of the theoretical approaches to terrorism we will discuss a number of different groups, campaigns, and incidents associated with terrorism.

In this course, assignments and activities will include quantitative problem sets, writing exercises, a research paper, group work, class discussions, video clips, and lectures. I value and appreciate your participation. I will solicit your feedback on class activities periodically throughout the semester.

The activities and assignments in this course address the learning outcomes of the political science major by encouraging you to 1) gain a knowledge of countries and wars, theoretically and factually; 2) write professional research papers; 3) communicate effectively in a high quality oral presentation, and 4) think critically, analytically and synthetically. A full list of the department learning outcomes can be accessed at https://learningoutcomes.byu.edu.

Requirements

Readings

Two books are required for purchase. Links to the other readings will be placed on the course site in Learning Suite. These readings are just as essential for your coursework as the two main texts. I reserve the right to change the readings by adding, dropping or reorganizing them. I will give you as much advance notice as possible if I choose to do so.

Assignments (70% of the course grade)

1) Participation and Attendance. Your first assignment, without which you will have a difficult time completing all others, is to come to class, be prepared, and speak, ask questions, and otherwise participate in the class. I would like to stress the importance of completing assigned readings by the date that they appear on the syllabus. If your individual attendance or participation becomes problematic, I will ask you to meet with me to work out a plan for greater participation. If participation becomes problematic as a group, I will begin giving unannounced reading quizzes at the beginning of class. 10%

2) Reading response papers. These are 1-page papers that you will write in response to readings. You will need to write ten (10) such papers over the course of the semester. You will need to demonstrate an understanding of how the course material applies as you respond to a prompt, article or video clip that I supply. The first paper is mandatory and will be due September 5th at the beginning of class. Thereafter, I will make a prompt, article, or video clip available each week by midnight on Thursday. The response paper will be due by the beginning of class on Tuesday. You may submit it electronically at any time before then or you may bring a hard copy to class on Tuesday (be on time). You will need to include the readings for that Tuesday in the response. Since there are 15 weeks in the semester, this means that you may choose which of the response papers you will complete. This will allow you to choose the topics you are most interested in and to manage your schedule. I would strongly encourage you to complete at least five of your required responses prior to the middle of the semester. The end of the semester tends to get very busy. 10% (1% per paper).

3) Two quantitative problem sets. We will be delving into some data on terrorism. You will be expected to manipulate the data graphically and statistically in order to draw some conclusions about terrorism. I will provide you with a set of questions to guide you in drawing those conclusions. The first problem set will come with detailed instructions to help remind you about the procedures for the analysis. 10% (5% per problem set).

4) A research paper. You will write a research paper answering a particular question or puzzle about terrorism. You may choose to write a paper based on a quantitative analysis (which must answer a question distinct from the analysis conducted in either of the problem sets above) OR you may conduct a comparative case study to draw a conclusion about terrorism. You will have to submit a proposal, a working bibliography, an outline, a rough draft (which will be peer reviewed), a final draft, and make an oral presentation about your findings. The paper should be 15-20 pages (of text). 40%

Further explanations of individual assignments and the expectations associated with them will be on Learning Suite well in advance of their due dates.
Exams (30%)

The midterm and final exams will consist of short answer identifications and essays. As the exams approach, I will provide more details about how to prepare for and take the exam. The midterm will be worth 10% of your course grade. The final exam will be worth 20% of your course grade. Both the midterm and final are cumulative.

Course Policies

Make up exams and assignments

Make up exams will only be given in the case of a documented emergency or as otherwise required by university policy. Response papers will not be accepted late. Unless an arrangement has been made with the professor prior to the due date, problem sets will be reduced a full letter grade for each day it is late. The research paper will be reduced 1/3 of a letter grade for each day late.

Assignment of Grades

Final letter grades will be assigned using the following scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B-(80-83), C+ (78-79), C (74-76), C- (70-73), D+ (67-69), D (64-66), D- (60-63), and F (59 and below).

If you have reason to believe that a grading error has been made, you must make a detailed argument in writing, outlining why you believe your grade to be in error. You must submit your written argument within 10 days of receiving your grade--after that, I will assume you have accepted the grade assigned.

Civility

Please mind your manners in class. This means that you should arrive promptly, avoid surfing the internet or reading newspapers during class, avoid packing up bags prior to the end of class, and refrain from talking on cell phones during class. It also means that you will be civil in all discussions. Each class member should feel free to express an opinion. Lively debate is intellectually stimulating and healthy. Demeaning another class member or making derogatory generalizations about any group of people are unacceptable behaviors.

Academic Integrity

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic
Honesty are found at [http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2010-2011ucat/GeneralInfo/HonorCode.php](http://saas.byu.edu/catalog/2010-2011ucat/GeneralInfo/HonorCode.php). Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

**Discrimination**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender based discrimination, please talk to your professor; contact the Equal Employment Opportunities Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

**Access**

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the University Accessibility Center (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the UAC office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.
Schedule

INTRODUCTION TO TERRORISM

WEEK 1
Tuesday September 3: Syllabus

Thursday September 5: What is terrorism? How does it differ from war, guerrilla war, revolution, insurgency, crime? Why do we need to know?

- Hoffman, pp. 1-41.
- Enders and Sandler pp. 1-17 & 23-27

Response Paper #1 Due Beginning of Class

WEEK 2
Tuesday September 10: Defining terrorism, theoretical and practical concerns

- Oliver Holmes. “Syria’s Assad says war is the only way to crush terrorism” Reuters August 5, 2013.

Thursday September 12: History of Terrorism

- Hoffman, Chps 2-3, pp 43-80

CAUSES OF TERRORISM

WEEK 3
Tuesday September 17: Why terrorism? Psychological Explanations

Research Paper Proposal Due Beginning of Class

Thursday September 19: Why terrorism? Economic Explanations


WEEK 4
Tuesday September 24: Why terrorism? Strategic explanations


STUDY OF TERRORISM

Thursday September 26: STATISTICAL METHODS

- Enders and Sandler, Ch 3, pp. 61-102.

First Problem Set posted. Due Thursday October 3.

CONDUCT OF TERRORISM

WEEK 5
Tuesday October 1: Tactics of Terrorism

- Hoffman, Ch 8, pp. 229-256
- Enders and Sandler Ch 7, pp. 201-237, + 275-278 “Changes in the Types of Attacks”

Thursday October 3: Tactics of Terrorism: Suicide Terrorism

- Pape, Robert A., “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism” American Political Science Review 97 (3): 343-357.
Hoffman, Ch 5, pp 131-171
Dr. Shaul Shay, “Suicide Terrorism in Lebanon.” ICT Conference Proceedings pp. 89-92
Dogu Ergil. “Suicide Terrorism in Turkey” ICT Conference Proceedings pp. 73-88

First Problem Set Due.

WEEK 6
Tuesday October 8: Targets of Terrorism

- Enders and Sandler: Ch. 2 pp. 28-60

Working Bibliography for Research Paper Due Beginning of Class

Thursday October 10: Targets of Terrorism: Public Opinion

- Hoffman, Ch 6-7, pp. 173-228

WEEK 7
Tuesday October 15: Terrorist Organizations

- Enders and Sandler, Ch 8, pp 238-268

Thursday October 17: Women and Terrorism


WEEK 8
Tuesday October 22: MIDTERM

TYPES OF TERRORISM

Thursday October 24: Religious Terrorism
- Hoffman Ch 4, pp 82-130

**WEEK 9**

**EFFECTS OF TERRORISM**

**Tuesday October 29: Economic Effects of Terrorism**

- Buesa and Gonzalez-Gomez, “The Economic Cost of 3/11” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 19(4), 489-509
- Enders and Sandler, Ch 10, pp. 288-316

**Thursday October 31: Targeted states and domestic political effects**


**WEEK 10**

**COUNTERTERRORISM**

**Tuesday November 5: Strategic Considerations**

- Enders and Sandler, Ch 4-5, pp. 103-169

  Research Paper Outline Due Beginning of Class

  Second Problem Set Posted. Due Tuesday November 12

**Thursday November 7: International cooperation on counterterrorism**

- Enders and Sandler, Ch 6 pp. 170-200

**WEEK 11**

**Tuesday November 12: Domestic Efforts**
• Enders and Sandler, Ch 11, pp. 317-344

Second Problem Set Due Beginning of Class

Thursday November 14: Winning Hearts and Minds


WEEK 12
Tuesday November 19: Counterterrorism Outcomes

• Seth Jones, Martin Libicki “How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for countering al Qaida” Rand corporation monograph. Summary (pp. xiii-xviii), Chapters 2, (pp. 9-44), 7. (pp121-140)

MORAL ISSUES AND TERRORISM

Thursday November 21: Morality of Terrorism and CounterTerrorism

• Neta Crawford, “Just War Theory and the US Counterterror War” Perspectives on Politics, March 2003
• Noam Chomsky, “Terror and Just Response” July 2 2002 Znet

Rough Draft Due by Beginning of Class. You must submit a copy to the professor and to your peer review group. You must read and send comments to those in your group by noon on Wednesday November 27.

WEEK 13
Tuesday November 26 Friday Instruction per academic calendar

Thursday November 28 No Class, Thanksgiving

WEEK 14
Tuesday December 3: The Future of Terrorism
- Enders and Sandler, Ch 12, pp. 345-362
- Hoffman, Ch 9, pp 257-296

Thursday December 5: Oral Presentations

WEEK 15
Tuesday December 10: Oral Presentations
Thursday December 12: Oral Presentations

Final Draft of Research Papers Due.

**Websites you may find interesting**

These links are also posted on Learning Suite.


State Department Travel Advisories: [http://travel.state.gov/](http://travel.state.gov/)

International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism: [http://www.ict.org.il/](http://www.ict.org.il/)


National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism: [www.start.umd.edu/start](http://www.start.umd.edu/start)

Global Terrorism Datatbase: [http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/)

**A Final Note**

In this course we will be reading about and discussing events and incidences of a tragic and, for many, upsetting nature. We will discuss some truly terrible acts that have been committed by some of our Heavenly Father’s children against others of our Heavenly Father’s children. If and when these things become upsetting to you, remember the words of Mormon to his son, Moroni, written in their time of great violence and wickedness. If you read the preceding verses in this chapter you will see why I found this verse particularly suitable here.

My son, be faithful in Christ; and may not the things which I have written grieve thee, to weigh thee down unto death; but may Christ lift thee up, and may his sufferings and death, and the showing his body unto our fathers, and his mercy and long-suffering, and the hope of his glory and of eternal life, rest in your mind forever. Moroni 9:25