

Terrorism and Response

Mr. Yisrael Neeman

Course Number: 702.2199

Semester: Mini Semester July 2017

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Class Time: Mon/Wed/Thurs 14:00 – 17:00

Course Description:

This course will examine the issue of terrorism as a growing form of political violence into the 21st Century. The last three decades of the 20th Century witnessed a phenomenal growth in terrorist activity around the world. Some groups rose and fell quite rapidly, but others have managed sustained campaigns and have achieved spectacular tactical success, among them the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

We will investigate the causes, methods and responses involved in the ongoing conflict between terrorist organizations and their adversaries.

Topics covered will include:

- What is terrorism, as distinct from other forms of violence?
- What are the objectives of terrorists?
- What are the strategy and tactics of terrorists? Is suicide terrorism a distinct form of terrorism or another tactic among many?
- Why do terrorists use the tactics of terrorism? Is the use of terrorist tactics ever justified?
- What is the history of terrorism and terrorist organizations?
- What are some of the major terrorist groups active today?
- How do religious beliefs and ideological dogma aid terrorists?
- Does terrorism work? Does it achieve strategic goals?
- How do terrorist organizations transform?
- Can terrorism be deterred, defeated or prevented? Is there a military solution?
- Is the use of torture ever justified for extracting information from terrorists? Targeted assassination?

Readings:

Required: Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, New York: Columbia, 1998.

Requirements, grades, and so on

This course has just a few simple requirements: read the assignments, attend class, participate in discussions, write the papers, and pass the tests. I know that these are unique, unheard of requirements, but I'm a kind of unique teacher.

Grades will be based as follows:

In class mid-term exam:	35%
Final exam:	50%
Class participation:	15%

It is not enough to attend class, I expect you to participate intelligently. In order to do this, you must do the readings (at least the required ones), think about them, come to class, listen to others in class (myself and your colleagues), think a bit more, and speak reasonably coherently about your thoughts. This is what academia is all about.

Behavior

In this course we will engage issues of the utmost importance. We will debate questions of life and death; conduct detailed discussions of horrible tragedies, heinous crimes, and strategies for killing innocent people. Given this it is extremely important that we maintain an environment of respect for the people and issues involved and also for each other. Differences of opinion will be the norm. I encourage and demand debate from you, but I will also demand respect for opposing viewpoints. To this end I will tolerate neither personal attacks nor non-class related talking in class, any inappropriate language and please kill those cell phones during class.

Class 1: Monday July 3 Introduction – Course Requirements, Expectations and Assorted Bureaucratic Housekeeping

Definitions and Concepts

Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 1, “Defining Terrorism”

Boaz Ganor, “Defining Terrorism: Is One Man’s Terrorist Another Man’s Freedom Fighter?”

4th Geneva Convention – Preamble and Part 1, General Provisions Articles 1-12.

Class 2: Wednesday July 5 A Little History: The Origins of Terrorism –From the French Revolution to Russian anarchists through the Algerian Case

Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 2 "The Post Colonial Era"

Class 3: Thursday July 6 Terrorist Goals, Targets, Methods and Strategy

Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 6, “The Modern Terrorist Mindset: Tactics, Targets, and Technologies”

Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism”

Class 4: Monday, July 10 Terrorist Organizations in the Arab Israeli Conflict

Hamas and Hezbollah – Factoring in Islam - Revolt against secular Arab nationalism?

David Schiller, “A Battlegroup Divided: The Palestinian Fedayeen,” in David Rapoport, *Inside Terrorist Organizations*, pp. 90-108.

Barry Rubin, *Revolution Until Victory*, especially Chapters 1-4.

Hroub, Khaled, *Hamas: Political Thought and Practice*, Chapter 1 "How it All Began" pp. 11-41.

Class 5: Wednesday July 12, Theater and Communication
Ethical Issues in Fighting Terrorism

Hoffman, *Terrorism*, Chapter 5 "Terrorism, the Media and Public Opinion"

ISIS Media

<http://heavy.com/tag/isis/>

(Specific and most recent video clips TBA)

Michael Walzer, "Excusing Terror"

<http://prospect.org/article/excusing-terror>

Class 6: Thursday July 13 Religious Terrorism

Analyzing Religious Terror

Hoffman, *Terrorism*, Chapter 4 "Religion and Terrorism"

Mark Juergensmeyer, "The Logic of Religious Violence," in David Rapoport, *Inside Terrorist Organizations*, pp. 172-193

Ami Pedahzur, *Suicide Terrorism*, Chapter 3, "How Can Suicide Terrorism be Explained?"

Class 7: Monday July 17 Dilemmas in Response

Military and Non-Military

US National Strategy for Combating Terrorism

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/.../2015_national_security_strategy.pdf

Download PDF – "Combating Terrorism Center at West Point"

<https://www.ctc.usma.edu/v2/wp-content/uploads/.../Vol1Iss3-Art5.pdf>

Daniel Pipes, "God and Mammon: Does Poverty Cause Militant Islam?"

National Interest, Winter 2001-2002

<http://www.danielpipes.org/104/god-and-mammon-does-poverty-cause-militant-islam>

Class 8: Wednesday July 19 Theological Motivations – Is Jihad Terror?

Koran – Chapters 8 and 9 (often referred to as the "Jihadi" Chapters)

<https://quran.com/8>

<https://quran.com/9>

The Quran's Verses of Violence – Religion of Peace -

<http://www.thereligionofpeace.com/pages/quran/violence.aspx>

Join the Caravan – Abdullah Azzam

<https://ebooks.worldofislam.info/ebooks/Jihad/Join%20the%20Caravan.pdf>

Can Terror be Understood – Laurent Murawiel
<http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2008/10/can-terror-be-understood/>

World Islamic Front Statement Urging War Against Jews and Crusaders – Osama bin Laden
<http://fas.org/irp/world/para/docs/980223-fatwa.htm>

Terrorism and Jihad: Perspectives – Philipp Holtmann
<http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/352/html>

About Jihad: Islam, Jihad and Terrorism
www.aboutjihad.com/terrorism/islam_jihad_terrorism.php

Jihad, Terrorism and Suicide Bombings: The Classical Islamic Perspective
<http://www.islamicsupremecouncil.org/understanding-islam/legal-rulings/21-jihad-classical-islamic-perspective.html>

Class 9: Thursday July 20 Hybrid Islamic Organizations (Sunni)

The Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas
The "Dawa" (Calling) and Jihad

The Hamas Covenant
avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

Yisrael Ne'eman, *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter 2, "Arab Islamist Ideologues – Jihad Past and Present"

Khaled Hroub, *Hamas Political Thought and Practice*, Chapter 1, "How it All Began," pp. 11 – 41.

Class 10: Monday July 24 Theological Motivations: Hybrid Islamic Organizations (Shia)
Iran, Khomeinism and Hezbollah

Amir Taheri, *Holy Terror*, pp. 225 – 240.

Naim Qassem, *Hezbollah: The Story from Within* pp. 67 – 123.

Class 11: Wednesday July 26 Film "Unthinkable" and The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)
Film *Unthinkable* - Discussion

David Patterson, *Genocide in Jewish Thought* – Chapter on Torture

Wikipedia – Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_State_of_Iraq_and_the_Levant#Supporters

Islamic State Group – Full History BBC
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35695648>

[The Islamic State's \(ISIS, ISIL\) Magazine - Clarion Project](http://www.clarionproject.org/.../islamic-state-isis-isil-propaganda-magazine-da..)
www.clarionproject.org/.../islamic-state-isis-isil-propaganda-magazine-da..

When Fear is a Weapon: How Terror Attacks Influence Mental Health

<http://theconversation.com/when-fear-is-a-weapon-how-terror-attacks-influence-mental-health-51010>

**Class 12: Thursday July 27 – Final Multiple Choice Test (One Hour) and ISIL
Is Conflict Resolution Possible?**

Remainder of Class

ISIS/ISIL – Jihad in the name of Allah? Terror State being forced underground?

Future Solutions? Military and otherwise? WMDs?

Islamic State (ISIS) – Council on Foreign Relations

<http://www.cfr.org/iraq/islamic-state/p14811>

Terrorism is an Understandable Response to the West's Wars in the Middle East

- Philip Weiss

<http://mondoweiss.net/2015/12/terrorism-understandable-response/>

The Islamic State and WMD – Stephen Hummel

<https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/the-islamic-state-and-wmd-assessing-the-future-threat>

Yisrael Ne'eman – *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter 9 "Conflict Resolution in the Shadow of Islamic Abrogation"