

Terrorism and Responses

Mr. Yisrael Neeman

Course Number: 702.2199

Semester: Spring 2019

Class Time: Thursday 15:15-17:45

Class Location: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

Location: TBA

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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?

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.

Grades will be based as follows:

Final exam:	50%
Final paper	50%
Points added for Class participation	

It is not enough to attend class as there is an expectation of intelligent discussion. Do the readings, think about them, listen to others in class (myself and your colleagues) and speak reasonably coherently about your thoughts.

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 debate from you, but will also seek respect for opposing viewpoints. To this end we expect students to deal with the topics at hand devoid of personal animosity towards someone else with an opposing view.

Furthermore please kill those cell phones during class.

Week 1 – Defining Terrorism

Discussion – What is Terrorism? Guerilla Warfare? Differences?

Objectives and Actions

Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 1, "Defining Terrorism"

Drop Box Folder

Boaz Ganor – "Defining Terrorism: Is One Man's Terrorist Another Man's Freedom Fighter?"

<https://www.ict.org.il/.../Defining-Terrorism-Is-One-Mans-Terrorist-Another-Mans-Freedom>

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

http://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/atrocity-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

Week 2 – Background History – The Origins of Terrorism

From the French Revolution thru Russian anarchists and the Far Left

Terrorism or guerilla warfare? Examples: Cyprus, Palestine Mandate (Jewish revolt against the British) and the Algerian case

Traditional Stages in Revolution: Does Terrorism play a part? Do we differentiate?

Handout – *Stages in Revolution* (Yisrael Ne'eman)

BBC - Who Were the Baader-Meinhof Gang?

[news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6314559.stm](https://www.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/6314559.stm)

Hoffman, Chapter 2 "The Post Colonial Era"

Week 3 – Strategy and Terrorism

Goals, Targets, Methods

Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 6, "The Modern Terrorist Mindset"

The Ultimate Sacrifice? A Glimpse for the Moment – Does it Succeed?

Robert Pape, *The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism*

www.columbia.edu/itc/...7/Strategic%20Logic%20of%20Suicide%20Missions.pdf

Week 4 - 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

The Logic of Suicide Terrorism – Rand Corporation

www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/reprints/2005/RAND_RP1187.pdf

Week 5 – Terror Organizations in the Arab-Israel Conflict

The secular PLO/Fatah and internationalization – 1970s

The Black Hand (early Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood) prior to 1948

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

[Sheikh Izz ad-Din al-Qassam - MidEastWeb](http://www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/sheikh_izz_ad-din_al-qassam.htm)

www.mideastweb.org/Middle-East-Encyclopedia/sheikh_izz_ad-din_al-qassam.htm

Naim Qassem *Hizbollah: The Story from Within* – Vision and Goals, pp. 55-66.

Barry Rubin, *Revolution Until Victory*, Chapters 1 – 3, pp. 1-65.

Shai Lachman, *Arab Rebellion and Terrorism in Palestine 1929-39*.

Week 6 - Dilemmas in Response

Military and Non-Military

Download PDF – "Combating Terrorism Center at West Point"

<https://ctc.usma.edu/posts/the-salafi-jihad-as-a-religious-ideology>

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>

The Logic of Suicide Terrorism – Rand Corporation

<https://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/RP1187/index2.html>

Robert Pape: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism

www.columbia.edu/.../Strategic%20Logic%20of%20Suicide%20Missions.pdf

Week 7 - *Terrorism as Theater and Communication/*

Ethical Issues in Fighting Terrorism

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

Brendon I. Koerner

[Why ISIS Is Winning the Social Media War | WIRED](#)

<https://www.wired.com/2016/03/isis-winning-social-media-war-heres-beat/>

ISIS Media

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

(Specific and most recent video clips TBA)

Michael Walzer, "Excusing Terror"

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

Week 8 - *Theological Motivations*

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

(Each verse in this link is accompanied by the Arabic)

<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>

[The Way of Jihad : Complete Text by Hassan Al Banna](#)

actmemphis.org/MB-The-Way-of_Jihad-by-al-Banan.pdf

Abdullah Azzam *Join the Caravan*

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

OR

Abdullah Azzam *Join the Caravan*

https://archive.org/stream/JoinTheCaravan/JoinTheCaravan_djvu.txt

Can Terror be Understood – Laurent Murawiec

<http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2008/10/can-terror-be-understood/>

Osama bin Laden's Fatwa 1996

https://is.muni.cz/el/1423/jaro2010/MVZ203/OBL_AQ_Fatwa_1996.pdf

Osama bin Laden - World Islamic Front Statement Urging War Against Jews and Crusaders –

<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>

Week 9 - Theological Motivations: Hybrid Islamic Organizations (Sunni)

The Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas

The "Dawa" (Calling) and Jihad

The Hamas Covenant - [The Avalon Project](http://TheAvalonProject.org) : Hamas Covenant 1988

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.

[Hamas Islamic Resistance - A Document of General Principles and Policies](#)

[hamas.ps/en/post/678/a-document-of-general-principles-and-policies](https://www.hamas.ps/en/post/678/a-document-of-general-principles-and-policies)

Week 10 - 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.

Week 11 - Film "Unthinkable" and The Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)

Film *Unthinkable* – Discussion

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_8B3HCe3p8

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](#)

www.clarionproject.org/.../islamic-state-isis-isil-propaganda-magazine-da...

Psychological damage to victims

[The Psychological Effects of Witnessing Terrorism | Geopolitical Monitor](#)

<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/the-psychological-effects-of-witnessing-terrorism/>

Syria's Path to Islamic Terror

<https://www.meforum.org/articles/2009/syria-s-path-to-islamist-terror>

Syria's financial support for Jihad

<https://www.meforum.org/articles/2010/syria-s-financial-support-for-jihad>

Starving bombing civilians in the guise of "fighting terrorism"

<https://www.aljazeera.com/.../starving-bombing-civilians-fighting-terrorism-18051708...>

Taking all the wrong steps in Syria, Iraq and the fight against terrorism

<https://www.csis.org/.../taking-all-wrong-steps-syria-iraq-and-fight-against-terrorism>

Assad has learned that chemical attacks are a tactic that works

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/.../assad-has-learned-chemical-attacks-are-tactic-works>

Assad regime barrel bombs relief web

<https://reliefweb.int/.../syrian.../assad-regime-has-dropped-nearly-70000-barrel-bombs>

Week 12 – Assessing Future Threats/Seeking Solutions

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"