

Terrorism and Response

Mr. Yisrael Neeman

Course Number: 702.2199

Semester: Fall 2020

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Class Time: Wednesday 16:00 – 18:30

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:

- Defining terrorism as distinct from other forms of violence.
- The strategy and tactics and ultimate objectives of terrorists. Is suicide terrorism a distinct form of terrorism or another tactic among many?
- Guerilla warfare vs. terrorism. Is the use of terrorist tactics ever justified?
- Justifying terrorism to overthrow or support the state
- The history of terrorism and terrorist organizations
- Defining and understanding the major terrorist groups active today
- Religious beliefs and ideological dogma in the aid of terrorists
- Accessing terrorist accomplishments. Does it achieve strategic goals?
- Deterring, defeating or preventing terrorism - Is there a military solution?
- Is the use of torture 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. There is a Field Study to the Lebanese border and the Golan on Sunday May 5 – attendance is mandatory.

Grades will be based as follows:

Midterm paper or exam:	33%
Final paper	67%
Up to 5 points added for participation/ 15 minute in class presentation	

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Take Home Essay - 5 pages – Due as a Mid Term

Take Home Final Essay – 10 pages (67%) – Due Two Weeks After Semester Ends

All essays are to be presented in “Word” and accompanied by endnotes/footnotes and a bibliography

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.

Bibliography may change slightly depending on developing events. Materials may be removed or added. Course load will **remain constant**.

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.

Class 1, Oct 21 – *Defining Terrorism*

Discussion – What is Terrorism? Guerilla Warfare? Differences?

Objectives and Actions

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

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/atrocities-crimes/Doc.33_GC-IV-EN.pdf

Class 2, Oct 28 - *Background History – The Origins of Terrorism*

From the French Revolution thru Russian anarchism/the Far Left and anti-colonialism

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

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

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Terrorism or guerilla warfare? National Liberation Insurgencies in the Post Colonial Period

Examples: Cyprus, Palestine Mandate (Jewish revolt against the British) and the Algerian case

Hoffman, Chapter 2 "The End of Empire and the Origins of Contemporary Terrorism"

Class 3, Nov 4 – Ideological Terrorism

Goals, Targets, Methods: Left, Right and Religious inspired Terrorism

BBC - Who Were the Baader-Meinhof Gang? (The Left)

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

Racial Theory and Terror - ***White Supremacist Violence is Terrorism***

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/02/white-supremacist-violence-terrorism/606964/>

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

Class 4, Nov 11 – Terror Organizations: Arab-Israel Conflict (Into the 1980s)

National and Religious

Jewish/Zionist - Etzel/Lehi – previously mentioned but added in a different light

Kahanism and the Jewish Underground

Fundamentalism, Terrorism and Democracy (Gush Emunim Underground) – Ehud Sprinzak

https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/ACLURM018956.pdf

Palestinian National and Islamic

[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

The secular PLO/Fatah and **Internationalization** – 1970s

Hijackings, Munich Olympics, Entebbe, South Lebanon (Fatahland)

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

Class 5, Nov 18 - *Islamist Foundational Concepts – Late 20th and into the 21st Century*

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>

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

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

<http://fas.org/irp/world/para/docs/980223-fatwa.htm>

Class 6, Nov 25 – *Media Impact and Dilemmas in Response* *Media Impact (Part I)*

Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism*, Chapter 6, "The Old Media, Terrorism and Public Opinion"

New Media

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/>

Part II: Analyzing Causes to Ensure Effective Response

Military and Non-Military

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>

Michael Walzer, "Excusing Terror"

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

Class 7, Dec 2 - *Theological Motivations: Hybrid Islamic Organizations (Sunni)*

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

Yisrael Ne'eman, *Hamas Jihad*, Chapter "Development of Hamas 1948-2000" pp. 160-197

The Hamas Covenant - [The Avalon Project : Hamas Covenant 1988](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp)
avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

[Hamas Islamic Resistance - A Document of General Principles and Policies](http://hamas.ps/en/post/678/a-document-of-general-principles-and-policies)
hamas.ps/en/post/678/a-document-of-general-principles-and-policies
(Articles 18-23 in particular)

Class 8, Dec 9 - *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 9, Dec 16 – *The Rise of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)*

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

Syria's Path to Islamist Terror
<http://www.michaelrubin.org/6606/syria-islamist-terrorism>

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

Class 10, Dec 23 – *Islamic State Victories, Victims and Brutality: Defeat (2011-2020)?*

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

Foreign Attacks and Movie “Unthinkable”

Film *Unthinkable* – Discussion
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_8B3HCe3p8

Foreign attacks – ISIL/ISIL
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_terrorist_incidents_linked_to_ISIL

Psychological damage to victims

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[The Psychological Effects of Witnessing Terrorism | Geopolitical Monitor](https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/the-psychological-effects-of-witnessing-terrorism/)
<https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/the-psychological-effects-of-witnessing-terrorism/>

Class 11, Dec 30 – *State Terror vs. Jihadi Terror* **Part I: Syrian Multi-Sided Conflict**

Syria's financial support for Jihad – Matthew Levitt

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

Starving and 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- Antony Cordesman

<https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/381666-dont-take-the-wrong-steps-in-syria-iraq-and-the-fight-against>

Assad has learned that chemical attacks are a tactic that works

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

Class 12, Jan 6 - *Other Jihadi Actors/Battlegrounds*

International: Pakistan and India

Internal: China and Xinjiang

Others: Boko Haram in Africa, Taliban in Afghanistan, Chechnia in Russia

“Jihadism” in Wikipedia

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jihadism>

Part I: India and Pakistan

Brookings Institute – Mumbai Terror Attack Group Lashkar-e-Tayyiba

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/mumbai-terror-attack-group-lashkar-e-tayyiba-now-more-dangerous-than-al-qaeda/>

Lashkar-e-Taiba

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Lashkar-e-Taiba>

Part II: China and the Uighur Minority

National Liberation/Religion (Islam) vs. State? Terrorism and Counter Terrorism?



Why is there tension between China and the Uighurs? -

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-26414014>

China's Changing Strategy in Xinjiang - MIT Press Journals

https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/isec_a_00368

Class 13, Jan 13 - *Assessing Future Threats/Seeking Solutions*

**ISIS/ISIL – Jihad in the name of Allah? Terror State being forced underground?
Future Solutions? Military and otherwise? WMDs?**

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"

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