

## **Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

PL 334

### **Summary of Course Content:**

This course covers the development of terrorism and counterterrorism from the early times to present. Attention is given to the various articulations of terrorism including political, ethnic, separatist, religious, and state terrorism. The debate over “new” vs. “old” typologies of terrorism is reviewed. Terrorism is analyzed as a political phenomenon in contrast to different forms of political violence including insurgency, guerrilla warfare, civil war, ethnic cleansing, unconventional warfare, and crime. The challenges of terrorism to a free society are discussed in relation to globalization realities. Major political, scholarly, and religious interpretations of terrorism’s different eras and phenomena are considered. Counterterrorism and its articulations including “War on Terror” are the conclusive subjects of the program. The class format includes lectures, discussion, teamwork, presentations, and audiovisual materials. Students will be asked to produce a research project, making extensive personal use of information and communication technology. Guest speakers and field trips are planned.

### **Course Description:**

This course will provide the student with an understanding and basic foundation to explain and compare the varying definitions of terrorism; distinguish the different types of terrorist motivations including left-wing, right-wing, ethno-nationalist, separatists, and religious; to differentiate terrorism from other forms of violence including political violence, guerilla warfare, insurgency, civil war, unconventional warfare, and crime; understand and describe the historical foundations of terrorism and apply them to modern terrorist events and methods being used to combat them.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

Students will develop the ability to critically analyze the evolution and the diversity of terrorism and counterterrorism. They will be able to relate theories with political structures, players, and phenomena within the global political and religious context. Students will develop the ability to conduct basic research, and organize and present their findings with respect to the topics, in a logical and cogent manner.

### **Textbook:**

- Howard R. D., Hoffman B., *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. London, 2012. ISBN 978-0-07-352778-9
- Abu Bakr Naji, *The Management of Savagery*. J. M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies. Harvard University, 2006. (on-line)
- The Economist, The International New York Times, The Guardian: “*On Terrorism*”, 2016-2017.
- Supplementary Reading Materials to be assigned (*assigned readings*)

### **Required reserved readings:**

- Law R., *Terrorism: A Story*. Polity, 2016. ISBN 0745690904
- Stainforth A., *Blackstone’s Counter-Terrorism Handbook*. Oxford, 2013. ISBN 0199658099
- English R., *Does Terrorism Work?*, OUP Oxford, 2016. ISBN 0199607850
- Nacos B. L., *Terrorism and Counterterrorism*. Routledge, 2016. ISBN 1138190144

### **Recommended reserved readings:**

- Nesser P., *Islamic Terrorism in Europe*. Hurst, 2016. ISBN 1849044058
- Unal M.C., *Counterterrorism in Turkey*. Routledge, 2013. ISBN 0415713641
- English R., *Armed Struggle: The History of the IRA*. Pan, 2012. ISBN 1447212495
- Meade R. C., *Red Brigades: The Story of Italian Terrorism*. Palgrave, 2014. ISBN 1349203068

## **Program:**

- Unit 1 Introduction. Methodology. Definitions. Globalization. Identity. (assigned readings)  
(Aug. 28, 30)
- Unit 2 Defining Terrorism. Means. Ends. Motives. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 1-54; Naji pp. 1-10; assigned readings)  
(Sep. 4, 6)
- Unit 3 Understanding the Facilitators of Modern Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 55-139; Naji pp. 11-22; assigned readings)  
(Sep. 11, 13)
- Unit 4 The New Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 140-237; Naji pp. 23-30; assigned readings)  
(Sep. 18, 20, 22)
- Unit 5 Religion and the Intersection with Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 238-293; Naji pp. 31-45; assigned readings)  
(Sep. 25, 27)
- Unit 6 Case Study Analysis. Class Discussion. (Naji pp. 46-53; assigned readings)  
(Oct. 2, 4\*)
- \* MIDTERM EXAM
- Unit 7 Case Study Analysis. Class Discussion. (Naji pp. 54-61; assigned readings)  
(Oct. 9, 11)
- Unit 8 Evolving Methods and Modes of Attack. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 294-423; assigned readings)  
(Oct. 16, 18)
- Unit 9 The Challenge of Terrorism to a Free Society. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 424-480; Naji pp. 62-71; assigned readings)  
(Oct. 23, 25\*)
- \* PROJECT PROPOSAL
- Unit 10 Case Study Analysis. Class Discussion. Strategies for Combating Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 481-592; Naji pp. 72-80; assigned readings)  
(Oct. 30)
- Unit 11 Eclectic Approaches to Countering Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 593-649; Naji pp. 81-89; assigned readings)  
(Nov. 6, 8)
- Unit 12 Winning the War on Terrorism. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 650-737; Naji pp. 90-100; assigned readings)  
(Nov. 13, 15)
- Unit 13 Counterterrorism in a Post-bin Laden World. (Howard & Hoffman pp. 738-778; Naji pp. 101-112; assigned readings)  
(Nov. 20, 22)
- Unit 14 Case Studies Review. Class Discussion. Conclusion. (assigned readings)  
(Nov. 27, 29\*)
- \* FINAL REAEARCH PROJECT \* PORTFOLIO
- (Dec. 3-7 tba \*)
- \* FINAL EXAM

## Films/Audiovisual Materials Sessions:

- (Monday Sep. 25 at 19:30) "on State Terror"  
(Monday Oct. 23 at 19:30) "on Historical Terrorism"  
(Monday Nov. 6 at 19:30) "on Contemporary Terrorism"

## NOTE:

The syllabus schedule may undergo reasonable changes in relation to guest speakers, field trips, make-ups, discussions, events, and other contingencies.

**Course requirements:**

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).  
A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).  
A Presentation and Reports, in class.  
Regular attendance and participation in class.

**Exams:**

The midterm and final exam have the same format. The exams consist of two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose from one of three proposed themes, and will write a well-organized essay. The second part of the exam consists of ten terms to be concisely defined.

**Final Project:**

The final paper (3,000 words) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. An electronic version of the project must be given to the instructor in class, in person, during any of the last four classes. Files sent by email are not accepted. The deadline is the last class. No materials will be accepted past the deadline. To produce the final project, students will receive written instructions in class. During the semester, students will show the instructor their final project work in progress and receive checks. Portfolio: in order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper. A portfolio containing samples of reference materials must be attached to the final project.

**In-class Presentation:**

Students are required give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice, approved by the instructor and related to the class program. The presentation will be well organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A draft presentation must be submitted to the instructor before presenting in class. An electronic version of the presentation must be given to the instructor in class, in person, during any of the last four classes. Files sent by email are not accepted. The deadline is the last class. No materials will be accepted past the deadline.

**Assessment Methods:**

Class participation: 10%  
Midterm exam: 20%.  
Presentation and other assignments: 15%.  
Final exam: 25%.  
Final project (with project proposal and portfolio): 30%.  
Improvement over the semester will be rewarded.

Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

**Assessment Criteria:**

**A.** Work of this quality directly addresses the question or problem raised and provides a coherent argument displaying an extensive knowledge of relevant information or content. This type of work demonstrates the ability to critically evaluate concepts and theory and has an element of novelty and originality. There is clear evidence of a significant amount of reading beyond that required for the course.

**B.** This is highly competent level of performance and directly addresses the question or problem raised. There is a demonstration of some ability to critically evaluate theory and concepts and relate them to practice. Discussions reflect the student's own arguments and are not simply a repetition of standard lecture and reference material. The work does not suffer from any major errors or omissions and provides evidence of reading beyond the required assignments.

**C.** This is an acceptable level of performance and provides answers that are clear but limited, reflecting the information offered in the lectures and reference readings.

**D.** This level of performances demonstrates that the student lacks a coherent grasp of the material. Important information is omitted and irrelevant points included. In effect, the student has barely done enough to persuade the instructor that s/he should not fail.

**F.** This work fails to show any knowledge or understanding of the issues raised in the question. Most of the material in the answer is irrelevant.

**Attendance requirements:**

A maximum of four absences are allowed throughout the semester. Any additional absence will result in a penalization of one grade level (e.g.: from B+ to B for five absences, B+ to B- for six absences, B+ to C+ for seven absences, etc.). Two lateness count for one absence. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class by calling students' names. Students not answering will be marked absent. Students arrived late will ask the instructor to be marked late at the end of the class, after which attendance records will not be modified.

**Use of Computers in class:**

The use of personal computers and technological devices in class is not permitted except for taking notes, or contributing to class activity during designated times. Students not respecting the rule will be penalized by getting no points in the Class Participation requirement (worth 10% of the final grade). Recording and filming in class is not allowed.

**Library/lab sessions:**

The class will meet sometimes in the library/lab to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

**Guest speakers:**

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

**Field trips:**

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

**Recommended films:**

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

Wajda A., *Danton*. Hood G., *Eye in the Sky*.

**Journals:**

*Terrorism and Political Violence*. *Perspectives on Terrorism*. *Terrorism An International Journal*.

**Internet sites:**

<https://ent.siteintelgroup.com>

<https://www.carabinieri.it>

<https://www.dhs.gov>

**Academic honesty:**

As stated in the university catalog, any student who commits an act of academic dishonesty will receive a failing grade on the work in which the dishonesty occurred. In addition, acts of academic dishonesty, irrespective of the weight of the assignment, may result in the student receiving a failing grade in the course. Instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Academic Affairs. A student who is reported twice for academic dishonesty is subject to summary dismissal from the University. In such a case, the Academic Council will then make a recommendation to the President, who will make the final decision.

**Students with learning or other disabilities:**

John Cabot University does not discriminate on the basis of disability or handicap. Students with approved accommodations must inform their professors at the beginning of the term. Please see the website for the complete policy.

This syllabus is on line: [www.gabrielesimoncini.it](http://www.gabrielesimoncini.it)

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