

INTL 4410: Terrorism

(CRN 47124)

University of Georgia, Spring 2019

MWF 10:10 - 11:00

Caldwell Hall 107

Instructor: Young Sang Kim

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Office Hours: By appointment

Course Overview and Objectives

What is terrorism and what motivates one to become a terrorist? When are people likely to rebel? Are counterterrorism or repression efforts successful? What issues and challenges does terrorism pose to the study of international relations? This course focuses on the social scientific study of terrorism. Throughout the semester, we will focus on scientific explanations for rebellion, the rise of terrorist organizations, political and economic explanations for terrorist attacks, and the effects of efforts to combat terrorism. After this course, students are expected to possess not only an understanding of the major players and factors influencing terrorism, but a base understanding of the broader social scientific process and literature that discuss political violence and rebellion more generally. As such, this class is NOT a history class or a class on current events. Though current and historical events will be discussed, your grade will not depend on your ability to simply recite and memorize these events. Instead, the focus will be on understanding the underlying interests of important actors for international security, the arenas in which these actors interact, and the rules which govern their interactions. This focus on the basic principles will provide students with a practical knowledge of the study of terrorism.

We will begin the semester by first defining terrorism and then focusing on the social scientific method and its role in the study of political violence. After this introduction, the class will be divided into four major sections: (1) background theory on collective action, social movements, and political violence, (2) theoretical frameworks for the causes and goals of terrorism, (3) scholarship on how terrorism works and who is targeted by terrorism, and (4) counterterrorism strategies and the effect of terrorism to individuals, states, and the international community.

Required Materials

No materials in this course are required to purchase in this course. All readings (mostly articles from academic journals and a few book chapters) will be electronically available via our class webpage on the e-Learning Commons. The instructor may decide to include additional material through the semester, but even in that case all of them will be available online.

Students are expected to complete the readings in preparation for the day of class on which they are assigned. Lectures and discussions will complement and supplement (not replace) the reading materials.

When doing your readings, it works best to identify each reading's research question, theory, hypotheses, empirical analysis, and conclusion. Also, try to identify one or two problems or questions you have with the work.

Course Requirements

There are 6 graded components to the course.

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|--|---|
| (1) Attendance and Participation (15%) | (2) Quiz (15%) |
| (3) Group Project: Presentation (15%) | (4) Group Project: Individual Paper (15%) |
| (5) Midterm Exam (20%) | (6) Final Exam (20%) |

Attendance and Participation (15%)

Attendance and participation will play an essential part in this course. Attendance will not be checked every single meeting due to time constraints, but there will be random attendance checks throughout the semester. Throughout those random checks, students will get one unexcused absence without penalty. After the first unexcused absence, each unexcused absence will result in a single point deduction from your attendance and participation grade. There will also be unannounced quizzes during the semester, where a make-up quiz is only allowed under documented (excused) absences. If this is the case (doctor's appointment, illness, college-sanctioned events, etc.), please notify the instructor to schedule make-up quizzes or exams. Provided with the necessary documentation, these absences will not count against your attendance and participation grade.

I would also like to emphasize class participation, which will help us broaden our horizons and deepen our understanding about the topics discussed in class. Participation will be assessed both in quality and quantity. The first step toward participating in class is attending class and reading the course materials prior to the day they are assigned.

Quiz (15%)

There will be 4 unannounced quizzes during the semester. The quizzes may cover materials from the assigned readings, previous lectures and presentations from your peers. Out of the four quizzes (each worth 5%), the lowest score will be dropped, and the sum of the rest will be your grade for the quiz. Make-up quizzes will only be given to students who had a documented (excused) absence on the day of the quiz. The student has one week from the date of absence to contact the instructor and schedule a make-up quiz (and the same policy will apply for the exams as well).

Group Project: Presentation (15%)

Around the last two weeks of the semester, we will have group presentation that provide backgrounds on terrorist groups and/or events in the 20th and 21st century. You can choose your own group, between 3-4 people. Each group member should focus on collecting information on one of the following topics:

- (1) Group grievances – Why is this group fighting?
- (2) Group leadership and recruitment – Who is in charge of this group? How does the group get its members?
- (3) Group funding and attention – How does this group get its funds? How does the group get media attention?
- (4) Group attacks – What type of attacks has the group carried out? Why were these attacks carried out?
- (5) Counterterrorism efforts – What efforts have countries taken to stop this group and its activities? Were these efforts successful?

You will combine your research into one 20-minute visual presentation (PowerPoint, for example) to be given to your classmates on selected dates. The presentation should also include a Q&A session with the audience within the given time. A rubric for this assignment will be made available online through eLC.

Group Project: Individual Paper (15%)

For the portion of the group presentation that you were responsible for (i.e. group grievances, group leadership, group funding, group attacks, or counterterrorism efforts), you will turn in a 5-10 page paper where you outline the information you have found on this topic and how your findings relate to the readings we have covered in the course. Please keep in mind that your job is not to simply recite the material from your group project, but to add your original reflections and insights from other materials and topics from this course. A rubric for this assignment will also be made available online through eLC. The end product should be saved into an electronic copy (preferably in pdf format) and submitted electronically through eLC (there will be a submission folder) by 12/3 (Monday), 23:59.

Midterm Exam (20%)

Midterm exam for this course will be held on 3/4 (Monday) during class hours. The exam will consist of both short answer and multiple choice. I plan on having a short review session on the class before the exam. The same make-up policy applies to the midterm exam as it did to the quizzes.

Final Exam (20%)

The final exam will be held on 5/3 (Friday) from 08:00 to 11:00. The format of the final exam will largely resemble the midterm exam. It will not be cumulative, but students are expected to retain their basic knowledge of the social science of political violence for the final exam.

Grading Scale

Letter grades will correspond to the following 0-100 scale:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 93.00 to 100 = A | 90.00 to 92.99 = A- |
| 88.00 to 89.99 = B+ | 83.00 to 87.99 = B |
| 80.00 to 82.99 = B- | 78.00 to 79.99 = C+ |
| 72.00 to 77.99 = C | 70.00 to 71.99 = C- |
| 60.00 to 69.99 = D | 59.99 and below = F |

Class Discussions and Mutual Respect

Class discussions will be an important component to a productive semester for all of us. However, discussions about certain positions or policies might get heated. During class discussions, please remember to be civil. You are expected to be a good citizen in this class, both toward other class participants and the instructor. Disrespectful behavior or statements to others will not be tolerated.

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones, music players, and other noise-making devices must be silenced and put away during class. Frequent disruptions may negatively impact your participation grade. Laptops are allowed for note-taking purposes only (not for surfing the web). The instructor reserves the right to alter these policies if the set of rules are violated.

University Honor Code / Academic Honesty

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University's academic honesty policy, "A Culture of Honesty", and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in "A Culture of Honesty" which is accessible at (<http://www.uga.edu/honesty>). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation.

Classroom Accommodations

The university is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of special accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at Room 114, Clarke Howell Hall (for more information, visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment with the instructor with appropriate paperwork from DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

Changes to the Syllabus Could Occur

The following is taken verbatim from <https://curriculumssystemsga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus>:
The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Important Dates

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1/15 (T): Last day of drop/add period | 1/21 (M): MLK Jr. Day (No Class) |
| 3/4 (M): Midterm Exam | 3/11-15 (M-F): Spring Break (No Classes) |
| 3/21 (R): Withdrawal deadline | 4/29 (M): Last day of (our) class |
| 5/3 (F): Final exam, 08:00 - 11:00 | |

Potentially Helpful Online Resources on Terrorism

Global Terrorism Database (GTD) and START, University of Maryland
International Terrorism: Attributes of Terrorist Events (ITERATE), Duke University
Rand Database of Worldwide Terrorism Incidents (RDWTI), RAND
Global Conflict Tracker, Council on Foreign Relations
Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC), Stanford/Princeton University
Mapping Militant Organizations, Stanford University
Combating Terrorism Center, West Point
And more...

Course Schedule

* The schedule below is a tentative plan for the course, and is subject to change. The instructor will publicly announce any changes to the syllabus via eLC or email communications.

Week 1. Introduction to the State of Terrorism

1/9 (W): Syllabus day

* Required Readings: none

1/11 (F): Let's (try to) define terrorism: Group brainstorm session

* Required Readings: none, but watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVPfM8JIsnA>

Week 2. Terrorism as Political Violence and the Definition of Terrorism

1/14 (M): Political violence as social science

* Required Readings:

- Frieden, J. A., & Lake, D. A. (2005). International relations as a social science: rigor and relevance. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 600(1), 136-156.

1/16 (W): Online resources on terrorism

(Note: a computer / phone with online access will be helpful for today's class as we will navigate through online resources on terrorism such as the Global Terrorism Database.)

* Required Readings:

- LaFree, G., & Dugan, L. (2007). Introducing the global terrorism database. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 19(2), 181-204.

1/18 (F): Difficulties of studying terrorism (yet, why should we care?)

* Required Readings:

- - Ganor, B. (2002). Defining terrorism: Is one man's terrorist another man's freedom fighter? *Police Practice and Research*, 3(4), 287-304.

Week 3. History of Terrorism and Common Ideologies of Terrorists

1/21 (M): Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No Class)

1/23 (W): History of terrorism (Key historical events and terrorism in the 20C and 21C)

* Required Readings:

- Simon, J. D. (2008). The forgotten terrorists: Lessons from the history of terrorism. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 20(2), 195-214.

- Shughart, W. F. (2006). An analytical history of terrorism, 1945–2000. *Public Choice*, 128(1-2), 7-39.

1/25 (F): Terrorism and ideologies

* Required Readings:

- Masters, D. (2008). The origin of terrorist threats: Religious, separatist, or something else?. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 20(3), 396-414.
- Piazza, J. A. (2009). Is Islamist terrorism more dangerous?: An empirical study of group ideology, organization, and goal structure. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 21(1), 62-88.

Week 4. Grievances and Mobilization for Violence

1/28 (M): Why people rebel (part 1)

* Required Readings:

- Gurr, T. (1968). A causal model of civil strife: A comparative analysis using new indices. *American Political Science Review*, 62(4), 1104-1124.

1/30 (W): Why people rebel (part 2)

* Required Readings:

- Rasler, K. (1996). Concessions, repression, and political protest in the Iranian revolution. *American Sociological Review*, 132-152.

2/1 (F): Collective action

* Required Readings:

- Van Belle, D. A. (1996). Leadership and collective action: the case of revolution. *International Studies Quarterly*, 40(1), 107-132.

Week 5. Terrorism Truisms to Remember and Strategies of Terrorism

2/4 (M): Terrorism as tactic of asymmetric warfare

* Required Readings:

- Conrad, J., & Walsh, J. I. (2014). International cooperation, spoiling, and transnational terrorism. *International Interactions*, 40(4), 453-476.

2/6 (W): Terrorism as group activities that require resources

* Required Readings:

- Asal, V., & Rethemeyer, R. K. (2008). The nature of the beast: Organizational structures and the lethality of terrorist attacks. *The Journal of Politics*, 70(2), 437-449.

2/8 (F): Goals and strategies of terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Kydd, A. H., & Walter, B. F. (2006). The strategies of terrorism. *International Security*, 31(1), 49-80.

Week 6. Causes / Goals of Terrorism 1: Psychological Theories of Terrorism and the Role of Religion

2/11 (M): Psychological approaches / theories to the study of terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Victoroff, J. (2005). The mind of the terrorist: A review and critique of psychological approaches. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 49(1), 3-42.

2/13 (W): Religion and terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Juergensmeyer, M. (1997). Terror mandated by God. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 9(2), 16-23.

2/15 (F): Religion and terrorism (cont'd)

* Required Readings:

- Berman, E., & Laitin, D. D. (2008). Religion, terrorism and public goods: Testing the club model. *Journal of Public Economics*, 92(10-11), 1942-1967.

Week 7. Causes / Goals of Terrorism 2: Poverty and Belonging / Brotherhood

2/18 (M): Economics and terrorists

* Required Readings:

- Krueger, A. B., & Malečková, J. (2003). Education, poverty and terrorism: Is there a causal connection?. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 17(4), 119-144.

2/20 (W): Recruitment / Role of brotherhood

* Required Readings:

- Abrahms, M. (2008). What terrorists really want: Terrorist motives and counterterrorism strategy. *International Security*, 32(4), 78-105.

2/22 (F): Discussions on the role of brotherhood

* Required Readings:

- Chenoweth, E., Miller, N., McClellan, E., Frisch, H., Staniland, P., & Abrahms, M. (2009). What makes terrorists tick. *International Security*, 33(4), 180-202.

Week 8. Female Terrorism and Suicide Terrorism

2/25 (M): Female terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Jacques, K., & Taylor, P. J. (2009). Female terrorism: A review. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 21(3), 499-515.

2/27 (W): Suicide terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Pape, R. A. (2003). The strategic logic of suicide terrorism. *American Political Science Review*, 97(3), 343-361.

3/1 (F): Suicide terrorism (cont'd) + Review for midterm

* Required Readings:

- Crenshaw, M. (2007). Explaining suicide terrorism: A review essay. *Security Studies*, 16(1), 133-162.

Week 9. Terrorism and the Media (+ Midterm Exam)

3/4 (M): Midterm Exam

3/6 (W): Media and terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Bell, S. R., Clay, K. C., Murdie, A., & Piazza, J. (2014). Opening yourself up: The role of external and internal transparency in terrorism attacks. *Political Research Quarterly*, 67(3), 603-614.

3/8 (F): Media and terrorism (cont'd)

* Required Readings:

- Gadarian, S. K. (2010). The politics of threat: How terrorism news shapes foreign policy attitudes. *The Journal of Politics*, 72(2), 469-483.

**** Spring Break (3/11 ~ 3/15): No Classes**

Week 10. Terrorists and Money / Sponsorship

3/18 (M): Funding terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Baradaran, S., Findley, M., Nielson, D., & Sahrman, J. (2013). Funding terror. *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*, 162, 477.

3/20 (W): State sponsorship

* Required Readings:

- Enders, W., & Sandler, T. (1999). Transnational terrorism in the post-Cold War era. *International Studies Quarterly*, 43(1), 145-167.

3/22 (F): State sponsorship and principal-agent dynamics

* Required Readings:

- Byman, D., & Kreps, S. E. (2010). Agents of destruction? Applying principal-agent analysis to state-sponsored terrorism. *International Studies Perspectives*, 11(1), 1-18.

Week 11. New Forms of Terrorism: CBRN and Cyberterrorism

3/25 (M): Understanding CBRN terrorism

* Required Readings:

- Ivanova, K., & Sandler, T. (2007). CBRN attack perpetrators: An empirical study. *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 3(4), 273-294.

3/27 (W): Cyberterrorism: New form of terrorism?

* Required Readings:

- Asal, V., Mauslein, J., Murdie, A., Young, J., Cousins, K., & Bronk, C. (2016). Repression, education, and politically motivated cyberattacks. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 1(3), 235-247.

- Gartzke, E. (2013). The myth of cyberwar: Bringing war in cyberspace back down to earth. *International Security*, 38(2), 41-73.

3/29 (F): No Class (Instructor will be out of town for conference presentation)

Week 12. Consequences of Terrorism: Psychological and Political

4/1 (M): Mental health and psychological consequences

* Required Readings:

- Huddy, L., Feldman, S., Capelos, T., & Provost, C. (2002). The consequences of terrorism: Disentangling the effects of personal and national threat. *Political Psychology*, 23(3), 485-509.

4/3 (W): Political consequences

* Required Readings:

- Kam, C. D., & Kinder, D. R. (2007). Terror and ethnocentrism: Foundations of American support for the war on terrorism. *The Journal of Politics*, 69(2), 320-338.

4/5 (F): Political consequences (cont'd)

* Required Readings:

- Kibris, A. (2011). Funerals and elections: The effects of terrorism on voting behavior in Turkey. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 55(2), 220-247.

Week 13. Counterterrorism Options and Strategies 1

4/8 (M): Defining counterinsurgency and counterterrorism

* Required Readings:

- Byman, D. (2007). US Counter-terrorism Options: A Taxonomy. *Survival*, 49(3), 121-150.

4/10 (W): Government Crackdowns

* Required Readings:

- Bueno De Mesquita, E. (2005). The quality of terror. *American Journal of Political Science*, 49(3), 515-530.

4/12 (F): "Hearts and Minds"

* Required Readings:

- Berman, E., Shapiro, J. N., & Felter, J. H. (2011). Can hearts and minds be bought? The economics of counterinsurgency in Iraq. *Journal of Political Economy*, 119(4), 766-819.

Week 14. Counterterrorism Options and Strategies 2

4/15 (M): Does torture work?

* Required Readings:

- Walsh, J. I., & Piazza, J. A. (2010). Why respecting physical integrity rights reduces terrorism. *Comparative Political Studies*, 43(5), 551-577.

4/17 (W) Human rights abuse

* Required Readings:

- Daxecker, U. E., & Hess, M. L. (2013). Repression hurts: coercive government responses and the demise of terrorist campaigns. *British Journal of Political Science*, 43(3), 559-577.

4/19 (F) Leaving a terrorist group

* Required Readings:

- Barrelle, K. (2015). Pro-integration: disengagement from and life after extremism. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, 7(2), 129-142.

- Cronin, A. K. (2006). How al-Qaida ends: The decline and demise of terrorist groups. *International Security*, 31(1), 7-48.

Week 15. Wrapping Up + Group Presentations

4/22 (M): Wrapping Up: where do we go from here?

* Required Readings: TBA

4/24 (W): Group Presentations (Day 1)

4/26 (F): Group Presentations (Day 2)

Week 16. Group Presentations (cont'd)

4/29 (M): Group Presentations (if necessary) + Review for Final Exam

***** Final Exam: 5/3 (F), 08:00-11:00**