Syllabus

"Understanding International Terrorism and Countering Terrorists"

Instructor: Dr. R. Nicholas Palarino
Class Location: TBD
Class Number: 386-01
Phone Number: (c) 202-760-0862
Class Meets: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:10 p.m.
email: rnp3@georgetown.edu
Office/Meeting Hours: Tuesdays, 5:00-5:50 p.m. (appointments welcomed)
Location: TBD

Introduction/Description: This course examines the terrorist threat and government responses. It has been designed in the context of events leading up to the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, and subsequent actions in response to those attacks.

The course initially considers the international environment from which terrorism emanates, and then proceeds to focus on the definitions of terrorism, terrorist group's motivations and tactics, the policies and defensive mechanisms of the United States to counter terrorism, and terrorism's future. Students will develop an understanding of the dynamics of terrorism and counterterrorism.

The course objective is to provide students a solid foundation upon which further expertise can be developed on an issue which will confront the United States for the foreseeable future.

In order to accomplish that objective the course addresses a wide range of questions related to terrorism:

- In what realm do terrorists operate? For example, which international relations theory describe today’s international environment—Francis Fukuyama’s end of history, Samuel Huntington’s clash of civilizations, or Thomas Friedman’s impact of globalization?
- What is the definition of terrorism?
- Are there cycles and different types of terrorist activity?
- Which terrorist groups present the most danger to the United States?
- How do terrorists operate, and what is the anatomy of terrorist attack?
- What is the policy of the United States toward terrorism?
- What strategies and implementation plans are in place to counterterrorism?
- What is the future of terrorism?

Course Learning Objectives: Students who complete this course will:

- Obtain a thorough understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of both terrorism (what the terrorists want) and counterterrorism (how to prevent terrorists from obtaining their objectives);
• An appreciation of the historical longevity and dimensions of this unique form of conflict as well as the measures needed to counter this phenomena;
• A comprehensive knowledge of the challenges to counter terrorism by describing a variety of key historical and contemporary terrorist related case studies; and
• A firm foundation that will assist students to understand terrorism and how this type of warfare can be countered.

Course Expectations: Students are not expected to have an extensive background on terrorist groups or methods. However, students are expected to be fully informed about current events related to terrorism by routinely reading major daily newspapers of record. Students should also routinely refer to, and become familiar with two of the leading scholarly journals in the field, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* and *Terrorism and Political Violence* (Taylor and Francis Publishers). Both can be accessed online through the Lauinger Library.

Course Requirements and Means of Assessment:
Students are required to complete a research paper of 20 pages, typed, double-spaced on a topic approved by the instructor. This paper is worth 50% of the student’s final grade. Another 30% of the final grade is based on the student’s in class presentation. The remaining 20% is based on attendance and participation during class sessions.

Instructional Methodology: The predominant means of instruction in this course is by lecture. However students are encouraged to ask questions, voice their opinions and initiate discussions. On occasion, and when appropriate, guest lecturers with unique backgrounds or knowledge of the course's subject matter may be invited to address the class.

Your attendance and class participation are important.

An added feature of the class is the viewing of videos to enhance the student's understanding of terrorism and to hear directly from the terrorists themselves and those charged with countering the threat. Below is a list of those videos and where they can be found. If we do not see these videos in class, each student is encouraged to view it on his/her own.

- "The Battle of Algiers," found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XeMWdueGTZ4 (with English subtitles)
- "The Living Martyr," found at http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+living+martyr&FORM=VIRE1#view=detail&mid=A56E58F05646967C5F40A56E58F05646967C5F40
- "Death on the Rock," found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x7MBqTw2vl0
- "One Day in September," found at http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=one+day+in+september&qpvt=One+Dau+in+Sep
tember&FORM=VDRE
Rubric # 1

Briefing to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Instructions

Students will be divided into groups of two. You should select a partner early in the course and tell me the name of your partner. Each two-person group will prepare a 35-minute briefing to the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs on a terrorist group.

The briefing will include; a theory of the international situation, a definition of terrorism, and describe a terrorist organization, including their historical background, leaders and salient demographic characteristics, ideology and objectives, targeting, tactics and modus operandi and international connections/links with other terrorist groups. The terrorist organization you and your partner select should be approved by me. A list of terrorist groups can be found in the US Department of State Patterns of Global Terrorism. It is recommended you focus on terrorist groups located in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Each person on the team will be required to present a portion of the briefing.

Your presentation should be divided into three parts:

Part one should include the international situation. You should certainly use current events and explain your understanding of the world situation. Is it one where democracy is on the march, one in which we will continually be confronted by a clash of civilizations or will globalization and creative or destructive imagination prevail? Be prepared to support your conclusion.

Part two of your briefing should be a discussion of a terrorist organization, including their leadership, motivation(s) and objective(s), strategy, tactics, the organization’s relationship with other terrorist groups and where and how they operate.

Part three of your briefing will be your recommendations on how the United States or the international community should confront this terrorist group. How should economic, political and military measures be used to counter the terrorist group?

The scheduling of these presentations will be announced via email or in class.

Grading Criteria

You will receive an A if:

The presentation can be easily followed, and a combination of the following is apparent; you followed the rubric instructions and covered the required material, a structured format is used
and you can demonstrate an understanding of the terrorist group and its operations. You should have a specific workable regional approach for countering the terrorist organization.

You inform me about something of substance I do not know about the terrorist group, and/or come up with an innovative approach to counter the terrorist group goals.

You will receive a grade of B if:

The presentation can be easily followed, and a combination of the following is apparent; you followed the rubric instructions and covered the required material, a structured format is used and you can demonstrate an understanding of the terrorist group and its operations. You have a workable regional approach for dealing with the terrorist organization.

You will receive a grade of either C or D if:

The presentation can be easily followed, and a combination of the following is apparent; you followed the rubric instructions and covered the required material, a structured format is used and you demonstrate an understanding of the terrorist group and its operations.

You will receive a grade of F (Failing) if:

There appears to be no organization of the presentation, and the substance of the presentation is flawed.

Two notes of caution: First, you may use slides; however what I do not want to see is a recycled briefing off the Pentagon shelf or from any other US government agency shelf. Your briefing should be original work.

Second, the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs receiving your briefing has a limited amount of time to listen to each team. You should have a presentation that is factual, to the point and provide the information necessary for the Assistant to the President to make a decision about your recommended courses of action. Do not forget to prepare for questions.

Please select a partner and clear with me the terrorist organization your team plans to brief about as soon as possible.

There will be no duplicate terrorist group presentations. The earlier you get your selection to me the better your team’s chances are for presenting the terrorist group you select.

Please remember this presentation is a team effort and a team grade will be assigned.
Rubric # 2

Research Paper

Each student will be required to submit a 20-page research paper on a topic related to terrorism.

Your topic, in outline form, should be submitted to me as soon as possible, but no later than Week IX of the course. Research papers are due at the end of the last formal class meeting.

Your entire paper should be typed in Times Roman, 14-point font, double-spaced and include a title page and bibliography (not included in the 20 pages). Please number your pages and insure your name is in each page’s header section.

The paper and all sources should be formatted and cited as footnotes (not endnotes) according to the guidelines provided “The Chicago Manual of Style.” Please keep in mind the quality of your sources affect the quality of your paper.

The paper is due during the last class and should be sent to me via Email and also provide me with a hard copy when we meet for the last class.

Grading Criteria

Your analysis of the subject you are writing about is the key to an A for your paper. While description is necessary in any well written paper, I am more interested in your thoughts about a subject.

You will receive an A if:

The document is substantively informative and factual and can be easily followed, and a combination of the following is apparent in the document; a structured format is used, basic transitions are used, and the document contains no distractions such as poor flow in thought and improper grammar/mechanics.

You inform me about something of substance I do not know about terrorism or come up with an innovative conclusion.

You will receive a grade of B if:

The document is factual and can be easily followed, and a combination of the following is apparent in the document; a structured format is used, basic transitions are used, and the document contains minimal distractions such as poor flow in thought and improper grammar/mechanics.

You will receive a grade of either C or D if:
The document, in some instances is factually flawed and the organization of document is difficult to follow due to a combination of following; inadequate transitions, rambling format, insufficient or irrelevant information and the document contains numerous distractions that appear in the combination of the following forms: poor flow in thought and improper grammar/mechanics.

You will receive a grade of F (Failing) if:

There appears to be no organization of the document’s contents, sentences are difficult to read and understand and the presentation is not factual.

Research Paper Topics for Student Consideration:

- Compare Francis Fukuyama’s “The End of History and the Last Man Standing”, Samuel Huntington’s “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order” and Thomas Friedman’s “The World is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century”. The research paper may also discuss other theories of international relations. The paper should answer the question, “Which theory is a more accurate representation of the current international situation?” If you conclude none of the theories discussed is an accurate description of the current international situation, then you should provide an alternative theory with supporting rational.

- Review the definitions of terrorism, including different characterizations by States and the international community. Please explain why there are different definitions of terrorism. Your paper should conclude with a presentation of a definition of terrorism that you believe could be accepted by the international community.

- Compare the terrorism policy of the United States with two other countries’ terrorism policy. Your paper should conclude with a discussion of how US terrorism policy could be improved and whether the United States should change its terrorism policy.

- Compare the United States organization to counter terrorism with two other countries’ organization to counter terrorism. Your paper should conclude with a discussion of how the US organization to counter terrorism could be improved.

- Describe the international agreements in force to prevent terrorism and whether you agree or disagree with these arguments. Propose other actions and agreements the international community could institute to prevent or counter terrorism.

- Every student is welcome, in fact encouraged, to propose a research paper topic related to terrorism he or she believes to be appropriate. For example if the student would like to focus on a major terrorist group and how to counter or destroy the group for his/her paper, that would be appropriate.
Books for Purchase


Course Outline:

**Week I: In What Realm Do Terrorists Operate?**

Besides an overview of the course, we will discuss three perspectives of international relations--freedom, cultures and interactions-- which relate to the environment in which the terrorists operate.

Francis Fukuyama argues the fall of communism and continuing rise in democratic regimes signifies humankind has reached a historical milestone. Samuel Huntington has written civilizations are at odds with each other, and there is a continuing threat of violence arising from renewed conflicts between countries and cultures that base their traditions on religious faith and dogma. Thomas Friedman points out that the globalized flat world fosters creative imagination, but also assists terrorist groups by helping them spread their ideology.

Required reading:

- **Francis Fukuyama:** *The End of History and the Last Man*, "By Way of an Introduction," pages xi-xxiii. Many copies of the book are available in the Lauinger Library (no online copies) or you may find the entire book on line at http://www.social-sciences-and-humanities.com/PDF/The-End-of-History-and-the-Last-Man-.pdf. Also visit the Freedom House Website and review the "Country Ratings and Status Report" which provides statistics about democratic states around the globe, found at https://freedomhouse.org/report-types/freedom-world#.VMfRqp45CU

- **Samuel Huntington:** *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, Chapters 1 and 2, 4 and 5, 7, 9 and 10.

- **Thomas Friedman:** *The Lexus and The Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*. A "Foreign Affairs" article about the book can be found at http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/55017/barry-eichengreen/one-economy-ready-or-not-thomas-friedman-s-jaunt-through-globaliz.
• Thomas Friedman: The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty –First Century.
There is a New York Times article about the book found at
http://www.nytimes.com/2005/05/01/books/review/01ZAKARIA.html?_r=0.

Week II: Defining Terrorism

There are many definitions of terrorism. A number of these definitions will be discussed, both from a domestic and international perspective.


Boaz Ganor. Defining Terrorism - Is One Man’s Terrorist Another Man’s Freedom Fighter?
This article is on line at


Besides the readings listed above for Week II, please be prepared to discuss the US Government’s legal definition of terrorism and also list and discuss each US agency definition of terrorism; specifically the definitions put forth by the Departments of Homeland Security, State and Defense, and also the Federal Bureau of Investigation definition.

Week III: The Four Waves of Terrorism

David Rapoport examined the history of modern terrorism from its initial appearance, about 125 years ago, and developed what he describes as a wave phenomena.

Required Reading:

Encyclopedia of Terrorism, "A History." Found in Lauinger Library at
http://search.credoreference.com.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/content/entry/estpeace/terrorism/0


**Week IV: Selected Terrorist Groups-- Organization, Leadership and Motivations**

There are scores of terrorist groups. We will focus on several selected terrorist organizations, including their leadership and institutional and personal motivations.

**Required reading:**

**Organizations:**
Review the list of US foreign terrorist organizations and the US process for designating a group as terrorists. The list can be found at http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm


**Leadership:**


**Motivations:**

**Week V: Terrorism-- Safe Havens, Financing, and Recruitment**

The focus of the next two classes will be on terrorists' modus operandi.

**Required Reading:**

**Safe Havens:**

**Terrorist Financing:**


**Recruits and Recruitment:**


Week VI: Training, Communication, Movement and Targets

Modus operandi, continued.

Training:


Terrorist Communication, Movement and Target Selection:
Bruce Hoffman. Inside Terrorism, 2nd Ed. (Columbia University Press, 2006), Chapters 7 and 8.


Types of Terrorist Attacks:
Go to the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism website found at http://www.start.umd.edu/. Review the Global Terrorism Database. The objective of your review is to determine the types of attacks terrorists use most often. Pay particular attention to the geographic areas where attacks occur and what type of attack is used in that region.

Go to the following site and listen to the interview with a Taliban suicide bomber. http://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=an+interview+with+a+taliban+trained+suicide+bomber+%7bwith+english+s+t%7d&FORM=VIRE1#view=detail&mid=C784D3D57EB29F252CA8C784D3D57EB29F252CA8

Week VII-VIII: Presentations

Please read Rubric #1 for specific instructions. The briefing/presentation will include: a theory of the international situation, a definition of terrorism, and describe a terrorist organization, including their historical background, leaders and salient demographic characteristics, ideology and objectives, targeting, tactics and modus operandi and international connections/links with other terrorist groups. The terrorist organization you and your partner select should be approved by me. A list of terrorist groups can be found in the US Department of State Patterns of Global Terrorism. It is recommended you focus on terrorist groups located in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. Each person on the team will be required to present a portion of the briefing.

Note: If we finish all presentations early we will use some of the class time to view videos about terrorism.

Week IX: US Policies on Terrorism: Reagan, Clinton, Bush 43 and Obama

A policy is a deliberate system of principles to guide decisions and achieve rational outcomes. A policy is a statement of intent, and is implemented as a procedure or protocol. This week's discussion will focus on selected Administration's policies towards terrorism.

Required Reading:

Reagan:

Clinton: Opposing Views

**Bush 43:**
David Hastings Dunn. "Bush, 11 September and the Conflicting Strategies of the 'War on Terrorism'," Irish Studies in International Affairs, Vol 16, 2005 found in Lauringer Library at http://www.jstor.org.proxy.library.georgetown.edu/stable/30001932?seq=1&Search=yes&resultItemClick=true&searchText=Bush&searchText=terrorism&searchText=policy&searchUri=/action/doBasicSearch?Query=Bush+terrorism+policy&amp;filter=&amp;Search=Search&amp;wc=0 nn&amp;fc=off&amp;globalSearch=&amp;sbbBox=&amp;sbjBox=&amp;sbpBox=#page_scan_tab_contents.

**Obama:**

**Week X: Strategies to Counter Terrorism**

We will examine the current Administration's strategies. Strategy is a high level plan to achieve one or more goals under conditions of uncertainty. Strategy is important because the resources available to achieve goals are usually limited. Strategy generally involves setting goals, determining actions to achieve the goals, and mobilizing resources to execute the actions. A strategy describes how the ends (goals) will be achieved by the means (resources). A comprehensive strategy has three parts: 1) A *diagnosis* that defines or explains the nature of the challenge; 2) A *guiding policy* for dealing with the challenge; and 3) Coherent *actions* designed to carry out the guiding policy.

**Required Readings:**


Week XI: Selected Agency Plans to Counter Terrorism

Required Readings:

**Department of State:** Bureau of Counterterrorism, found at http://www.state.gov/j/ct/index.htm


**National Counterterrorism Center:** Mission of the Center can be found at http://www.nctc.gov/jcat.html.


Week XII: International Agreements to Counterterrorism

Required Readings: To be provided

Week XIII: The Future of Terrorism

Required Readings:


Honor system. MALS and DLS students are responsible for upholding the Georgetown University Honor System and adhering to the academic standards included in the Honor Code Pledge stated below:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown University Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavor; and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Disabilities statement. If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.