

# Georgetown University – School for Continuing Studies

# INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME

# BLHV-245

PROFESSOR:

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“*We have some planes. Just stay quiet…We are returning to the airport*.”

9/11 Hijacker on American Flight 11 to Boston Center Air Controllers

**Course Description and Purpose**:

Since 9/11, the United States has focused most of its internal and external political energies toward finding and destroying the perpetrators of the most heinous attack on American soil in history and simultaneously coming up with plans to improve its own internal security. After a very thorough and largely bi-partisan review by a special commission that investigated the 9/11 attack, it has become clear that U.S. preparedness to such a possible attack was severely lacking on a number of fundamental levels. Moreover, following the attack, the President of the United States, George W. Bush embarked on a new and largely unilateralist foreign policy that was “both worldview changing and world changing.” Speaking to the Joint Session of Congress on 20 September 2001, President Bush noted that “Americans have known the casualties of war – but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks – but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day – and night fell on a different world.”

Terrorism as a political tool came into fashion in the midst of the Cold War and the advent of modern media communications. However, in recent years, predominately due to the religiously inspired advent of Al Qaeda and its extreme animus toward the United States and western culture, terrorism is growing in lethality and destructiveness as time progresses and the world emerges into the post-Cold War era. Moreover, with the growing reality that terrorists are actively seeking access to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and its associated technology, the defense of the U.S. national territory and citizens has become the greatest political issue to face the United States since the Civil War. Whereas the airplane hijackings of the 1970s and 80s used to have an immediate media impact, today, they are regarded more as an anachronism of a by-gone era. Instead, terrorism has now been elevated to the horrific where such present and future events are designed to shock and awe whole nations by inducing high levels of fear and casualties against random civilian populations that are conveniently (for the terrorists) packed together in large urbanized formations.

This course is designed to broaden individual understanding of the ever changing nature of international terrorism, transnational crime, and its consequences on American society at large. Further, the course will also cover the present-day U.S. domestic and external responses to terrorism and focus on the rise of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We will begin by studying the definition and nature of terrorism, the U.S. national security policy response to this phenomenon, and the development of programs and policies by the federal government to prevent or thwart terrorist attacks in the future. We will focus on the rise of modern day terrorism and briefly cover terrorism in all its forms (political, ethno-nationalist, and religious). Finally, we will focus on trends in modern terrorism, especially the illegal proliferation of WMD and what the U.S. can do (or is doing) to counter such trends. This course will emphasize student understanding of the evolving issue of terrorism and transnational crime and make some projections as to its future direction and what the world can and must do about it.

**Course Methodology**: This course will occur either as a face-to-face session or Zoom session each week throughout the academic term as directed by the SCS Dean. Each session will be held in a seminar style so students will be expected to have read the weekly reading assignments prior to class and be fully prepared to discuss them. **Each week students are also required to participate in the class discussion boards in Canvas and post a response or comment of approximately 250-500 words to each question thread.** If students have kept up with the weekly reading, they should have no problem with the discussion session or online discussion boards. There will be a comprehensive final examination at the end of the course. The research paper and the exam will serve as the primary means of assessing student outcomes.

**Course Objectives/Learning Goals**:

1. To acquaint students with more of the theoretical foundations of the rise of modern international terrorism to include the psychology behind why some people turn to terrorism and radical ideology.

2. To understand the rise of modern international terrorism and its impact on U.S. domestic and foreign policy.

3. To understand why the Department of Homeland Security was developed and the direction it is presently headed in.

4. To understand U.S. counter-terrorism policy and the present state of war on terrorism from both domestic and international perspectives.

5. To understand how transnational terrorism directly affects the global economy.

6. To enhance each student’s ability to understand the how and in what specific ways international criminal networks operate.

**Learning Outcomes**:

At the conclusion of this course, students should have a thorough understanding of the theoretical basis for the rise of modern international terrorism and its connections to transnational crime. Further, students will be able to understand the roles of various federal, state, and local agencies that support a counter-terrorism effort. Finally, students will be able to understand and analyze the future direction of modern terrorism.

**Required Texts**:

Author: Martha Crenshaw

Title: Explaining Terrorism: Causes, Processes, and Consequences

Publisher: Routledge, 2011

ISBN 13: 978-0-415-78051-3 (Approx. Price – $30.00)

REQUIRED

Author: Jonathan R. White

Title: Terrorism and Homeland Security, 9th Edition

Publisher: Cengage Learning, 2017

ISBN-13: 978-1305633773 (Approx. Price Rental – ($25.00)

REQUIRED

Author: Moises Naim

Title: Illicit

Publisher: First Anchor Books, 2005

ISBN-13: 978-1400078844 (Approx. Price - $ 11.98)

REQUIRED

**Course Requirements**:

1.) Students must read the weekly assigned reading and participate in classroom discussion. Failure to participate or ANY unexcused absence from class will affect a student’s overall final participation grade. The more thoughtful answers you provide in class discussions, the better your final participation grade will be. This grade is fairly subjective and is based solely upon my estimate of how well an individual student understands the course material and prepared for the class discussion. I will provide a midterm participation grade so that each student will know approximately where they stand in this important area at the halfway point in the course.

2.) All students will be required to submit two research papers (7 to 9 pages of text, double spaced, 12-point font with one-inch margins all around) and use a SCS recognized method of citation. Please include a balanced number of primary and secondary sources in your footnotes or works cited page. **The midterm research paper proposal is due to the instructor for approval prior to the start of the second class session.** **The first research paper is DUE at Midterm on 3 July 2021**. Here students should conduct an analysis of why specific terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda, Abu Sayyef, the ETA, IRA, etc., choose terror or crime as their weapon of choice in order to advance their own agenda or to impose their will upon the world at large. Students should discuss how and why the organization was formed, its success or lack thereof, and its prospects for the future.

3.) ALL paper topics should be submitted to me for approval by email. ALL LATE PAPERS will cost students **TEN POINTS A DAY** (if a student misses the final deadline for submission) and under no circumstances will a paper be accepted if it is over 6 days past the deadline (ex. If a paper is due at 11:59 on a Saturday night) then it will NOT be accepted if sent in after 11:59PM on the following Friday night). Such papers will be graded as an “F” for that particular assignment. Extensions will only be granted for emergency reasons and with the express approval of the instructor. (Being too busy with other things is not an excuse!!)

4.) Please be advised that if a student incurs more than 2 absences during the course of the semester, this may lead to a failing grade for the class and is consistent with BALS program policy.

5.) Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (Leavy Center, Suite 335, 202-687-8354), ([arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu)); <http://ldss.georgetown.edu/index.cfm> before the start of classes to allow their office time to review documentation and make recommendations for appropriate accommodations. If accommodations are recommended, you will be given a letter from ARC to share with your professors. You are personally responsible for completing this process officially and in a timely manner. Neither accommodations nor exceptions to policies can be permitted to students who have not completed this process in advance. 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.

6.) All written assignments can either be turned in as a hard copy during the class that they are due or can be emailed to me at my Georgetown email address.

7.) All email attachments must be submitted as a Word document. Please ensure you place your name on the first page of your attachment.

8.) **Turnitin.com** – Students acknowledge that by taking this course all required papers must be submitted for a Textual Similarity Review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be added as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers in the future. Use of Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement on the Turnitin.com site.

9.) **Extreme weather, Emergencies, and Instructional Continuity** – During inclement weather or other emergencies on a day when we are scheduled to meet face-to-face, check the university’s Web site or call (202) 687-7669 for information on whether the university is open. If the university is open, this class will meet. If the university is closed, this class will meet through distance means such as online videoconferencing; check your email for a message from me on how we will proceed in that situation. Due dates for written assignments submitted through Blackboard will not be changed due to campus closings.

**Grading**:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

1. The quality of your midterm research paper = 33.3 percent
2. The quality of your comprehensive final examination = 33.3 percent
3. The quality and level of activity in the weekly classroom discussion/postings = 33.4 percent
4. TOTAL = 100 percent

**Grade Scale**:

A final course grade of “A” = 100-93 (total average of the above)

A final course grade of “A-“ = 92.99-90

A final course grade of “B+” = 89.99-88

A final course grade of “B” = 87.99-83

A final course grade of “B-“ = 82.99-80

A final course grade of “C+” = 79.99-78

A final course grade of “C” = 77.99-73

A final course grade of “C-“ = 72.99-70

A final course grade of “D” = 60-69

Any average grades below a 60 is failing or “F”

**Class Reading Schedule**:

**Week One** – Defining Terrorism – Crenshaw, Part I

**Week Two** – Explaining Terrorism – Crenshaw, Part II, **MIDTERM RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC APPROVAL DUE PRIOR TO CLASS**

**Week Three** -- The History of Terror/Changing Definitions – White, Ch. 1-2

**Week Four** – Terrorist Finance/Media/Force Multipliers – White, Ch.3-5

**Week Five** – Ethno/Nationalistic Terrorism – White, Ch. 6-7.

**Week Six** – Terrorism in the Middle East – White Ch. 8-9

**Week Seven** – Religious/Ideological Terrorism – White Ch. 10-11

**Midterm Research Paper DUE NLT 11:59PM on 3 July 2021**

**Week Eight –** Al Qaida case study – Instructor Provided “We Have Some Planes” Case Study

**Week Nine** – Domestic Terrorism – White, Ch. 12

**Week Ten** – Homeland Security – White, Ch. 13-15

**Week Eleven** – Transnational Crime Trends – Naim, all.

**Week Twelve** – Responding to Terrorism – Crenshaw, Part III

**Week Thirteen** – 21st- Century Terrorism/Course Recap – White, Ch. 16

**Final Exam Prep – Exam Time TDB.**

**General Information**:

1. **Academic Honesty**: Students at Georgetown University shall abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism cannot be tolerated and are contrary to the mission of the University. Transgressions shall be investigated by the professor and appropriate punitive action taken (including expulsion from the course) if found culpable of such offenses.
2. **Georgetown Honor System**: All students are expected to follow Georgetown’s honor code unconditionally. We assume you will have read the honor code material located at [www.georgetown.edu/honor](http://www.georgetown.edu/honor), and in particular have read the following documents: Honor Council Pamphlet, What is Plagiarism, Sanctioning Guidelines, and Expedited Sanctioning Process. Papers in this course will be submitted to turnitin.com for checking. Submitted material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

*In the pursuit of higher 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.*

1. **Classroom Decorum**: Students at Georgetown University are expected to treat each other and their opinions with mutual respect and civility at all times. This is especially important when dealing with each other online in emails, blogs, etc. Please turn off all pagers and cell phones prior to the start of class. Students may use laptops or tablets to take notes but should not go online (unless directed by the professor) during the course of class discussion sessions. Students who cause disruptions may be referred to their Associate Dean or Office of Student Conduct and may be withdrawn from the course/program (without a refund).

D. **Incomplete Grades**: An incomplete grade (I) may be given only for legitimate and extenuating circumstances due to illness or emergencies and shall be given only upon approval by the professor. For further details, please refer to current school wide academic regulations.

E. **Student Feedback**: At the end of the course, students will be invited to submit written comments to the professor regarding the conduct and content of the course. These comments are designed to assist the teacher in being a more effective classroom instructor and to be able to adjust the course to better suit the needs of the student – especially concerning course organization and text selection.

F. **Other Academic Resources**: Georgtown University Writing Center (Lauinger Library, 217A; 202-687-4246; <http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu/> ; Academic Resource Center, Suite 335, 202-687-8354; [arc@georgetown.edu](mailto:arc@georgetown.edu).