

Political Science 4045: International Terrorism

Spring 2017

Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 1:30 to 2:50

Professor: David Sobek
Office Location: Stubbs 211
E-mail: dsobek@lsu.edu

Class Location: 132 Prescott
Office Phone: 578-2134
Office Hours: Monday 9:30-10:30
Wednesday 9:00-10:00

Course Objectives:

September 11th, 2001 has unfortunately brought home to many Americans the realities of international terrorism. Since then, Americans have been inundated with conflicting information about the causes, consequences, and outcomes of terrorism. This course is meant to provide you with a foundation of knowledge that will allow you to arrive at informed opinions about international terrorism. Clearly this is an emotionally and politically charged issue, but that does not mean that objective information does not exist. The course is designed to give you a survey of the historical roots of terrorism as well as its current manifestation. In addition, the course examines how governments, in particular, democracies respond to terrorism.

Required Books:

- Hoffman, Bruce. 2006. *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN 0231126999.
- Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2003. *Terror in the Mind of God: The Global Rise of Religious Violence*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. ISBN 0520240111.
- Laqueur, Walter. 2001. *A History of Terrorism*. London: Transaction Publishers. ISBN 0765807998.
- Reich, Walter. 1998. *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 0943875897.
- Silberstein, Sandra. 2004. *War of Words: Language, Politics and 9/11*. London: Routledge. ISBN 0415336244.

Class Assignments:

3 Reaction Papers (20 points [6.67% of final grade] each): You will be required to write 3 one-page, single-spaced reaction papers throughout the semester. The deadlines for the reaction papers are: **Thursday, February 2nd, Thursday, March 16th, and Thursday, April 20th**. Failure to turn in a reaction paper by its due date will result in a 3-point per day deduction. The reaction papers are meant to summarize the reading assignment. In other words, what were the salient aspects of the day's reading? How do they relate to previous readings?

2 Exams (45 points [15% of final grade] each): The course will have 2 exams in the course of the semester (**Tuesday, February 21st and Thursday, March 23rd**). These will be short answer exams where you will be required to answer 5 questions out of 7. While not essay questions, the exam will require you to accurately and concisely explain a concept and/or define a term.

Final Exam (60 points [20% of final grade]): You will have a final exam (**Saturday, May 6th**) that will consist of 2 essay questions. The questions will test not only how well you have learned the course material, but also the extent to which you have integrated the knowledge. Simply repeating the information will not garner an "A" because it is assumed you will have learned the material.

Final Paper (60 points [20% of final grade]): The final paper for the course is a 5 to 7 page analysis of a single terrorist organization and is due on **Thursday, April 6th**. You will be able to choose the group later in the semester. Your paper should answer three critical questions. First, is the group driven by strategic or psychological factors? Second, what are the most important goals/demands of the organization? Third, has the organization been successful?

Participation (30 points [10% of final grade]): Participation in class discussion is critical for this course. As such, you will need to actively participate in **five (5)** classes throughout the semester. At the end of the classes in which you felt you participated, you need to write on a sheet of paper your name and how you participated and hand this in to me. I will either accept your participation and count it towards your grade, or reject it (in which case it will not be recorded).

The course has a total of 300 available points. Final grades will be distributed on the following basis.

| <u>Final Grade</u> | <u>Minimum Number of Points Needed</u> |
|--------------------|--|
| A+ | 290 |
| A | 280 |
| A- | 270 |
| B+ | 260 |
| B | 250 |
| B- | 240 |
| C+ | 230 |
| C | 220 |
| C- | 210 |
| D+ | 200 |
| D | 190 |
| D- | 180 |
| F | 179 or less |

Extra-credit: You will have two opportunities for extra-credit. First, you may write a 4th reaction paper. The additional reaction paper will be graded and could garner as much as 3 extra-credit points. If you do poorly on the assignment, then you could also receive no extra-credit. The second option for extra-credit is to write a second paper. This could gain you an extra 9 points. You may choose to do both extra-credit assignments, which means that a total of 12 extra-credit points are available. No extra-credit will be accepted after **Thursday, April 27th**.

Reading Schedule

Part I: What is Terrorism?

- 1-12: Introduction
- 1-17: Hoffman, Chapter 1-2
- 1-19: Hoffman, Chapter 3-4
- 1-24: Juergensmeyer Chapter 1
- 1-26: Hoffman Chapter 5-7
- 1-31: Laqueur, Chapter 1

Part II: History of Terrorism

- 2-2: Laqueur, Chapters 2-3: **First Reaction Paper Due**
- 2-7: Mardi Gras Break- No Class
- 2-9: Juergensmeyer Chapters 2-3
- 2-14: Juergensmeyer Chapters 4-6
- 2-16: Laqueur, Chapters 5-6 and Review for Exam 1
- 2-21: **Exam #1**

Part III: Explanations for Terrorism

Part IIIa: Psychological Explanations

- 2-23: Reich Chapters 2 and 8
- 2-28: Mardi Gras Break- No class
- 3-2: Juergensmeyer Chapters 7-9; Reich Chapters 9 and 14
- 3-7: Juergensmeyer Chapters 10-11
- 3-9: Reich Chapter 1, 6

Part IIIb: Strategic Explanations

- 3-14: Pape, Robert. 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political Science Review*. 97(3): 343-63.
- 3-16: Mousseau, Michael. 2003. "Market Civilization and Its Clash with Terror." *International Security*. 27(3): 5-29.: **Second Reaction Paper Due.**
- 3-21: Laqueur, Chapter 4 and Review for Exam 2

3-23: Exam #2

Part IV: Responses to Terrorism

3-28: Falkenrath, Richard. 2005. "The 9/11 Commission Report." *International Security*. 29(3): 170-90.

3-30: Cronin, Audrey Kurth. 2003. "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism." *International Security*. 27(3): 30-58.

4-4: Silberstein, Chapters 1-2

4-6: Silberstein, Chapter 3: **Final Paper Due**

4-11: Spring Break- No class

4-13: Spring Break- No class

4-18: Silberstein, Chapter 5

4-20: Silberstein, Chapters 6-7: **Third Reaction Paper Due.**

4-25: Silberstein, Chapter 8

4-27: Review for Final Exam: **All extra-credit due.**

Saturday May 6th, 12:30-2:30: Final Exam
