**Political Science 303**

**Independent Study**

**Advanced Seminar in Terrorism and Counterterrorism**

**Spring 2014**

**Room 1122C BSB (Dr. Maness’s Office)**

**Meeting Times TBA**

**Professor Ryan C. Maness**

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Office Hours: MW: 10-11 AM, our meeting times will be separate

**Course Description:**

This course is an advanced seminar on terrorism and counterterrorism. Here we will focus on terror by non-state actors but also look briefly at state sponsored terror. We will look at several theories that attempt to why, how, when, where, and to whom oppositional forces will use terror tactics to pursue and achieve their goals. Developing a research strategy as to how to study terrorism is the primary goal of this course, which will help the student complete a research paper due at the end of the semester. We will also cover methods and techniques states use to counter terror, and the choices they must make in doing so.

**Readings:**

The student is expected to complete the readings in advance of the weekly meeting time (to be worked out between student and instructor). Student will submit a weekly critical review of the assigned readings to the instructor before the scheduled meeting times (2+ pages, double-spaced). The required books will not be available in the UIC bookstore and it will be the student’s responsibility for acquiring them. For book chapters, articles from edited volumes and journal articles, it is the student’s responsibility to use the UIC library’s resources to attain these readings. *Google Scholar* or JSTOR are the easiest search tools for the articles. Please let me know if you have any issues.

**Required Books:**

Hoffman, Bruce. 2007. Inside Terrorism New York: Columbia University Press. ISBN

0231126999.

Enders, Walter and Todd Sandler. The Political Economy of Terrorism New York: Cambridge

University Press. ISBN 0-521-61650-6.

The 9/11 Commission Report. 2004. New York: Norton. ISBN 0-393-32671-3.

Available as a PDF online for free.

**Recommended Books:**

Horgan, John. 2005. The Psychology of Terrorism New York: Routledge.

Juergensmeyer, Mark. 2000. Terror in the Mind of God Berkeley: University of California

Press.

Nacos, Brigitte. 2006. Terrorism and Counterterrorism New York: Pearson Longman.

Ross, Jeffrey Ian. 2006. Political Terrorism: An Interdisciplinary Approach New York: Peter

Lang.

Sageman, Marc. 2004. Understanding Terror Networks Philadelphia: Penn University Press.

Berger, JM. 2011. Jihad Joe: Americans Who Go to War in the Name of Islam Dulles, VA:

Potomac Books.

**These may help with your research project**

**Course Requirements:**

Student is expected to attend and participate in the weekly meetings with instructor, submit weekly critical reviews, and write an end of semester research paper.

**Participation:**

This course is a one-on-one independent study where the student will be in regular contact with the instructor. This portion of the grade will be based on participation and regular communication with the instructor, both during the weekly meeting and via email. It is expected that the student ask the instructor probing questions about the material.

**Weekly Short Papers:**

Student will submit a weekly 2+ page, double-spaced, critical review of the weekly readings the day before the weekly meeting by 5:00 PM via email. A critical review means that it is expected that the student be critical and bring her own ideas into the review of the readings, and not just summarized the main points by the author(s). What did the student like/dislike about the readings(s)? What was it lacking? What are the students’ ideas about improving the finding(s) of the reading(s)? If the student thinks that the reading(s) are fine as is, she must give reasons as to why. This type of writing will prepare the student for graduate school, as this is what is expected of all graduate students at any level or discipline.

**Research Paper:**

Student will draw on class material to identify a research topic that involves a historical or contemporary event or phenomenon related to terrorism or counterterrorism, or both. Utilize ideas and analytical tools from the course to develop an explanation for this particular research topic. Then use empirical evidence to evaluate the validity of your explanation. The paper should be 15+ pages long, double spaced. The paper is due to the instructor the Friday of finals week (May 2) by midnight.

A preliminary on-page proposal and bibliography is due on Sunday, March 9.

**Course Grade:**

Participation: 10%

Weekly Short Papers: 35%

Research Proposal 5%

Research Paper 50%

**Academic Integrity**

The university expects students to fulfill their academic obligations through honest and independent effort. Any of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own and according to university and class rules. Any attempt to gain an advantage not given to all students is considered dishonest whether or not it is successful. Academic dishonesty is considered a serious offense subject to strong disciplinary actions, included but are not limited to failing this course. For additional information, see the Student Code of Conduct at:

http://www.vcsa.uic.edu/MainSite/departments/dean\_of\_students/Links/UIC+Discipline+Code.htm#3

**Special Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access and participation in this course must be registered with the Office of Disability Services (ODS). Please contact ODS at 312-413-2183 (voice) or 312-413-0123 (TTY).

**Week 1: What is Terrorism? What is Not Terrorism? (January 13)**

Read: Hoffman, Chapters 1 and 2, Enders and Sandler, Chapter 1

**Week 2: The Rationalist Approach to Understanding Terror (January 20)**

David Lake. 2002. \Rational Extremism: Understanding Terrorism in the Twenty

First Century." *International Organization* 56 (1): 15-29.

Kydd, Andrew & Barbara Walter. 2006. \The Strategies of Terrorism," *International*

*Security*, 56(2): 49-80.

Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. \The Causes of Terrorism." *Comparative Politics* 13(4):

379-399.

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 3

**Week 3: Psychology and Understanding Terror (January 27)**

Jeff Victorof. 2005. \The Mind of a Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological

Approaches." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(1): 3-42.

Martha Crenshaw. 2000. \The Psychology of Terrorism: An Agenda for the Twenty

First Century." *Political Psychology* 20(2): 405-420.

Max Abrahms. 2008. \What Terrorists Really Want." *International Security* 32(4):

78-105.

Chenoweth, Erica, Nicholas Miller, and Elizabeth McClellan. 2009. \What Makes

Terrorists Tick" (A Response to Abrahms) *International Security* 33(4): 180-202.

**Week 4: Sociological Approach to Understanding Terror (February 3)**

Karen Armstrong, “Ghosts of Our Past.” <http://www.wolaver.org/peace/ghosts.htm>.

Jeff Goodwin. 2006. “A Theory of Categorical Terrorism.” *Social Forces* 84 (4): 2027-46.

Robert Agnew. 2010. “A General Strain Theory of Terrorism.” *Theoretical Criminology* 14 (2): 131-153.

Hoffman, Chapter 4

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 4

**Week 5: Suicide Terrorism (February 10)**

Robert A. Pape. 2005. \The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." *American Political*

*Science Review* 97(3): 343-361.

Ami Pedahzur and Arie Perliger. 2006. \The Changing Nature of Suicide Attacks: A

Social Network Perspective." *Social Forces* 84(4): 1987-2008.

Hoffman, Chapter 5

**Week 6: State Terror and State-Sponsored Terror (February 17)**

Paul Wilkinson, \Can A State Be Terrorist?" *International Affairs* (Summer 1981),

467-472.

Bruce Falconer, \Murder by the State," *Atlantic Monthly*.

David Claridge, \State Terrorism? Applying a Definitional Model," *Terrorism and*

*Political Violence* (Autumn 1996), 47-63.

“State Sponsors of Terrorism Overview,” 88-90 in Department of State, Country Reports on Terrorism, 2004 <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/45322.pdf>

Sick, Gary. “Iran: Confronting Terrorism.” [http://www.twq.com/03autumn/docs/03autumn sick.pdf](http://www.twq.com/03autumn/docs/03autumn%20sick.pdf).

**Week 7: Terrorism, Insurgency, and International Terrorism (February 24)**

Ariel Merari. 1993. “Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 5 (4): 213-251.

Findley, Michael G. and Joseph K. Young. 2012. \Terrorism and Civil War: A Spatial

and Temporal Approach to a Conceptual Problem." *Perspectives on Politics*

Abrahms, Max. 2006. \Why Terrorism Does Not Work," *International Security* 31(2):

42-78.

Che Guevara, General Principles of Guerrilla Warfare <http://www3.uakron.edu/worldciv/pascher/che.html>

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 7

**Week 8: Terrorism, Insurgency, and International Terrorism Continued (March 3)**

Hoffman, Chapter 3

David Rappaport. 1984. “Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in Three Religious Traditions.”

*American Political Science Review* 783: 658-677.

Audrey Kurth Cronin. 2006. \How Al Qaeda Ends." *International Security* 31(1):

7-48.

Asal, Victor and R. Karl Rethemeyer. \The Nature of the Beast: Organizational

Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks." *Journal of Politics* 70(2): 437-449.

**Week 9: Al Qaeda and Transnational Terror (March 10)**

9/11 Commission Report, pp. 1-70

Council on Foreign Relations website, Who and What is Al Qaeda?

<http://www.cfr.org/publication/9126/>.

Bruce Homan. 2008. \The Myth of Grass-Roots Terrorism," *Foreign Affairs* May/June.

Brian Michael Jenkins. 2011. \Al Qaeda After Bin Laden" Testimony to House Armed

Services Committee

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 8

Hoffman, Chapter 8

**Week 10: Counterterror (March 17)**

Stephen M. Walt, \Beyond Bin Laden: Reshaping US Foreign Policy," *International*

*Security* 26: 3 (Winter 2001/02), pp. 56-78.

Posen, Barry R. 2001/02. \The Struggle Against Terrorism: Grand Strategy, Security,

and Tactics," *International Security*, Winter, pp. 39-55.

National Strategy for Counterterrorism, 2011.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/les/counterterrorism strategy.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/les/counterterrorism%20strategy.pdf)

John Mueller. 2005. \Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism," *Terrorism*

*and Political Violence* 17:487-505.

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 6

**Week 11: Spring Break (March 24-28)**

**Week 12: Networks and Counterterror (March 31)**

Enders and Sandler, Chapter 4

Hoffman Chapters 6 and 7

Ronald Diebert and Janice Gross Stein. 2002. “Hacking Networks of Terror.” *International Organization* 1-14.

Michael Horowitz. 2010. \Non-State Actors and the Diffusion of Innovations: The

Case of Suicide Terrorism." *International Organization* 64(1): 33-64.

**Week 13: Human Rights and Counterterror (April 7)**

Roth, Kenneth. 2004. \The Law of War in the War on Terror," *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb, 83(1).

Homan, Paul. 2004. \Human Rights and Terrorism," *Human Rights Quarterly,*

26(4): 932-955.

John Yoo{Commentary on the so-called \torture memos."

[http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/05 johnyoo.shtml](http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/01/05%20johnyoo.shtml),

Nordgren, Loran, Mary-Hunter Morris McDonnell, and George Loewenstein. 2011.

\What Constitutes Torture? Psychological Impediments to an Objective Evaluation of

Enhanced Interrogation Tactics." *Psychological Science* 22(5): 689-694.

**Week 14: Conclusions (April 14)**

Enders and Sandler, Chapters 9-11

Hoffman, Chapter 9

**Week 15: Paper Research and Writing (April 21)**

**Week 16: Paper Research and Writing (April 28)**

**Finals Week: Paper Due May 2!**