Global Security and Narco-Terrorism

(Abbreviated Syllabus)

Gov 444 015 – Fall 2019
Days: Thursdays 7:20 pm 10:00 pm
Location: Peterson Hall 1111

Instructor: Mahmut Cengiz, Ph.D.
Office: Founders Hall 706 - Arlington Campus

Course Description

This course surveys narcoterrorism in terms of drug trafficking organizations (DTOs) using terror tactics and terrorist organizations which are involved in the international cultivation, production, trafficking, and distribution of drugs to fund terrorism. DTOs and their associated street gangs in Latin America resort to widespread violence that ranges from military style assaults to a recent wave of beheadings. Their violent activities impact national social, economic, and political systems, causing, for example, tens of thousands of Central Americans to seek asylum in the United States. On the other hand, terrorist groups either become involved in drug trafficking to fund their operations, e.g. the FARC, Hezbollah, and PKK, or take advantage of taxing drug traffickers that use their territories, e.g. salafi-jihadist terrorist groups in the Middle East and North Africa.”

The course examines narcoterrorism from a comparative perspective, discussing how narcoterrorism is linked to crime and terrorism, what terrorist strategies are used by drug trafficking organizations, their impacts on the direction of political systems, how corruption is entangled with narcoterrorism as well as how terrorist groups are involved in drug trafficking. The course also shed lights on how narco-terror money is laundered. Combining field experience with a research and theoretical frameworks (qualitative social network analysis, state capacity, weak states, political capital frameworks, ecological models, etc.) each section uses case studies from different regions of the world. Students will be expected to synthesize theoretical frameworks and apply them to new case studies.

Grading Components

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<td>Mid-term Exam</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Research Paper</td>
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<td>In class presentation</td>
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<td>Free Write Exercise</td>
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<td>In-class activities</td>
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Required Books:
Bunker, R.J and John P. Sullivan *Narcoterrorism and Impunity in the Americas*, (Xlibris, 2016)
Course Schedule

Class 1: Definitions of Narco-terrorism

Class 2: Engaging Theoretical Debate and Alternative Arguments

Class 3: Networks, Crime Terror Nexus

Class 4: Narco-Terrorism in Mexico and Los Zetas

Class 5: Narco-Terrorism and Central America

Class 6: Narco-terrorism in Colombia

Class 7: Narco-terrorism in Peru

Class 8: Narco-Terrorism in Western Africa

Class 9: Afghanistan and Taliban

Class 10: Narco-Terrorism in South Asia

Class 11: Iran and Hezbollah in the Tri-Border Areas of Latin America

Class 12: Balkans Route and Narcoterrorism: the PKK

Class 13: The Impacts of Narcterrorism over U.S.

Class 14: Policy Implications: What should we do?