Terrorism and International Security

GOV 444 B03 – Summer 2019
Days: Monday and Wednesday
Time: 7:20 PM to 10:00 PM
Location: Robinson Hall B108

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"...the world is a dangerous place to live in not because of the people who are evil but because of the people who do not do anything about it."    Albert Einstein

Communication

GMU policy provides e-mail as the standard means of communication and requires that all email contact be through GMU e-mail accounts. Please email me from your GMU account when you want to meet.

Office Hours and Meetings

I can meet with the students at the Johnson Center before and after the class. Please email me if you have any questions or issues you need to discuss.

Registration and Enrollment

Please go to https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/summer-2019-calendar/ for important dates regarding registration and enrollment. You can also go to the Registrar’s office for additional information. The last day for enrolling in Summer 2019 is June 6th and the final drop date is June 20th.

Course Description

Recently many terrorist organizations have operated internationally, threatening global security. After examining the concepts and theories that explain terrorism and international security, the course sheds light on how terrorism is entangled with crime and corruption. There will be a specific focus on international salafi-jihadist networks composed of various terrorist groups ranging from al-Qaeda and its affiliates in Maghreb and Yemen, Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) to Boko Haram and al-Shabaab. Additionally, revolutionary, ethno-nationalist, and separatist terror groups whose activities spills over other countries will be the subject of the course.
The course puts into concrete terms how states sponsoring terrorism impacts international security. Special attention will be given to Gulf States who are believed to be behind salafi-jihadist groups as well as Iran who has enabled and sponsored terrorism through the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corpse (IRGC), Quds Forces and Hezbollah. Also, the course focuses on conflict zones where terrorist groups operate and threaten regional and international security. Special attention also will be given to the threat of terrorism in the United States and Homeland Security through an analysis of recent terror attacks. The desired outcome of this course is to provide the students with some analytical and critical skills in the field of terrorism and international security.

**Course Objectives:**

1. Identify the definition problems of terrorism and its linkages with international security
2. Explore the root causes of terrorism
3. Analyze how the entanglement crime, corruption, and terrorism impacts international security
4. Explain types of terrorism and their impacts on international security
5. Describe how states enabling and sponsoring terrorism are linked to terrorism
6. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by analyzing the best counter-terrorist practices around the world and the possibility of customization of them by agencies in the United States.

**Grading Components**

- **Mid-term Exam**: 25%
- **Final Exam**: 25%
- **Research Paper**: 25%
- **In class presentation**: 10%
- **In-class activities and Class participation**: 15%

**Grading Scale**

Although grading should be a minor issue in this class, it may help some students motivate, and see their levels. It also helps professor see the students’ level whether they need help, on what subject. Yet, it is needed to make just decisions about the students’ learning efforts. In this regard, your grades will be determined according to the following assignments and criteria:

- **A+ 97-100% (4.0)**  
  - **C+ 77-79% (2.33)**
- **A 93-96% (4.0)**  
  - **C 73-76% (2.0)**
- **A- 90-92% (3.67)**  
  - **C- 70-72% (1.67)**
- **B+ 87-89% (3.33)**  
  - **D 60-69% (1.0)**
- **B 83-86% (3.0)**  
  - **F 0-59% (0)**
- **B- 80-82% (2.67)**
Required Textbooks:


Course Requirements and Expectations

Mid-term Exam (25%)
The exam will cover materials presented and assigned in the classroom and include short essay questions. We will make a review session before the exam. Makeup exams will only be given under exceptional circumstances.

Final Exam (25%)
During the course, you will take a final exam. The exam will cover materials presented and assigned in the classroom. We will make a review session before the exam which will consist of objective questions such as multiple choice and true/false, and short essays. Makeup exams will only be given under exceptional circumstances.

Research Paper (25%)
I want you to pick any topic on terrorism/counterterrorism or select a terrorist organization. Your paper should include two sections. In the first section, your research paper should give information about the history of terrorist organization, its ideology and motivation, geographical area, goals and objectives, strategies and tactics, recruitment strategies, funding, and future plans and goals, etc. In the second section, you write about counterterrorism strategies of national and international stakeholders against the terrorist organization, effectiveness of counterterrorism strategies and policies. You can also add your opinions on the counterterrorism strategies as well. Do not hesitate to contact me and discuss your topic. Please include "GOV444: Research Paper" in the subject heading.

The research papers should be at most six (8) pages including references page; typed, double-spaced, in 12 size, Times New Roman font; and be prepared in APA formatting and citations. The paper must include at least five (6) scholarly citations.

*** Research papers should be proofread and edited for spelling and grammar errors before submission.

In-class Presentation (10%):
You should take advantage of this class and use it as an instrument to improve your speaking and presentation skills that will be necessary in any part of criminal justice system, particularly in the policing profession. These presentations will also help you acquire the confidence of speaking in front of the people. During your presentation, you are free in method/technique, material, setting, style, etc. Each of you will have only ten (10) minutes, not more, not less! So, timing is important. We will have a brief Q & A session where the listeners can ask questions and give constructive feedback to the presenter. I encourage you to use visuals and/or audio-visuals for better and more effective presentations. I expect you to be creative in your class performance!
In-class Activities and Class Participation (15%)  
In this class, we will have in-class activities such as think-pair-share-report (TPSR), brainstorming, group studies, round-table discussions, and/or reading. If it is a group activity, (as being the group members) you are expected to participate in discussions actively, help write a concise and precise report, and present at the end. Since this is also a learner-centered course, class participation is encouraged. No doubt, classroom discussion is an essential part of the learning process for the benefit of the students. Participation consists of being on time for class, being present in class, and being an active member in discussion sessions.

Class Attendance  
According to the University Policy, attendance is required. Therefore, attendance will be taken for every class. Please sign in only for your own and current attendance! Missing more than one week’s classes (three absences) will result in a reduced and/or failed grade. I consider illness and religious holidays as excused absences. I may ask for a doctor’s note in some cases. You should inform me before class to be considered as excused.

Meet One-on-One with the Professor  
You are suggested to meet with the Professor for 10 minutes within the first three weeks of the course. In these meetings, I want to learn more about your backgrounds, interests, and life goals. Please sign up sheet to schedule your preferred meeting time. Sign-up sheet will be available in the classroom. Please let me know if none of the available tie slots on the sheet works for you.

University Services  
If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect your academic performance, you should:

1. Make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 222; 993-2474; www.gmu.edu/student/drc) to determine the accommodations you need; and
2. Talk with me to discuss your accommodation needs. By GMU policy, instructors cannot make any accommodations for students without certification from ODS on the existence of a disability and the specific accommodations needed.

If you feel you need to improve your writing skills, seek assistance from the University Writing Center (http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/). You will be expected to write academically for this class despite any linguistic deficits you have, so take full advantage of this service to earn good grades.

If you are in personal distress, you can also get help from Counseling and Psychological Services (http://www.gmu.edu/departments/csd/). Class topics may engender anxiety or challenge world views and the counseling services are there to help.

If you are not a native English speaker and may be interested in linguistic and cultural enrichment services, you can contact GMU’s English Language Institute (eli.gmu.edu).

If you’d like to improve your study skills or test-taking strategies, you can get help from http://caps.gmu.edu/learningservices.

Honor Code Policy  
George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all
prohibited. Please consult the Student Handbook for a full definition of these terms. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Violations include, but are not limited to the following:

Cheating includes any “willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students,” by any means whatsoever, or the attempt to do so. Examples: Copying off another student; using notes during a closed-book exam; obtaining an assignment ahead of time from a student who took the class a previous semester; turning in the same work in more than one class (without prior authorization from all professors concerned).

Plagiarism includes “presenting as one’s own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement” or “borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement.” Examples: getting your paper off the Internet; cutting and pasting paragraphs from other authors into your paper; turning in a paper that was written by somebody else; buying a paper; taking a written piece from someone else but rewording it so that it looks different.

Lying includes “the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work.” Examples: lying to faculty member by saying you were sick when you were not; falsely claiming a death in the family or a personal emergency; falsifying any official documentation.

Stealing encompasses “taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the University campus.” Examples: stealing exams or paper assignments from the professor for the purposes of cheating; selling notes you take in class to an individual or a business.

**Bad Weather and Other Emergencies**

Call GMU’s closing line at (703) 993-1000 to see if classes are cancelled due to weather. You can also register for Mason’s emergency alert system at https://alert.gmu.edu. If I should have to cancel a class due to a personal emergency, I will make every attempt to e-mail you ASAP at your GMU email address.

**Privacy Policy**

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. This means we do not gossip about others’ opinions or personal status outside of class, whether or not we agree with their opinions. Please also respect everyone’s right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.
Course Schedule

WEEK I - MW- (06/03 and 06/05, 2019)
(Introduction – Syllabus / Terrorism: First Impressions)
(Defining Terrorism)

Book Chapter 1: First Impressions
Book Chapter 2: The Nature of the Beast: Defining Terrorism

WEEK II - MW- (06/10 and 06/12, 2019)
(The Causes of Terrorism)
(Tools of the Trade: Tactics and Targets of Terrorists)
(The Information Battleground: The Role of the Media)

Book Chapter 3: The Causes of Terrorism
Book Chapter 10: Tactics and Targets of Terrorists
Book Chapter 11: The Information Battleground: The Role of the Media

WEEK III – MW- (06/17 and 06/19, 2019)
(Terror from Above: Terrorism by State)
(Terror from Below: Terrorism by Dissidents)

Book Chapter 5: Terrorism by Dissidents
Book Chapter 6: Religious Terrorism

WEEK IV- MW- (06/24 and 06/26, 2019)
(Violent Ideologies: Terrorism from the Left and Right)
(Terrorist Spillovers: International Terrorism)

Midterm Exam (June 24th)
Book Chapter 7: Terrorism from the Left and Right
Book Chapter 8: International Terrorism

WEEK V - MW- (07/01 and 07/03, 2019)
(Emerging Terrorist Environments: Gender-Selective Political Violence and Criminal Dissidents)
(The American Case)

Book Chapter 9 Gender-Selective Political Violence and Criminal Dissidents
Book Chapter 12: Terrorism in the United States
WEEK VI - MW- (07/08 and 07/10, 2019)
(Counterterrorism/Homeland Security)
Book Chapter 13 Counterterrorism: The Options
Book Chapter 14 Homeland Security

WEEK VII - MW- (07/15 and 07/17, 2019)
(Future of Terrorism)
Book Chapter 15: Future of Terrorism
Final Exam Review
Presentations

WEEK VIII - M- (07/22)

FINAL EXAM
Research Paper