

**IR6685: Terrorism and Political Violence (W-E)**  
Term 5, 2014-2015: May 25 – July 26, 2015 3 Credit Hours  
Location: Misawa AB, Japan  
Meeting Times and Dates: 0900-1800 June 20-21, July 11-12

Instructor: Clifton W. Sherrill  
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**Course Description**

An examination of the origins and significance of contemporary political violence with an emphasis on the phenomenon of terrorism. The course employs an interdisciplinary, case-study approach.

**Course Objectives**

After taking this course, students should have an understanding of the history of terrorism, recognition of its primary modern sponsors, means, and goals, and appreciation of the efficacy of counterterrorism policies as evaluated against the empirical record. Students should also acquire a basic understanding of insurgency as well as counterinsurgency strategy, including the challenges confronting policymakers.

**Required Texts**

- Hoffman, Bruce G. Inside Terrorism, revised edition. (Columbia University Press, 2006). ISBN: 9780231126991
- Kilcullen, David. The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009). ISBN: 9780199754090

Additional assigned readings will be available electronically through TROY library databases or through provided websites. Students will need to obtain a TROY e-mail account in order to access the TROY library databases. Students should not pay separately for articles; if an article cannot be found via the databases or listed websites, please advise the instructor. The instructor will also post items from the news on the course's Blackboard website.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to keep up with the readings and to participate in class discussion. Students should obtain a TROY e-mail account and check it regularly as this will be the means of providing notice of assignment changes, class cancellations, or other matters outside of class.

*A. Exams*

There will be one midterm exam and one final exam in this course. The midterm will account for 25% of the course grade. The final exam will account for 40% of the course grade. Exams will include material covered in the readings and material discussed in class. Exams may include multiple choice, short answer questions, and essay questions.

### *B. Paper*

There will be a single analytical paper accounting for 25% of the semester grade. Students will have the option of completing either 1) a *formal research paper* presenting a theory and testing hypotheses via an appropriate research design on a topic of the student's choice (to be approved by the instructor); or 2) an *analytical paper* comparing a realist explanation with a liberal explanation for U.S. policy toward Syria since 2011. This paper will require the student to demonstrate a firm grasp of both international relations theory and how it can be applied to a major event in world politics. Detailed instructions, including phased assignment due dates, are provided in the paper instructions at the end of this syllabus. Late assignments will be assessed a 10 point penalty per day late.

### *C. Attendance*

Regular attendance is imperative for understanding the subject as well as for maximizing your chances to succeed on the exams. By university policy, TROY's coordinator must be notified of students who miss more than 25% of classes. Attendance will be taken in compliance with College policy.

### **Grading Policy**

90 - 100	A	70 - 79	C	0 - 59	F
80 - 89	B	60 - 69	D		

### **Americans with Disabilities Act**

Troy University supports Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, which insure that post-secondary students with disabilities have equal access to all academic programs, physical access to all buildings, facilities and events, and are not discriminated against on the basis of disability. Eligible students, with appropriate documentation, will be provided equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic skills and potential through the provision of academic adaptations and reasonable accommodations. Further information, including appropriate contact information, can be found at the following link:

<http://www.troy.edu/humanresources/ADAPolicy2003.htm>

### **Academic Honesty**

By their enrollment, students are responsible for following the "Standards of Conduct" as they apply in the Troy University Pacific Region. It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with these guidelines and to comply therewith. Cheating or plagiarism will result in an F for the course, will be reported to appropriate officials, and may subject the student to further discipline from the University. The instructor uses on-line software to help detect plagiarism. Please note that no assignment prepared for or submitted in a different course may be used in this course without prior approval of the instructor.

### **Library Resources**

Students can access online information resources through Troy Library Services home page at <http://trojan.troy.edu/library> These resources include a variety of full text databases that provide complete article texts from thousands of journals, magazines and newspapers. Among the most helpful databases are JSTOR, Academic Search Complete, Pro Quest and Lexis-Nexis. Remote access is available via the student's Troy User ID and Password. For specific help for Global Campus students, including a librarian: [http://trojan.troy.edu/library/globalcampus/gc\\_librarian.html](http://trojan.troy.edu/library/globalcampus/gc_librarian.html)

## Course Schedule

*Week 1: (May 25-31)* Course Introduction, Defining Terrorism, History of Terrorism

- Boaz Ganor, “Defining Terrorism – Is One Man’s Terrorist Another Man’s Freedom Fighter?” IDC-Herzliya, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism. Available at <http://www.ict.org.il/Article/1123/Defining%20Terrorism%20-%20Is%20One%20Man%E2%80%99s%20Terrorist%20Another%20Man%E2%80%99s%20Freedom%20Fighter>)
- Hoffman, Ch. 1-3

*Week 2: (June 1-7)* Religion and Terrorism

- Hoffman, Ch. 4
- Christopher Henzel, “The Origins of Al-Qaeda’s Ideology: Implications for U.S. Strategy,” *Parameters* (Spring 2005): 69-80.
- Daniel Benjamin: National Security in an Age of Sacred Terror, 2006 (Video). Available at <http://conversations.berkeley.edu/category/topic/terrorism>
- Steve Coll: The Rise of al-Qaeda, 2005 (Video). Available at <http://conversations.berkeley.edu/category/topic/terrorism>
- Islamism Reading (posted on Blackboard)

*Week 3: (June 8-14)* Motivations & Purposes

- Hoffman, Ch. 5, 8
- Alan B. Krueger and Jitka Maleckova, “Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17, no. 4 (Autumn 2003): 119-144.

*Week 4: (June 15-21)* Motivations & Purposes (Part II)

- Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism,” *International Security* 31, 1 (Summer 2006): 49-80.
- Martha Crenshaw, “The Causes of Terrorism,” *Comparative Politics* 13, no. 4 (July 1981): 379-399.
- Gordon H. McCormick, “Terrorist Decision Making,” *Annual Review of Political Science* 6, no. 1 (2003): 473-507.
- Max Abrahms, “What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counter-terrorism Strategy,” *International Security* 32, no. 4 (Spring 2008): 78-105).

*Saturday, June 20*

- *Defining Terrorism*
- *4GW*
- *Religious Motivations*
- *Secular Motivations*

*Sunday, June 21*

- *Purposes*
- *Strategies*
- *Midterm Exam*

Week 5: (June 22-28) Media, Suicide Terrorism, WMD

- Hoffman, Ch. 6-7, 9
- Robert Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," *American Political Science Review* 97, vol. 3 (August 2003): 343-61.
- Ashton Carter et al., "The Day After: Action Following a Nuclear Blast in a U.S. City," *The Washington Quarterly* 30, no. 4 (Autumn 2007): 19-32.

Week 6: (June 29-July 5) Insurgency

- Kilcullen, Ch. 1-5

Week 7: (July 6-12) Countering Political Violence

- Audrey Kurth Cronin, "How Al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups," *International Security* 31, no. 1 (Summer 2006): 7-48.
- Daniel Byman, "Friends Like These: Counterinsurgency and the War on Terrorism," *International Security* 31, no. 2 (Fall 2006): 79-115.
- Karl Eikenberry, "The Limits of Counterinsurgency Doctrine in Afghanistan," *Foreign Affairs* 92, no. 5 (Sept/Oct 2013).
- Matt Frankel, "The ABCs of HVT: Key Lessons from High Value Targeting Campaigns Against Insurgents and Terrorists," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 34 (January 2011): 17-30.
- Bryan C. Price, "Targeting Top Terrorists: How Leadership Decapitation Contributes to Counterterrorism," *International Security* 36, no. 4 (Spring 2012): 9-46.

*Saturday, July 11*

- *Media*
- *Suicide Terrorism*
- *WMD*
- *Counterterrorism*

*Sunday, July 12*

- *Insurgency*
- *COIN*
- *Case Study: ISIS*

Week 8: (July 13-19) Countering Political Violence; Case Study of ISIS

- Jim Gant, "One Tribe at a Time," (2009) Available at [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/2009\\_one\\_tribe\\_at\\_a\\_time.pdf](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/2009/2009_one_tribe_at_a_time.pdf)
- Michael Crawford and Jami Miscik, "The Rise of Mezzanine Rulers: The New Frontier for International Law," *Foreign Affairs* 89, no. 6 (Nov/Dec 2010): 123-30.
- Benedetta Berti, "Armed Groups as Political Parties and Their Role in Electoral Politics: The Case of Hizballah," *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 34 (December 2011): 942-962.
- Richard J. Norton, "Feral Cities," *Naval War College Review* 56, no. 4 (Autumn 2003): 97-106.

- Harleen K. Ghambir, “Dabiq: The Strategic Messaging of the Islamic State,” Institute for the Study of War Backgrounder (August 15, 2014). Available at [http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Dabiq%20Backgrounder\\_Harleen%20Final.pdf](http://www.understandingwar.org/sites/default/files/Dabiq%20Backgrounder_Harleen%20Final.pdf)

*Week 9 (July 20-26)* **FINAL EXAM**

*The final exam will be provided to students by Tuesday, July 21 and it will be due NLT 2100 Saturday, July 25*

Note: The above schedule, readings and procedures in this course are subject to change.

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**Term 5, 2014-15**

**Paper Instructions**

Per the syllabus, a single analytical paper will account for 25% of the semester grade. Students will have the option of completing either:

1. a *formal research paper* presenting a theory and testing hypotheses via an appropriate research design on a topic of the student's choice (to be approved by the instructor); or
2. an *analytical paper* comparing a realist explanation with a liberal explanation for U.S. policy toward Syria since 2011. This paper will require the student to demonstrate a firm grasp of both international relations theory and how it can be applied to a major event in world politics.

*General:*

(a) Students opting to undertake a research paper should take care to review the availability of data when constructing their research question. Research papers may use either qualitative or quantitative methods, or a combination of both; however, the papers should follow rigorous standards designed to provide unbiased empirical evidence addressing the chosen question. Students who have not taken the MSIR Research Methods course are encouraged to pursue the analytical paper option.

(b) Students opting to undertake the analytical paper should be sure to consult both academic journals available online via Troy's library website, and current reputable information sources. JSTOR, Academic One File, and Lexis will likely be among the most helpful databases for scholastic articles. The instructor's website has a link to IR data and policy sites that may be of use for reputable current information. Students may compare realism and liberalism generally, or they may opt to compare specific sub-variants of these theories (e.g. offensive realism, pluralism, liberal institutionalism, etc...).

*Due Dates:*

PHASED ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE, WITH POINT ALLOCATION PER ASSIGNMENT IN PARENTHESES

<b>Due Date</b>	<b>Analytic Paper</b>	<b>Research Paper</b>
June 7	<i>nothing</i>	Specific Research Question due (5)
June 28	Preliminary Outline due (10)	Theory & Hypotheses due (5)
July 12	Complete Outline due (10)	Complete Research Design due (10)
July 29	Final Paper due (80)	

**Late assignments will be assessed a 10 point penalty per day late.**

*Format:* Papers must be typed, double-spaced, in twelve-point Times New Roman font, with one inch margins. Do not place additional space between paragraphs. Papers are anticipated to be approximately 12-15 pages in length, with a limit of no more than 15 pages, exclusive of title page, bibliography, and notes. Please note that quality is more important than volume. Hand-written papers are not acceptable.

*Citation and Sources:* You may use whatever citation system you are familiar with; however, you must identify the system you are using and keep to it consistently. If I am not familiar with the system, you must be able to provide me with a system manual that I may review upon request. Proper citation requires sufficient information for me to check your sources with ease. Internet sources may be used at your own risk. Common sense should help tell you which websites are acceptable and which are not for academic work. If in doubt, it is probably best to avoid that site. Of course, you may always ask me for an opinion as to suitability. Citation of Internet sources requires more than simply listing the website. Include titles, authors, dates written, and dates accessed. Papers citing Wikipedia will be docked 5 points. Students should consult books, scholastic periodicals, newspapers, policy papers, and government documents as well as on-line sources when conducting research. Papers citing only Internet sources will not be sufficient.

*Grading:* Papers will be graded on demonstrated understanding, thoroughness, and integration of research into a coherent presentation. Poor spelling, grammar, punctuation, organization or style will negatively affect the grade.

**PLEASE PROOFREAD.**