Terrorism and Response
Elliot Chodoff

Course Number: 702.2168
Class Time: Thursday’s 15:00-18:00
Class Location: TBA
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Course Description:
This course will examine the issue of terrorism as a growing form of political violence into the 21st Century. The last three decades of the 20th Century witnessed a phenomenal growth in terrorist activity around the world. Some groups rose and fell quite rapidly, but others have managed sustained campaigns and have achieved spectacular tactical success, among them the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001.

We will investigate the causes, methods and responses involved in the ongoing conflict between terrorist organizations and their adversaries.

Topics covered will include:

- What is terrorism, as distinct from other forms of violence?
- What are the objectives of terrorists?
- What are the strategy and tactics of terrorists? Is suicide terrorism a distinct form of terrorism or another tactic among many?
- Why do terrorists use the tactics of terrorism? Is the use of terrorist tactics ever justified?
- What is the history of terrorism and terrorist organizations?
- What are some of the major terrorist groups active today?
- How do religious beliefs and ideological dogma aid terrorists?
- Does terrorism work? Does it achieve strategic goals?
- How do terrorist organizations transform?
- Can terrorism be deterred, defeated or prevented? Is there a military solution?
- Is the use of torture ever justified for extracting information from terrorists? Targeted assassination?

Readings:


Additional reading materials will be made available during the course.
**Requirements, grades, and so on**

This course has just a few simple requirements: read the assignments, attend class, participate in discussions, write the papers, and pass the tests. I know that these are unique, unheard of requirements, but I’m a kind of unique teacher.

Grades will be based as follows:

- In class mid-term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 40%
- Paper: 25%
- Class participation: 10%

It is not enough to attend class, I expect you to participate intelligently. In order to do this, you must do the readings (at least the required ones), think about them, come to class, listen to others in class (myself and your colleagues), think a bit more, and speak reasonably coherently about your thoughts. Omitting any of these steps will result in severe degradation of performance with an equivalent degradation in grade.

The paper will entail a critical argument concerning an issue raised in the course. It will require research and critical thinking, arguing one position against others.

**Behavior**

In this course we will engage issues of the utmost importance. We will debate questions of life and death; conduct detailed discussions of horrible tragedies, heinous crimes, and strategies for killing innocent people. Given this it is extremely important that we maintain an environment of respect for the people and issues involved and also for each other. Differences of opinion will be the norm. I encourage and demand debate from you, but I will also demand respect for opposing viewpoints. To this end I will tolerate neither personal attacks nor non-class related talking in class, any inappropriate language, or even the hint of the sound of a cell phone ringing.

**Questions about anything in this syllabus? Email me at** ellichod@hotmail.com

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**Class 1**

**Introduction – Course Requirements, Expectations and Assorted Bureaucratic Housekeeping**

Definitions and Concepts

Readings:
- Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, Chapter One, “Defining Terrorism”
- Boaz Ganor, “Defining Terrorism: Is One Man’s Terrorist Another Man’s Freedom Fighter?”

**Class 2 - Strategy & Terrorism**

Readings:
- Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.”
Class 3 - **Terrorist Goals, Targets and Methods**
Readings:

Class 4 - **A Little History: The Origins of Terrorism - Russian anarchists through the Algerian Case.**
Readings:
- Hoffman, Chapter 2

Class 5 - **Terrorist Organizations in the Arab Israeli Conflict**

*The Arab Israeli Conflict - Fedayeen, PLO, Fatah, Hamas, Hizbullah, etc*
Readings:

Class 6 – **Holy Terror - Islamic Terrorism – Al Qaeda and Friends.**
Readings:
- Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, Chapter Four, “Religion and Terrorism.”

Class 7 – **Mid Term Examination**
*From Terrorism to Hybrid Warfare – Hizbullah and Friends*

Class 8 -
**Terrorism as Theater and Communication**
Readings:
- Bruce Hoffman, Inside Terrorism, Chapter Five, “Terrorism, the Media, and Public Opinion.”

*The Media and Terrorism*

Class 9 – **Ethical Issues in Fighting Terrorism**
Readings:
- Michael Walzer, “Excusing Terror.”

Class 10 – **Film: Unthinkable Discussion**
Readings: David Patterson, *Genocide in Jewish Thought*, Chapter on torture
Class 11 - **Responses I - Military**
Readings:

Class 12 - **Responses II – Non-military**
Readings:

Class 13 – **Responses III – Looking to the future**

**Summary, Conclusion, Review**

Class 14 - **Final Exam**
**Film: Beaufort**