**INTA 3103/8803**

**The Challenges of Terrorism**

Georgia Institute of Technology

Fall 2014

**Professor Jenna Jordan**

**Course Information**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

10:05-10:55

Room: Habersham G17

**Contact Information**

Office: Habersham 135

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Office Hours: Monday 2-4

**Course Description**

This course will explore the history, causes, and responses to domestic and international terrorism. Students will be introduced to the major theoretical approaches to studying terrorism. The course will be structured around six main topics: (1) Definitional issues (2) Causes/Explanations (3) Suicide terrorism (4) Groups dynamics (5) al Qaeda; and (6) Counterterrorism Strategies. Students will be exposed to specific terrorist organizations through group projects and presentations.

**Required Readings**

The following books will be available for purchase from Engineer’s Bookstore:

* Stuart Gottlieb, ed. *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Conflicting Perspectives on Causes, Contexts, and Responses* (CQ Press, 2009)
* Bruce Hoffman. *Inside Terrorism*, *revised edition (*Columbia University Press, 2006)
* Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower* (Vintage Books, 2006).

**Course Requirements**

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* Class participation: 20% – Students are expected to attend class, participate in discussion, and have the completed the assigned readings prior to class.
* Response Paper: 15% - Students will write a 750-1000 critical analysis on one or more readings from the course.
* Mid Term: 25% - This will be an in-class, closed book exam.
* Research Paper: 40% - The final paper will be a 20-25 page original research paper. Paper topics will be handed out the fourth week of class. Students will need to meet with me individually to discuss their topics.

**Course Procedures**

*Office Hours:* The teaching assistants and professor will hold office hours each week. As there are no discussions sections for this course, office hours can be very helpful for students who wish to discuss the readings, lectures, or anything course related. If the assigned office do not accommodate your schedule, please email either the professor or teaching assistants to set up an additional time.

*Cheating and Plagiarism:* Cheating and plagiarism is a serious offense and is a direct violation of the Georgia Tech Academic Honor Code. Plagiarizing is defined by Webster’s as “to steal and pass off (the ideas or words of another) as one's own: use (another's production) without crediting the source.” If caught plagiarizing, you will be dealt with according to the GT Academic Honor Code. For any questions involving these or any other Academic Honor Code issues, please consult the professor, teaching assistants, or [www.honor.gatech.edu](http://www.honor.gatech.edu).

*Late Work:* Late assignments will lose one third of a full grade (e.g., from an A to a A-, to B+ etc.) for each day after the deadline. There are only two exceptions to the late-assignment policy: illness or family emergency. If either of these circumstances applies, you must provide *written documentation* (such as a doctor’s note if you are ill), **and** you must communicate with me *before the assignment is due* (i.e., emailing me on the morning the assignment is due and saying you are sick is not acceptable for avoiding a penalty). I am willing to accommodate documented requests, but you must communicate with me *before* the assignment is due.

*Participation:* You are expected to come prepared*.* Participation is essential to this course…All lectures will involve discussion, and participation will account for 15% of your grade.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior and collective action.

Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.

Students will be able to express their arguments clearly, critically, and effectively in research paper and reading responses.

Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence political conflict.

**\*\*\*Note: Syllabus subject to change\*\*\*\***

**Week 1**

August 18: Introduction

August 20: What is Terrorism?

* Leonard Weinberg, Ami Pedahzur, and Sivan Hirsch-Hoeffler, “The Challenges of Conceptualizing Terrorism,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (2004), pp. 777-94. T-square.
* Bruce Hoffman, *Inside Terrorism,* Chapter 1

August 22: Historical Context

* Martha Crenshaw, “Thoughts on Relating Terrorism to Historical Context,” in Crenshaw, ed. Terrorism in Context, Ch. 1. T-square.

**Week 2**

August 25 & 27: Strategic Explanations

* Barbara Walter and Andrew Kydd, “Strategies of Terrorism,” *International Security,* Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 49-80.
* Martha Crenshaw, “The logic of terrorism: Terrorist behavior as a product of strategic choice,” in Walter Reich, ed. *Origins of Terrorism,* Ch.1 [T-sqaure].
* Max Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does Not Work,” *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 42-78.

August 29: No class

**Week 3**

September 1: Labor Day – no class

September 3 & 5: Psychological Theories

* Jerrold Post, “Terrorist Pyscho-logic: Terrorist behavior as a product of psychological forces,” in Reich, *Origins of Terrorism,* chapter 2
* John Horgan, “From Profiles and Pathways and Roots to Routes: Perspectives from Psychology on Radicalization into Terrorism,” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Vol. 618, no. 1 (July 2008), pp. 80-94.
* John Horgan and Max Taylor, “Disengagement, De-radicalization and the Arc of Terrorism: Future Directions for Future Research,” in Rik Coolsaet, ed., *Jihadi Terrorism and the Radicalisation Challenge*,” (London: Ashgate, 2011).

**Week 4**

September 8: Structural Explanations

* James A. Piazza and Karin von Hippel, “Does Poverty Serve as a Root Cause of Terrorism?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, Ch. 2. (34-66)
* Krueger, Alan B., and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. “Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(4):119–44. http://www.krueger.princeton.edu/terrorism2.pdf.

September 10 & 12: Religion and Terrorism

* Hoffman, Chapter 4
* James A. Piazza, “Is Islamist Terrorism More Dangerous? An Empirical Study of Group Ideology, Organization, and Goal Structure,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (January 2009), pp. 62-88.
* Andrew McCarthy and Fawaz Gerges, “Does Islam Play a Unique Role in Today’s Terrorism?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 4. (100-130)

**Week 5**

September 15: Terrorism and Democracy

* Risa Brooks, “Researching Democracy and Terrorism: How Political Access Affects Militant Activity,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (December 2009), pp. 756-788.
* F. Gregory Gauss & Jennifer Windsor, “Can Spreading Democracy Help Defeat Terrorism?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, Ch. 8.

September 17 & 19: Terrorist Networks

* Stohl, Cynthia, and Michael Stohl, 2007, “Networks of Terror: Theoretical Assumptions and Pragmatic Consequences, *Communication Theory* 17:2, 93–124.
* Krebs, Valdis E., 2002, “Mapping Networks of Terrorist Cells,” *Connections* 24:3, 43–52.
* Perliger, Arie, and Ami Pedahzur. “Social Network Analysis in the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence.” PS: Political Science & Politics 44, no. 01 (2011): 45–50.
* Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terror Networks,* Ch. 5.
* Mette Eilstrup-Sangiovanni and Calvert Jones, 2008, “Assessing the Dangers of Illicit Networks: Why al-Qaida May Be Less Dangerous Than Many Think”, *International*

**Week 6**

September 22 &24: Suicide Terrorism

* Robert A. Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 97, No. 3 (August 2003), pp. 343-361.
* Gordon McCormick and Max Abrahms, “Is Suicide Terrorism an Effective Tactic?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 5.
* Michael C. Horowitz, “Nonstate Actors and the Diffusion of Innovations: The Case of Suicide Terrorism,” *International Organization* 64:1 (Winter 2010), pp. 33-64
* Mia M. Bloom, “Outbidding, Market Share, and Palestinian Suicide Bombing,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 119, No. 1 (2004), pp. 61-88

September 26: Rosh Hashanah – no class

**Week 7**

September 29: State Sponsorship

* Byman, *Deadly Connections*, pp. 10-15, Chs. 2 and 3. Tsquare.

October 1 & 3: Target Selection

* Victor Asal and R. Karl Rethemeyer, “The Nature of the Beast: Organizational Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks,” Journal of Politics, Vol. 70 (2008), pp. 437-449
* Jeremy M. Weinstein, Inside Rebellion: The Politics of Rebel Organization (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), selected pages.
* Patrick Brandt and Todd Sandler, “What Do Transnational Terrorists Target? Has it Changed?Are We Safer?” Journal of Conflict Resolution, Vol. 54, no. 2 (April 2010), pp. 214-236.

**Week 8**

October 6 & 8: Terrorism and WMD

* Matthew Bunn and Susan Martin, “Is Nuclear Terrorism a Real Threat?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism*, Ch. 6.
* Kier A. Lieber and Daryl Press, “Why States Won’t Give Nuclear Weapons to Terrorist,” *International Security*, Vol 38, No. 1 (Summer 2013), pp. 80-104.

October 10: **MIDTERM**

**Week 9**

October 13: Fall Recess – no class

October 15 & 17: Counterterrorism

* John Yoo and David Cole, “Does Providing Security Require a Trade-off with Civil Liberties?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 11.
* Brigitte Nacos and Michael Rubin, “Do We Need Bombs Over Bridges?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 7
* Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, “Politics and the Suboptimal Provision of Counterterror,” *International Organization*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 2007), pp. 9-36.

**Week 10**

October 20: Counterterrorism

* TBD

October 22: Drones

* TBD

October 24: Drones

* Patrick Johnston and Anoop Sarbahi, “The Impact of U.S Drone Strikes on Terrorism in Pakistan,” unpublished manuscript, skim.
* Megan Smith & James Igoe Walsh (2013) Do Drone Strikes Degrade al Qaeda? Evidence from Propaganda Output. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 25: 311-327.

**Week 11**

October 27 & 29: Decapitation

* Jordan, Jenna (2014) Attacking the Leader, Missing the Mark: Why Terrorist Groups Survive Decapitation Strikes. *International Security* 38(4): 7-38.
* Patrick Johnston, “Does Decapitation Work? Assessing the Effectiveness of Leadership Targeting in Counterinsurgency Campaigns. International Security, 36(4):47–79, Spring 2012
* Bryan C. Price. "Targeting Top Terrorists: How Leadership Decapitation Contributes to Counterterrorism." *International Security* 4, no. 36 (Spring 2012): 9-46.

October 31: al Qaeda

* Lawrence Wright, *The Looming Tower,* selections

**Week 12**

November 3: al Qaeda

November 5: al Qaeda

November 7: Syria and Iraq (ISIS)

* TBD

**Week 13**

November 10 and 12: Movie

November 14: Terrorism and the Media

* Hoffman, “The Old Media, Terrorism, and Public Opinion,” and “The New Media, Terrorism, and the Shaping of Global Opinion,” *Inside Terrorism*, Chs. 6 and 7.

**Week 14**

November 17: Non-Violent Protest

* Chenoweth, Erica, and Maria J. Stephan. *Why Civil Resistance Works : The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2011. Chs 1-3

November 19 and 21: How Terrorism Ends

* Audrey Kurth Cronin, "How Al-Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups," *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (2006), pp. 7-48.
* Seth G. Jones and Martin C. Libicki, *How Terrorist Groups End: Lessons for Countering al Qa'ida* (Santa Monica, Calif: RAND, 2008).
* John Horgan, “Individual Disengagement: A Psychological Analysis,” in *Leaving Terrorism Behind: Individual and Collective Disengagement,* eds. Tore Bjorgo and John Horgan, London: Routledge, 2009.

**Week 15**

November 24 and 26: Women and Children

* Mia Bloom, “Death *Becomes* Her: Women, Occupation, and Terrorist Mobilization,” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 43, no. 3 (June 2010), pp. 445-450.
* Lindsay A. O'Rourke, “What's Special about Female Suicide Terrorism?” *Security Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (December 2009), pp. 681-718

November 28: Thanksgiving - No class

**Week 16**

December 1: Class Choice!

December 3: Future of Terrorism

* John Mueller, “Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 17, No. 4 (October 2005), pp. 487-505; and “Response,” pp. 523-528.
* Hoffman, Ch 8

December 5: Wrap-up