**INTA 3103/8803**

**The Challenges of Terrorism**

Georgia Institute of Technology

Fall 2017

**Professor Jenna Jordan**

**Course Information**

Monday, Wednesday, Friday

11:15-12:05

Room:

**Contact Information**

Office: Habersham 135

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Office Hours:

**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 Barnes and Noble:

* Stuart Gottlieb, ed. *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Conflicting Perspectives on Causes, Contexts, and Responses* (CQ Press, 2009).
* William McCants, *The ISIS Apocalypse: The History, Strategy, and Doomsday Vision of the Islamic State* (St. Martin's Press, 2015).
* Dan Byman *Al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement: What Everyone Needs to Know* (Oxford, 2015).

**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. Details will be announced.
* Mid Term: 25% - This will be an in-class, closed book exam.
* Final Exam: 40% - The final exam will be take home (undergraduates). You will receive the exam questions on the last day of class. The exam is due on or before the scheduled time of the exam. You will submit a hard copy to me and email me a copy as well.
  + Graduate students: Your final exam will be a 20-25 page research paper due when the exam is scheduled.

**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.

*Honor Code:* All coursework must meet the Georgia Tech standards of academic honesty. <http://www.honor.gatech.edu/plugins/content/index.php?id=9>

*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.

**Learning outcomes:**

Student will demonstrate proficiency in the process of articulating and organizing rhetorical arguments in written, oral, visual, and nonverbal modes, using concrete support and conventional language. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence social behavior. Student will demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence the global system.

INTA specific learning outcomes are as follows:

*Problem Solving in International Affairs.* Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern.  Includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.

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

**Week 1**

August 21: Introduction

August 23: 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.
* Verena Erienbusch, “How (Not) to Study Terrorism,” *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy,* 2013, pp. 1-22. T-square.

August 25: no class – INTA faculty retreat

**Week 2**

August 28: Historical Context

* Martha Crenshaw, “Thoughts on Relating Terrorism to Historical Context,” in Crenshaw, ed. *Terrorism in Context*, Ch. 1. T-square.
* Rapoport, David, “Fear and Trembling: Terrorism in Three Religious Traditions”, *American Political Science Review*, Vol 78, No. 3 (1984): 658-677

August 30: Strategic Explanations

* Martha Crenshaw, “The logic of terrorism: Terrorist behavior as a product of strategic choice,” in Walter Reich, ed. *Origins of Terrorism,* Ch.1 T-square.
* Barbara Walter and Andrew Kydd, “Strategies of Terrorism,” *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 49-80. (selections)

September 1: Strategic Explanations

* Max Abrahms, “Why Terrorism Does Not Work,” *International Security*, Vol. 31, No. 2 (Fall 2006), pp. 42-78.
* Peter Krause, “The Political Effectiveness of Non-State Violence: A Two-Level Framework to Transform a Deceptive Debate,” in *Security Studies*, Vol. 22, Issue 2 (2013), pp. 259-294. (selections)

**Week 3**

September 4: Labor Day – no class

September 6: 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.

September 8: Psychological Theories

* 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 11: Organizational Theories

* Martha Crenshaw, “Causes of Terrorism: Instrumental and Organizational Approaches,” in David Rapoport, ed., *Inside Terrorist Organizations,* revised edition (London: Routledge, 2001), pp. 13-31.
* Krause, Peter. "The Structure of Success: How the Internal Distribution of Power Drives Armed Group Behavior and National Movement Effectiveness." *International Security* 38, no. 3 (Winter 2013/14): pp. 72-117

September 13: 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>. (skim)

September 15: Religion

* 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.

**Week 5**

September 18: Religion

* 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)

September 20: 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 22: No class – Rosh Hashanah

**Week 6**

September 25: Terrorist Networks

* 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.

September 27: 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.

September 29: Lone Wolves

* Rafaello Patnucci, Clare Ellis and Lorien Chaplais, “Lone Actor Terrorism Literature Review” Royal United Services Institute, Countering Lone-Actor Terrorism Series No.1 <https://rusi.org/sites/default/files/201512_clat_literature_review_0.pdf>

# Jeffrey Kaplan , Heléne Lööw , Leena Malkki Introduction to the Special Issue on Lone Wolf and Autonomous Cell Terrorism,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol. 26, Issue 1, 2014, Tsquare

# Byman, *Al-Qaeda, The Islamic State, and the Global Jihadist Movement*, 57-60

**Week 7**

October 2 & 4: 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.
* Mia M. Bloom, “Outbidding, Market Share, and Palestinian Suicide Bombing,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 119, No. 1 (2004), pp. 61-88

October 6: Foreign Fighters

* Thomas Hegghammer, “The Rise of Muslim Foreign Fighters,” *International Security* 35:3 (Winter 2010/11 ) http://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/ISEC\_a\_00023
* David Malet, 2010. “Why Foreign Fighters? Historical Perspectives

and Solutions.” *Orbis* 54(1): 97–114

**Week 8**

October 9: No class – fall break

October 11: 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 13: **MIDTERM**

**Week 9**

October 16: 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.

October 18: Counterterrorism

* Brigitte Nacos and Michael Rubin, “Do We Need Bombs Over Bridges?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 7.
* Stephen Biddle, Jeffrey Friedman, and Jacob Shapiro, “Testing the Surge: Why Did Violence Decline in Iraq in 2007” International Security, Vol. 37, No. 1 (Summer 2012), pp. 7-40.

October 20: Counterterrorism

* John Yoo and David Cole, “Does Providing Security Require a Trade-off with Civil Liberties?” in Gottlieb, *Debating Terrorism and Counterterrorism,* Ch. 11.
* Jenna Jordan, Margaret E. Kosal, and Lawrence Rubin, “The Strategic Illogic of Counterterrorism Policy,” The Washington Quarterly, Vol. 39, No. 4 (Winter 2017), pp. 181-192.

**Week 10**

October 23: Decapitation

* Jordan, Jenna (2014) Attacking the Leader, Missing the Mark: Why Terrorist Groups Survive Decapitation Strikes. *International Security* 38(4): 7-38.

October 25: Decapitation

* 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 27: Drones

* Patrick Johnston and Anoop Sarbahi, “The Impact of U.S Drone Strikes on Terrorism in Pakistan,” unpublished manuscript.
* 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 30 – November 3

* Byman Book

**Week 12**

November 6: 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
* Mia Bloom, “Seeing the New Face of Terrorism,” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOTyVBhpTEM>
* Mia Bloom, “Cubs of the Caliphate,” *Foreign Affairs* (2015)
* Mia Bloom, John Horgan, Charlie Winter, “Depictions of Children and Youth in the Islamic State’s Martyrdom Propaganda, 2015-2016” *CTC Sentinel* February 2016, https://www.ctc.usma.edu/posts/depictions-of-children-and-youth-in-the-islamic-states-martyrdom-propaganda-2015-2016

November 8: movie

November 10: movie

**Week 13**

November 13 – 17

* ISIS – McCants Book

**Week 14**

November 20: 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 1-2. Skim chapter 3

November 22 and 24: Thanksgiving – no class

**Week 15:**

November 27: 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.

November 29: Terrorism and the Internet: Radicalization and recruitment.

* <http://terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/128/html>
* <https://www.ffi.no/no/Forskningen/Avdeling-Analyse/Terra/Publikasjoner/Documents/Stenersen-Bomb-making-for-beginners.pdf>

December 1: TBD

**Week 16**

December 4: 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.
* Jeffrey Kaplan, [*The Fifth Wave: The New Tribalism?*](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546550701606564#abstract) *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Volume 19, Issue 4, October 2007, pages 545-570.
* Jeffrey Kaplan, “The Islamic State and the New Tribalism,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, Vol 27, No. 5 (2015): 926-969.