This course examines the politics of terrorism, with a focus on theoretical and empirical studies of its causes and consequences. We will look at both domestic and transnational forms of terrorism. We begin with issues of definition, and theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of terrorism. We then turn to the causes and consequences of terrorism, considering questions such as when, where, and why terrorism occurs; which individuals and which groups resort to terror and why; who are the targets of terrorist attacks; and the effects and effectiveness of terrorism, its consequences for the outcome of conflicts, and for domestic politics.

Prerequisites:

This is an upper level graduate course that assumes a general familiarity with theories and literatures of international relations. Students who have not taken, or are not currently taking, the International Relations Field Survey (6801) should discuss with the instructor whether this course is appropriate.

Course Requirements:

- Students are expected to come to class ready to discuss critically the week’s readings (reading load = ~175-275pp/week), and having read the week’s memo.

- Short memo (2-4 pages double-spaced) on one week’s readings briefly outlining the major themes of the session, raising questions for discussion in class, and suggesting a few testable hypotheses on the week’s topic. These are due (to be posted to CourseWorks) no later than 5pm, the Sunday before the relevant class.

- Coding assignment: measuring the use of terrorism by a non-state actor in the Armed Conflict Dataset. Due February 11.

- Research paper: publishable-quality original research on a topic related to terrorism. A statement of your proposed research question and hypotheses is due March 4. Presentations will take place on April 15, 22, and 29. The final paper is due Tuesday, May 13.
Policies:

- Grades: Research paper = 40% of the grade; presentation in class = 20%; memo and coding assignment = 10% each; participation in class = 20%.

- Late assignments, including the memo and coding assignment, will be penalized by one third grade per day (i.e., an A paper or memo turned in 1 day late is an A-, 2 days late a B+, etc.), except in cases of medical or family emergency.

- Incompletes will be allowed only under exceptional circumstances (e.g., family or medical emergency).

- Requirements for R credit and auditors: the memo and coding assignment and participation in class discussion (which requires doing the reading).

Readings

The following books have been ordered at Book Culture Bookstore (112th St., btw Broadway & Amsterdam). Articles, unpublished papers, and book chapters not in the “purchase” books below are available through CourseWorks, in the “Readings” file in Files & Resources.

Purchase:


  ISBN: 978-0-231-12699-1  $24.95   (3-5 chapters assigned)

  ISBN: 978-0-415-45505-3  $44.95 (7-8 chapters assigned – individual articles also available from e-journals)

Optional:


  ISBN: 978-0-521-88758-8
Session 1. January 21. Introduction/Course Logistics

No assigned readings.
Class Discussion: Ethics of Terrorism

Session 2. January 28. How Should We Define Terrorism?


- Schmid, Alex “The Response Problem as a Definition Problem” in H&B Chapter 6 pp.91-96. Originally published in Schmid & Crelinsten *Western Responses to Terrorism* (Frank Cass 1993), pp.7-13


Further Reading:

Session 3. February 4. How Should We Study Terrorism: Theoretical Approaches


☐ Hoffman Inside Terrorism Chapter 4 “Religion and Terrorism” pp.81-130


Further Reading:


Session 4. February 11. Data and Information Sources on Terrorism

**Coding Assignment Due**


- Browse datasets, databases, & codebooks:
  - Global Terrorism Database (GTD): [http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/)
  - RAND Database of Worldwide Terrorist Incidents (formerly known as MIPT) [http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html](http://www.rand.org/nsrd/projects/terrorism-incidents.html)
  - Terrorist Organization Profiles (TOPS) [http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/](http://www.start.umd.edu/start/data_collections/tops/)
  - International Terrorism: Attributes of Terrorist Events (ITERATE) [http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/07947](http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/icpsrweb/ICPSR/studies/07947)
  - [http://www.ctc.usma.edu/programs-resources/harmony-program](http://www.ctc.usma.edu/programs-resources/harmony-program)
Session 5. February 18. Strategies of Terrorism


**Further Reading:**


Further Reading:


**Research Statements Due**


Further Reading:


Session 8. March 11. Terrorism and Regime Type


Further Reading:


Blomberg & Hess “Lexus and Olive Branch” in Keefer & Loayza, eds.


Session 9. Spring Break

Session 10. March 25. Economic Causes and Effects of Terrorism


Further Reading:


And other articles in this special issue on the Economic Consequences of Terror. 20:2 2004.
Session 11. April 1. (When) Is Terrorism Effective?


Further Reading:


Responses to Mueller in *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17:4, pp. 507-521.


Session 12. April 8. Suicide Terrorism: (How) Is it Different?


Further Reading


III. Presentation of Research Papers

Session 13. April 15. Presentations

Schedule TBA
Reading: draft papers

Session 14. April 22. Presentations

Schedule TBA
Reading: draft papers

Session 15. April 29. Presentations

Schedule TBA
Reading: draft papers

**Final Paper Due Tuesday, May 13, 5pm.**