

Georgetown University – School for Continuing Studies
INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM AND TRANSNATIONAL CRIME – Hybrid
Version

PROFESSOR:

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“We have some planes. Just stay quiet... We are returning to the airport.”
9/11 Hijacker on American Flight 11 to Boston Center Air Controllers

Course Description and Purpose:

Since 9/11, the United States has focused most of its internal and external political energies toward finding and destroying the perpetrators of the most heinous attack on American soil in history and simultaneously coming up with plans to improve its own internal security. After a very thorough and largely bi-partisan review by a special commission that investigated the 9/11 attack, it has become clear that U.S. preparedness to such a possible attack was severely lacking on a number of fundamental levels. Moreover, following the attack, the President of the United States, George W. Bush embarked on a new and largely unilateralist foreign policy that was “both worldview changing and world changing.” Speaking to the Joint Session of Congress on 20 September 2001, President Bush noted that “Americans have known the casualties of war – but not at the center of a great city on a peaceful morning. Americans have known surprise attacks – but never before on thousands of civilians. All of this was brought upon us in a single day – and night fell on a different world.” However, since the election of President Obama in 2008, he has made it clear that he intends to depart from President Bush’s largely unilateralist foreign policy and encourage and even demand participation in stopping international terrorism and crime by U.S. global partners. His recent speech to the United Nations in September 2009 was quite instructive in this regard.

Terrorism as a political tool came into fashion in the midst of the Cold War and the advent of modern media communications. However, in recent years, predominately due to the religiously inspired advent of Al Qaeda and its extreme animus toward the United States and western culture, terrorism is growing in lethality and destructiveness as time progresses and the world emerges into the post-Cold War era. Moreover, with the growing reality that terrorists are actively seeking access to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and its associated technology, the defense of the U.S. national territory and citizens has become the greatest political issue to face the United States since the Civil War. Whereas the airplane hijackings of the 1970s and 80s used to have an immediate media impact, today, they are regarded more as an anachronism of a by-

gone era. Instead, terrorism has now been elevated to the horrific where such present and future events are designed to shock and awe whole nations by inducing high levels of fear and casualties against random civilian populations that are conveniently (for the terrorists) packed together in large urbanized formations.

This course is designed to broaden individual understanding of the ever changing nature of international terrorism and its consequences on American society at large. Further, the course will also cover the present-day U.S. domestic and external responses to terrorism and focus on the rise of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. We will begin by studying the definition and nature of terrorism, the U.S. national security policy response to this phenomenon, and the development of programs and policies by the federal government to prevent or thwart terrorist attacks in the future. We will focus on the rise of modern day terrorism and briefly cover terrorism in all its forms (political, ethno-nationalist, and religious). Finally, we will focus on trends in modern terrorism, especially the illegal proliferation of WMD and what the U.S. can do (or is doing) to counter such trends. This course will emphasize student understanding of the evolving issue of terrorism and make some projections as to its future direction and what the world can and must do about it.

Course Methodology: This course is considered a hybrid course. This means that every other weekly session will be held online and be discussed in the online discussion boards. During these weeks we will not meet in our regularly scheduled campus classroom. However, our first class will be a face to face session in our regularly scheduled classroom and we will meet there every other week thereafter. The second class will be online. The third class is face to face in the campus classroom and so on until the end of the semester. The last face to face session will be the in-class final examination. The final will be a comprehensive exam and will be based on the required readings. If students have kept up with the weekly reading, they should not have any problem with the final. During on-line session weeks, students are expected to fully participate in the discussion boards and complete any required course research necessary to answer the topics being discussed. There is no need to reiterate an answer already provided by another student but you can add additional material or disagree (respectfully) with each other's findings.

Course Goals:

1. To acquaint students with more of the theoretical foundations of the rise of modern international terrorism.
2. To understand the rise of modern international terrorism and its impact on U.S. domestic and foreign policy.
3. To understand why the Department of Homeland Security was developed and the direction it is presently headed in.
4. To understand U.S. counter-terrorism policy and the present state of war on terrorism from both domestic and international perspectives.

5. To enhance each student's ability to understand the how and in what specific ways international criminal networks operate.

Learning Objectives:

At the conclusion of this course, students should have a thorough understanding of the theoretical basis for the rise of modern international terrorism and its connections to transnational crime. Further, students will be able to understand the roles of various federal, state, and local agencies that support a counter-terrorism effort. Finally, students will be able to understand and analyze the future direction of modern terrorism.

Required Texts:

Thomas Friedman, *The World is Flat*, 3.0.

Sue Mahan and Pamela L. Griset, *Terrorism in Perspective*, 2nd Ed.

Marc Sageman, *Understanding Terror Networks*.

Jonathan R. White, *Terrorism and Homeland Security*, 6th Ed.

Moises Naim, *Illicit: How Smugglers, Traffickers and Copycats are Hijacking the Global Economy*.

Jessica Stern, *Terror in the Name of God*.

Course Requirements:

- 1.) Read the weekly assigned reading and participate in classroom discussion – in both online and face to face forms. It is expected that all students will post at least one comment per question per week in the online discussion sections.
- 2.) Every other week in the course will be designated as an online discussion week and will be so noted in the course reading schedule. Questions to be discussed will be posted in the discussion boards and all students are expected to discuss and post responses to each question during each online discussion week. Failure to participate will affect a student's overall final participation grade. The more thoughtful and researched your online answers are, the better your weekly online discussion grade will be. Participation in the face to face sessions are also important and students are expected to keep up the same level of performance in these classrooms as well.
- 3.) All students will be required to submit a 12 page research paper. The research paper, due toward the end of the semester with why certain groups (political,

ethno-nationalist, or religious) choose terror or crime as their weapon of choice in order to advance their own agenda or to impose their will upon the world at large. In this paper, students may choose to analyze a specific terrorist group such as Al Qaeda, Abu Sayyef, the ETA, IRA, or other similar organizations or simply focus on an aspect of international criminal behavior such as identity theft or credit card fraud. Topic selection for this paper should be submitted and approved by the professor no later than the end of the second week of class. Topics can be submitted to me for approval by email. All late papers will cost students 5 points a day and will not be accepted if they are over a week late. Extensions will only be granted for emergency reasons and with the express approval of the instructor. (Being too busy with other things is not an excuse!!)

FINAL PAPER is due by midnight 30 April 2010!!!

- 4.) Students will also be graded on the quality of their weekly classroom participation levels. At a minimum, students are expected to post one answer per question per week.
- 5.) All written assignments should be emailed to me at my email address.
- 6.) All email attachments must be submitted as a Word document and please ensure you place your name on the first page of your attachment.

Grading:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of:

- a. The quality of your first research paper = 50 percent
- b. The quality and level of activity in the weekly face to face and online discussions = 25 percent
- c. Final exam = 25 percent

Academic Honor Code: All students are expected to accept and abide by values of honesty, integrity, and truthfulness in their academic work. Sanctions imposed by course instructors for academic dishonesty – such as plagiarism or cheating – range from failing the work involved to failing the course, to being dismissed.

Class Reading Schedule:

<u>Week</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Text</u>
Week One	2006 QDR	Brave New World – Begin
Reading Friedman, The World is Flat and download QDR at		

www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/policy/dod/qdr-2006-report.pdf

Week Two ONLINE SESSION	Defining Terrorism	Sageman, Ch. 1 Mahan, Intro – Ch. 1 White, Part I
Week Three	History of Terror Jihad	Mahan, Ch. 2 Sageman, Ch. 2 White, Part II
Week Four ONLINE SESSION	Evolving Strategies Tactics	Mahan, Ch. 3-4
Week Five	Religious Terror	Stern, Part I
Week Six ONLINE SESSION	Islamist Networks	Stern, Part II
Week Seven	Understanding Net- works	Sageman, Ch. 3-5
Week Eight ONLINE SESSION	The Media, Women Terrorists, and Counter-terrorism Strategies	Mahan, Ch. 5-9
Week Nine	Terrorism Today	White, Part III
Week Ten ONLINE SESSION	Homeland Security	White, Part IV
Week Eleven	Transnational Crime	Naim, all
Week Twelve	In-Class Final Exam	

General Information:

- A. Academic Honesty: Students at Georgetown University shall abide by the highest standards of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism cannot be tolerated and are contrary to the mission of the University. Transgressions shall be investigated by the professor and appropriate punitive action taken (including expulsion from the course) if found culpable of such offenses.
 - B. Electronic Classroom Decorum: Students at Georgetown University are expected to treat each other and their opinions with mutual respect and civility at all times. This is especially important when dealing with each other in an online forum.
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- C. Incomplete Grades: An incomplete grade (I) may be given only for legitimate and extenuating circumstances due to illness or emergencies and shall be given only upon approval by the professor. For further details, please refer to current school wide academic regulations.

 - D. Student Feedback: At the end of the course, students will be invited to submit written comments to the professor regarding the conduct and content of the course. These comments are designed to assist the teacher in being a more effective classroom instructor and to be able to adjust the course to better suit the needs of the student – especially concerning course organization and text selection.
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