

**CONF 345 Social Dynamics of Terrorism, Justice and Security
SPRING 2013**

School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution

Wednesdays 4:30 – 7:10 p.m. Art and Design Building Room 2026

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Office Hours: by appointment Robinson B 365

Course Description:

Terrorism is one of the most critical challenges to global security. This course explores the problem through the lens of conflict analysis and resolution. We shall study various forms, sources, strategies and tactics of terrorism. Terrorist motivations and behavior will be examined. We shall attempt to explain the phenomenon through application of fundamental concepts in conflict analysis and resolution to contemporary and historical case studies, while also reflecting on counterterrorism strategies. Various dimensions of human and state security as well as issues of social justice will be discussed. Students are required to follow current affairs related to terrorism, covered in the local and international electronic media. You will share your insights in class. There is one mandatory field trip to the National Counterterrorism Center. Past students have found this trip extremely valuable.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students should have developed the following:

- Familiarity with various theoretical perspectives on terrorist motivations and behavior;
- An understanding of the political, structural, social, and psychological sources of terrorism;
- Subject matter expertise in origins, evolution, and ideologies of selected terrorist organizations;
- Skills to analyze the social, psychological and political impact of terrorism and counterterrorism strategies.

Classroom Etiquette and Expectations:

Please come to class on time and prepared. Bring your readings with you. Keep in mind that your grade is highly dependent on participation and your efforts to follow current events.

SafeAssign: Make sure that you are citing sources properly. Students will post all assignments through SafeAssign plagiarism detection software on Blackboard. I will provide a SafeAssign testing option for your papers so that you can identify any passages of concern before you submit your final draft. All work must be original and produced for CONF 345. If you are working on a related project for another class, please talk to me about how to leverage your research from a different perspective for CONF 345.

Zotero: I STRONGLY recommend use of a citation management tool such as Zotero or Endnote. We will have a tutorial early in the semester to aid in citation.

We will be discussing contentious political issues in this course. You will encounter strong opinions as open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class. You will be expected to keep a balance between arguing your own position on these issues, as well as encouraging, hearing, and respecting other opinions.

If an emergency prevents a student from attending class, the student should inform me ahead of time when possible. Please **text me** if you will be late. Students are responsible for all announcements, assignments and material covered in class, even if they are not there.

Required Texts:

(Available in the GMU bookstore)

- Kegley, Charles W. *The New Global Terrorism: Characteristics, Causes, Controls*. 1st ed. Prentice Hall, 2002.
- Burke, Jason. *Al-Qaeda: The True Story of Radical Islam*. I. B. Tauris, 2004.

Optional:

(Available in the GMU bookstore)

- Habeck, Mary. *Knowing the Enemy: Jihadist Ideology and the War on Terror*. Yale University Press. 2007.
- Hoffman, Bruce. *Inside Terrorism*. Revised & enlarged. Columbia University Press, 2006.
- Reich, Walter. *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*. 1st ed. Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 1998.
- Sageman, Marc. *Understanding Terror Networks*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

Also Optional:

(Available as an e-resource through GMU library and in the bookstore)

- Cronin, Audrey. *How Terrorism Ends: Understanding the Decline and Demise of Terrorist Campaigns*. Princeton University Press, 2011.

Additional required readings and relevant materials will be on Blackboard.

Apps:

(Please download the following free apps on your phone/tablet and save websites as tabs in your web browser homepage.)

Required:

- Al Jazeera
- Russia Today (RT)
- National Public Radio (NPR)
- Washington Post
- British Broadcasting Channel (BBC)
- CNN
- Fox News

Optional:

- GMU Mobile
- Blackboard

Assignments:

Current Events/Participation: 20 points. Conflict practitioners, intelligence analysts, and diplomats alike must be current on global events. You will be responsible for staying current on two terrorist organizations (list of options provided on first day of class), as well as relevant public debates on national security. Be prepared every class to share new developments and answer questions. Your chosen terrorist organizations will be your case studies for the short essay assignments.

Short Essays: 40 points. To help guide your reading and organize your thoughts for class discussion, there is a weekly writing assignment. You will turn this assignment in on Blackboard to SafeAssign. You **must complete eight** (5 points each) of the ten short essays I assign. Additional completed essays will be worth 5 points of extra credit each. Essays will be no longer than one page. **Short essay number 1 is required of all students.**

Term Paper: 40 points. You will write one term paper 12 – 15 pages in length. Benchmarks for paper abstract, draft, and outline are noted in the course schedule. We will discuss paper topics in class as well as guidelines for the paper. All assignments will be turned into Blackboard through SafeAssign.

Extra Credit: 2 additional short essays (5 points each), use of citation management (5 points), use of GMU writing center (5 points).

		Points	Total
Required	Short Essay 1	5	
	Short Essay 2	5	
	Short Essay 3	5	
	Short Essay 4	5	
	Short Essay 5	5	
	Short Essay 6	5	
	Short Essay 7	5	
	Short Essay 8	5	
	Current Events	20	
	Term Paper Abstract	5	
Term Paper Draft	10		
Term Paper Outline	10		
Final Paper	15		
			100
Extra Credit	Short Essay	5	
	Short Essay	5	
	Citation Management	5	
	Writing Center	5	
			120

Schedule and Due Dates:

Week 1:

Wednesday 1/23 Introductions:

Course protocol, expectations and overview
Substance, readings, Blackboard, apps, short essay guidelines, term paper guidelines, Zotero, choose terrorist organizations for current events, NCTC field trip

Week 2:

Tuesday 1/29 S-CAR Conference Information Session 7pm George's

Wednesday 1/30 Defining Terrorism & Historical Survey of Terrorism

Reading: Kegley 1, 3, 9 & 11

Short Essay 1: Find 5 definitions of terrorism, cite sources.

Week 3:

Wednesday 2/6 Terrorism and Media & 9/11 Discourse Analysis Al Jazeera, U.S.

Reading: Hoffman, and Congressional Testimony on Social Media and Al Shabaab videos on Blackboard

Short Essay 2: What are the best sources of news on your organizations? Why? How are organizations portrayed? Are there biases?

Week 4:

Monday 2/11 S-CAR Career Workshop 1:30pm NE Module II Conference Room

Wednesday 2/13 Sources of Terrorism: Grievance & Lifecycle of an FTO AQ Core, Anonymous

Reading: Kegley Chapter 8,12,17, Scheurer on Blackboard

Short Essay 3: What are the grievances of your terrorist organizations?

Week 5:

Wednesday 2/20 Social Justice Framework: The Left Structural and Critical Theory The Weather Underground

Reading: Marx, Galtung & Sprinzak on Blackboard

Short Essay 4: What are the origin stories of your terrorist organizations?

Thursday 2/21 Dialogue and Difference
7pm Research 1, Room 163

Week 6:

Wednesday 2/27 Social Justice Framework: The Right Religion
LeT, AQIM, CIM

Reading: Burke 1 - 4, Kegley 14 & 15, CIM video on Blackboard
Short Essay 5: What is the structural violence affecting your organizations? What is their framework of social justice?

Week 7:

Wednesday 3/6 Sources of Terrorism: Psychology, Radicalization & Social Identity Theory and Social Network Theory
Timothy McVeigh, Omar Hamami, AQ Core

Reading: Hudson, Bandura, and Sageman on Blackboard, Burke 5 - 8
Short Essay 6: How is your organization networked? Who are the affiliates? Who are the competitors?

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

Week 9:

Wednesday 3/20 Intelligence & Analytic Tradecraft, Security & the USA PATRIOT Act
U.S., Israel

Reading: Burke 9 -12, Are We Safer?, and DoJ on Blackboard
Short Essay 7: What are the challenges of providing security in a democracy?

Dialogue and Difference
7pm Research 1, Room 163

Week 10:

Wednesday 3/27 Counterterrorism, War & How Terrorism Ends
U.S. military and foreign policy
Guest Speaker

Reading: Burke 13 - end, Kegley 18, Cronin Chapter 3
Short Essay 8: What methods of CT have been tried with your Terrorist organizations? What is your assessment of their success?

Week 11:

Wednesday 4/3 NO CLASS

Short Essay 9: What is the history of peacemaking with your terrorist organizations?

Week 12:

Wednesday 4/10 Conflict Resolution & Terrorism: Talking to the Enemy
Ireland Peace Process
Guest Speaker

Reading: Sweetman, Hostage Negotiation, and
the National Strategy for Counterterrorism on Blackboard
**Short Essay 10: What are the possibilities for conflict resolution
intervention with your terrorist organizations?**
Assignment due: term paper topic/abstract

Week 13:

Tuesday 4/16 NCTC Field Trip 1-3pm

Wednesday 4/17 NCTC Debrief, Conflict Resolution CT Strategy
Assignment due: draft term paper 8-10 pages

Senator Mitchell on Northern Ireland
7pm Arlington Campus Founders Hall Multipurpose Room

Week 14:

Tuesday 4/23 Dialogue and Difference
Research 1, Room 163

Wednesday 4/24 AQ update & Argumentation: Refining your Term Paper
Guest Speaker

Week 15:

Tuesday 4/29 S-CAR Undergraduate Conference
10 am – 4:30pm Research I

Wednesday 5/1 Course wrap up/paper discussion
Assignment due: term paper outline

Week 16:

Wednesday 5/8 Reading and Exam period
No Exam

Assignment due: final term paper 12-15 pages

ACADEMIC POLICIES AND INFORMATION

Academic Honesty and Collaboration: GMU has an Honor Code with guidelines regarding academic integrity. It is designed, “to promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community” (www.gmu.edu/catalog/policies). Plagiarism is a serious offense, and all written work for this course should include proper citations in a standard citation format (MLA, APA, etc.). *If you are unsure about how to cite a direct quotation or concept from course or outside readings, then ask for help.* “I wasn’t sure how to cite a source, so I left out the reference,” is not an acceptable defense for plagiarism. Copies of common style manuals are available at the GMU library reference desk or online at <http://library.duke.edu/research/citing/workscited/>.

For individual class assignments, you may discuss your ideas with others or ask for feedback; however, you are responsible for making certain that there is no question that the work you hand in is your own. You may not submit papers or presentations from other courses to fulfill assignments for this class.

Late Work: Class assignments that are submitted late can be penalized by one letter grade for each day they are late. Late assignments will be accepted only in cases of documented personal illness or family emergency. If this is the case, you must leave the paper in my mailbox in the Conflict Analysis and Resolution (CAR) office (Robinson B365) and email a copy at my GMU email address per the extension given to you. Papers should be submitted in an envelope marked with my name and the course number. If the office is closed, the envelope can be dropped through the mail slot in the door.

STUDENT RESOURCES

GMU Writing Center:

The Writing Center seeks to foster a writing climate on campus and beyond by offering free writing support to George Mason students, faculty, staff and alumni. No matter what your writing abilities are, writing specialists can help you develop the skills you need to become a successful writer....Free services include: One-on-one 45 minute sessions with a writing specialist; online writing lab; one-on-one sessions with an ESL specialist; workshops on such topics as documenting sources, grammar and punctuation; writing handouts on a variety of subjects; a library of handbooks and writing manuals; [and an] online chat with a tutor about papers submitted to the Online Writing Lab” (<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>).

Disability Support Services:

George Mason University is committed to providing appropriate services and accommodations that allow self-identified students with disabilities to access programs and activities at the university as stated in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The staff of the Disability Resource Center Office coordinate services for students with disabilities, determine reasonable services and accommodations on the basis of disability, and act as a liaison between students and faculty/administration on concerns relating to services and accommodations. (<http://www.gmu.edu/departments/advising/dss.html>)

Any student with documented learning disabilities or other conditions that may affect academic performance should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with the Office of Disability Support Services (993-2474) to determine the possible accommodations you might need; and 2) contact her or his instructor to discuss reasonable accommodations.

Library Services:

The CAR library liaison is Sarah Sheehan at ssheehan@gmu.edu. Don't hesitate to contact her with specific questions about holdings and research regarding the CAR field.