

**SYLLABUS**  
**CONF 345: Social Dynamics of**  
**Terrorism, Security, and Justice**

**Fall 2014**

**Class: Tuesdays 4:30 p.m.-7:10 p.m.**

**Instructor: Hussein Yusuf, Ph.D (ABD)**

**Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 p.m.-4  
p.m.**

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**(614) 316-7555**

**Course Description:**

A glance of current news reveals the presence of terrorist groups, using violence against civilians and governments they deem as the “enemy.” Terrorist groups around the world use violence for “political” and sometimes “religious” purposes. This course covers the phenomenon of terrorism and its impact on society.

Terrorist groups operate in and out of states—mostly using unconventional violence upon civilians.

Demands by terrorists may center on independence, autonomy or greater polity ruled through God's law. What challenges do these demands pose to the world--especially to weak or failed states? Are there legitimate leaders within terrorist groups? Individuals who negotiate peace? Who is a legitimate leader? What does legitimacy look like? Where is legitimacy derived from?

We will explore these questions and more in the next few months.

The course intends to equip students with an understanding of terrorism in our modern world—the complexity of terrorism—ways for disrupting or preventing it. History is filled with “state”

or sometimes “revolutionary” terror, violence that kills civilians, but for the purposes of focus and clarity this course focuses on what scholars and others have now termed as “Islamist ideology.”

We will do this by studying from a range of interdisciplinary fields in the social sciences.

The course will leverage class lectures, readings, discussions, documentaries, movies and case studies in order to develop a deeper understanding of the structural — or internal causes of terrorism in our world.

Thematically, we will be studying the phenomenon of terrorism through the lenses of diverse theories such as democratic mechanisms, international relations, and history and conflict resolution— among others.

**Assignments:**

**Short papers (30%):** Students are required to write two critical/reflection short papers (2-3 pages each). Each paper is worth 15%. Detailed information for all the assignments will be sent to the students a week before the due date.

**Midterm group project (20%):** Instead of a midterm exam in this class, there will be a mapping terrorist group project worth 20%. Students will be divided into groups of six, where each group selects their own case study. Students will then present a twenty minute presentation on their case study. Each group is expected to provide a half page proposal on their chosen case study. We will discuss this in class.

**Final paper (40%):** The final research paper (6-8 pages) is worth 40%.

**Class Participation (10%):** Students are expected to come to class and engage in

the weekly readings and lectures. Missing more than 3 classes is a serious offense and may result in reduced or F grade. Active participation is worth 10% of your grade.

All Grades will be based in-depth analysis, presentation, clarity and engagement of the course material.

### **Grading Scale:**

97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-83%	B-
76-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-73%	C-

60-69%	D
0-59%	F

### **Required Books:**

Martin, Gus. Essentials of Terrorism: Concepts and Controversies. Los Angeles: SAGE Publications, 2014

Humphrey, Michael. The Politics of Atrocity and Reconciliation: From Terror to Trauma. London: Routledge, 2002

Ramadan, Tariq. Islam and Arab Awakening Oxford Press, 2012.

**University Requirements** are listed immediately below in language suggested by the Provost's Office. We will take time in the first class to discuss any questions that

you may have about this material, including questions about plagiarism.

**Academic Integrity:**

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for

differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

### **GMU Email Accounts:**

Students must activate their GMU email accounts to receive important University information, including messages related to this class.

### **Office of Disability Services:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

### **Other Useful Campus Resources:**

WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall;  
(703) 993-1200;

<http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES “Ask a Librarian”

<http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;  
COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;  
<http://caps.gmu.edu>

The UNIVERSITY CATALOG, <http://catalog.gmu.edu> is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university affairs.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND DUE DATES OF ASSIGNMENTS**

**Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>: INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE**

**Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**: Martin, Chapter 1: Defining Terrorism

Humphrey, Chapter 1: The  
Politics of Atrocity

**Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**: Martin, Chapter 3. Causes of  
Terrorists

**Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>**: Martin, Chapter 6.  
Humphrey, Chapter 3.

**Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>**: Martin, Chapter 7.

**Proposal for Midterm DUE.**

We will watch Paradise NOW.

**Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>**: Ramadan, Chapters, 1-2  
**First Paper DUE.**

**Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>**: Ramadan, 3-4.  
Humphrey Chapter 5.

**Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>**: **No Class**: Columbus Day Holiday

**Oct. 21<sup>st</sup>: No Class.** Students work on Midterm/Groups Projects.

**Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>: Midterm: Group Presentations.**

**Nov 4<sup>th</sup>:** Read Terrorism, Freedom and Social Justice. You can find the article here: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40203638>

**Nov 11<sup>th</sup>:** Read: A Strategy for Fighting International Islamist Terrorists: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40375787>

**Nov 18<sup>th</sup>:** Battle of Algiers

**Nov 25<sup>th</sup>:** Read: A Strategy for Fighting International Islamist Terrorists: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/40375787>

Humphrey, Chapter 4.

Read: Islam and Terrorism:  
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/20455506>

Read: Terrorism and Human Rights. You  
can find the article here:

<http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/QUTLJJ/2004/15.html>

**Dec 6<sup>th</sup>: No Class:** Students work on Final  
Papers

**FINAL PAPER DUE December 10<sup>th</sup> VIA  
EMAIL NO LATER THAN 5:00 P.M.**