

**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

- *Conflict Mapping.* Due February 15th. A 4 page mapping of the general outlines of the conflict.
- *Social Structural Conditions.* Due March 8th. A 4 page analysis of the social and structural conditions leading to terrorism in their case.
- *Individuals Involved.* Due April 5th. A 2 page analysis of the individuals involved in terrorism in their case.
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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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### **Required reading on Blackboard:**

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January 25<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup>

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- Frameworks for Analysis
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- Types of Terrorist Activity
- Labeling of terrorist groups or terrorism sponsors
- Survey of history of terrorism
  - 3 waves of terrorism
  - Terrorism around the globe
- Regional Surveys of Terrorism

- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
  - Richardson pp 1-26
  - Pape pp. 3-78

## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
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## **Unit 3. Who Joins a Terrorist Organization and Why?**

March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
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  - Shedd Ch 2
  - Pape pp. 171-236

#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
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  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
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  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
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  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

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  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
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March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

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  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
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  - Psychological impacts
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  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
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- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
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- Reading:
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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
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  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
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March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

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  - Changes in coverage over the last century
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  - Psychological impacts
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  - Military
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  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
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  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
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  - Changes in coverage over the last century
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  - Psychological impacts
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  - Military
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- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
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  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
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May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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  - 3 waves of terrorism
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- Evolution of terrorism
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- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
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  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

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  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
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  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
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March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
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  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
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  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
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  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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ICAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. ICAR’s policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
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**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
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- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
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  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
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- Reading:
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March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
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  - Psychological impacts
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April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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ICAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. ICAR’s policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

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<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;

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

- *Conflict Mapping.* Due February 15th. A 4 page mapping of the general outlines of the conflict.
- *Social Structural Conditions.* Due March 8th. A 4 page analysis of the social and structural conditions leading to terrorism in their case.
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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
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  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
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March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
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  - Psychological impacts
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April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

- *Conflict Mapping.* Due February 15th. A 4 page mapping of the general outlines of the conflict.
- *Social Structural Conditions.* Due March 8th. A 4 page analysis of the social and structural conditions leading to terrorism in their case.
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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
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## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
- Reading:
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## **Unit 3. Who Joins a Terrorist Organization and Why?**

March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
  - Pandit, L. “Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber: Santosh Sivans *The Terrorist*”. pp. 91-112.
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#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 129-165.
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the



background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

- *Conflict Mapping.* Due February 15th. A 4 page mapping of the general outlines of the conflict.
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- *Counterterrorism Efforts.* Due April 28th. A 5 page analysis of counterterrorism efforts in the case, their "success" and "failures" and what is currently being done.
- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

**Required Books:**

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## **Wrap Up**

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**CONF 240 001**  
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**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

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  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
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  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
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- Reading:
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  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
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April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

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  - Military
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  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
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  - Psychological impacts
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  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
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## **Wrap Up**

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
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**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 129-165.
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- Richardson pp. 139-240
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- Stohl, Michael. “Counterterrorism and Repression”. pp 57-70.
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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ICAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. ICAR’s policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

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- *Counterterrorism Efforts.* Due April 28th. A 5 page analysis of counterterrorism efforts in the case, their "success" and "failures" and what is currently being done.
- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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- Types of Terrorist Activity
- Labeling of terrorist groups or terrorism sponsors
- Survey of history of terrorism
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- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
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  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
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- Reading:
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## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

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- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
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#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
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  - Military
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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
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**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

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- Types of Terrorist Activity
- Labeling of terrorist groups or terrorism sponsors
- Survey of history of terrorism
  - 3 waves of terrorism
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- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
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  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
  - Richardson pp 1-26
  - Pape pp. 3-78

## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
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#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the



background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

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- *Counterterrorism Efforts.* Due April 28th. A 5 page analysis of counterterrorism efforts in the case, their "success" and "failures" and what is currently being done.
- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

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- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
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  - Pape pp. 3-78

## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
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## **Unit 3. Who Joins a Terrorist Organization and Why?**

March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
  - Pandit, L. “Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber: Santosh Sivans *The Terrorist*”. pp. 91-112.
  - Shedd Ch 2
  - Pape pp. 171-236

#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 129-165.
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## **Wrap Up**

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**CONF 240 001**  
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**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

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- *Counterterrorism Efforts.* Due April 28th. A 5 page analysis of counterterrorism efforts in the case, their "success" and "failures" and what is currently being done.
- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

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- Labeling of terrorist groups or terrorism sponsors
- Survey of history of terrorism
  - 3 waves of terrorism
  - Terrorism around the globe
- Regional Surveys of Terrorism



- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
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  - Pape pp. 3-78

## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
  - Pandit, L. “Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber: Santosh Sivans *The Terrorist*”. pp. 91-112.
  - Shedd Ch 2
  - Pape pp. 171-236

#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
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## **Wrap Up**

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**CONF 240 001**  
**Social Dynamics of Terrorism**  
**Spring 2011**

Instructor: Julie Shedd

Office: Truland 502 Office Hrs by appointment

Phone: 703-993-3650

Meeting Times: TR 9:00-10:15

Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

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- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
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- Evolution of terrorism
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  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
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## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
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- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
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March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
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#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
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#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
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- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
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  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
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## **Wrap Up**

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Location: Enterprise Hall 274

E-mail: jshedd@gmu.edu

Terrorism is a global problem, arising from both state and non-state actors and affecting many people in the world. Great variation in both the forms terrorism takes and also in the impact of terrorism on social systems justifies focusing, on the one hand, on the social dynamics that give rise to terrorism and, on the other hand, on the effects on social dynamics in societies struggling with the threat and reality of terrorism. Students will learn a method for analyzing conflict and use it to identify the sources and conditions that give rise to terrorism and the impacts that terrorist activities have on different societies. The course begins with a consideration of different definitions of terrorism and subsequent topics include a broad survey of modern terrorism, the range of actors involved in terrorism, and cross-state comparisons of reactions to terrorism. Each course topic explores case studies from two different regions of the world to help students understand the variations that terrorism takes depending on the social and political context. Students will develop case studies of terrorist organizations that will be used for cross-state comparisons of the dynamics of terrorism. Through course readings, films, and case study presentations students will become acquainted with a variety of theories for understanding terrorism and with many of the policies intended to address it.

**Requirements:**

**Participation:** You are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. This means that you should have completed all the assigned readings prior to each class. The topic of terrorism can be very divisive. The goal in this class is to have respectful, open dialogue of the topic as part of learning about how terrorism impacts our social world. Be mindful of the sensitivities of others in your comments in class; however, open discussion and dialogue are our goals. Attendance and class participation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Book Review:** Each student will be required to read one fictional account of terrorism. A list of suggested books will be provided at the beginning of the semester, additionally students may choose an alternate book if it is approved by the instructor. Student will be expected to write a 3-4 page double spaced analysis of the conflict presented in the novel using the analytical framework presented in class. This review will account for 20% of the semester grade and be due March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Group Discussion and Case Analysis Paper:** The class will be divided into two groups. One group will be assigned the case of terrorism in Sri Lanka, the other terrorism in Chechnya. Three times during the semester the groups will be given in-class time to discuss and apply an analytical framework to their case. Students will be provided the

background material for each discussion the week before. Each set of material will be from a different type of source and will provide a different perspective on the conflict. Each group member will be expected to complete an analytic chart during or after each discussion (for a total of three charts). These charts will be worth 10% of the grade.

**Individual Case Study Presentation:** Each student will identify a terrorist group and make a 5 minute presentation to the class outlining the groups' basic history, membership and current level of activity. Choice of cases will be approved the second day of class. The presentation should include the goals of the group, what kinds of actions they have undertaken, what community they claim to represent and who joins the group. This information should be summarized in a 1 page handout for the class. Cases will be assigned the second day of class and presentations will happen from 2/1-2/10. The presentation will be worth 10% of your final grade.

**Individual Case Study Assignments:** Using the same case as the student presented on, students will complete a final paper on their case in stages. Page lengths are double-spaced.

- *Conflict Mapping.* Due February 15th. A 4 page mapping of the general outlines of the conflict.
- *Social Structural Conditions.* Due March 8th. A 4 page analysis of the social and structural conditions leading to terrorism in their case.
- *Individuals Involved.* Due April 5th. A 2 page analysis of the individuals involved in terrorism in their case.
- *Counterterrorism Efforts.* Due April 28th. A 5 page analysis of counterterrorism efforts in the case, their "success" and "failures" and what is currently being done.
- *Final Paper.* Due May 17. A compilation of all of the above in a 10-15 page paper on the conflict and terrorism group chosen. Should reflect feedback given on previous parts.
- *Grading.* The entire project will be worth 50% of the grade and the grade will be issued on the final paper. Feedback and guidance will be given on the earlier sections as they are turned in.

**Blackboard:** There is an online blackboard site for this class. Information on assignments, course readings, and class notes will be housed on the site. Please let me know if you have trouble accessing it.

**Required Books:**

Richardson, L. What Terrorists Want: Understanding the Enemy, Containing the Threat. New York: Random House, 2007.

Pape, R. Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. New York: Random House, 2006.

Working Group on War, Violence and Terrorism, ICAR. Terrorism: Concepts, Causes, and Conflict Resolution. Ft. Belvoir: Defense Threat Reduction Agency, 2003. (Listed in the syllabus as WG). This book is available on line on the class Blackboard site.

### **Required reading on Blackboard:**

- Brady, P. "The Impact of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on Civil Liberties". In Nyatepe-Coo, A. and D. Zeisler-Vralsted (eds). Understanding Terrorism: Threats in an Uncertain World. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004. Ch 11, pp 175-182
- Cunningham, K. Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism. Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, 26, 2003, pp. 171-195.
- Hoffman, B. The Modern Terrorist Mindset: Tactics, Targets and Technologies. CIAO Working Paper, Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, 1998, pp. 10-97.
- Jenkins, P. "A Critical Consumer's Guide to Understanding Terrorism". In Images of Terror. New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 2003. Ch 10, pp. 189-194.
- Pandit, L. "Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber: Santosh Sivans *The Terrorist*". In Nyatepe-Coo, A. and D. Zeisler-Vralsted (eds). Understanding Terrorism: Threats in an Uncertain World. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004. Ch 6, pp. 91-112.
- Rubenstein, R. "The Noncauses of Modern Terrorism". In Alchemists of Revolution: Terrorism in the Modern World. New York: Basic, 1974. Ch 4, pp. 49-64.
- Shedd, J. "Understanding Female Terrorists: An Analysis of Motivation and Media Representation". George Mason University, 2005.
- Step, M. & R. Knox . "Media Portrayals of September 11, 2001 and Beyond". In Nyatepe-Coo, A. and D. Zeisler-Vralsted (eds). Understanding Terrorism: Threats in an Uncertain World. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004. Ch 8 pp. 135-146.
- Stohl, Michael. "Counterterrorism and Repression". In Richardson, L. (ed.) The Roots of Terrorism. New York: Routledge, 2006. Ch 5, pp 57-70.
- VanVoorhis, C. "Psychological Responses to the Terrorist Attacks", In Nyatepe-Coo, A. and D. Zeisler-Vralsted (eds). Understanding Terrorism: Threats in an Uncertain World. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2004. Ch 9 pp. 135-146.
- Wilkinson, P. "Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, and the Liberal State" In Terrorism versus Democracy: The Liberal State Response. New York: Routledge, 2006. Ch. 5, pp. 61-88.

### **Course Outline**

#### **Unit 1. Introduction and Framework for Analysis**

January 25<sup>th</sup> – February 10<sup>th</sup>

- Organization of the course, assignments, expectations
- Multi-Disciplinary Analysis as a tool for understanding terrorism
- Frameworks for Analysis
- Definitions of terrorism
- Types of Terrorist Activity
- Labeling of terrorist groups or terrorism sponsors
- Survey of history of terrorism
  - 3 waves of terrorism
  - Terrorism around the globe
- Regional Surveys of Terrorism

- Evolution of terrorism
  - Revolution terrorism in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Russia
  - Left Wing terrorism in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century Western Europe and the United States
  - Post-colonial terrorism in Africa and the middle east
  - Global connections among terrorist groups in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 5-39
  - Richardson pp 1-26
  - Pape pp. 3-78

## **Unit 2. What Social Conditions Give Rise to Terrorist Organizations?**

February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Social Conditions
  - Societal norms about violence
  - Relationship between terrorist organizations and the communities or societies they arise from
- Structural Conditions
  - Role of discrimination or deprivation
  - Impact of political structure on the incidence of terrorism
  - The relationship of terrorist groups to political groups
- Goals of Terrorist Organizations
- Terrorist tactics and targets.
  - Relationship between the goals and ideology of the group and the tactics and targets they choose
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 59-86
  - Cunningham, K. (2003). Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism. pp. 171-195.
  - Rubenstein, R. “The Noncauses of Modern Terrorism”. pp. 49-64.
  - Hoffman, B. The Modern Terrorist Mindset: Tactics, Targets and Technologies. CIAO Working Paper, Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence, 1998, pp. 10-97.
  - Pape, pp. 79-126
  - Richardson, pp. 38-138

## **Unit 3. Who Joins a Terrorist Organization and Why?**

March 8<sup>th</sup>- March 24<sup>th</sup>

- Individual Logic of Terrorism
  - Overview of profiles of terrorists
  - Socioeconomic factors
  - Political affiliations
  - Psychological profiles
  - Overview of LTTE (Sri Lanka)
  - Movie: *The Terrorist*
  - Dynamics of Recruiting individuals to terrorism organizations

- Reading:
  - Pandit, L. “Inside the Mind of a Suicide Bomber: Santosh Sivans *The Terrorist*”. pp. 91-112.
  - Shedd Ch 2
  - Pape pp. 171-236

#### **Unit 4. Terrorism as Communication**

March 29<sup>th</sup>- April 7<sup>th</sup>

- Media Coverage of Terrorism
  - Differences around the globe
  - Criteria for “Newsworthiness”
  - Coverage as a goal of terrorism
  - Changes in coverage over the last century
- Effect on target populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Reading:
  - Jenkins, P. “A Critical Consumer’s Guide to Understanding Terrorism”. pp. 189-194.
  - Shedd Ch 3
  - Step, M. & R. Knox . “Media Portrayals of September 11, 2001 and Beyond” pp. 135-146.
  - VanVoorhis, C. “Psychological Responses to the Terrorist Attacks”, pp. 135-146.

#### **Unit 5. Challenges in Addressing Terrorism**

April 12<sup>th</sup>- May 3<sup>rd</sup>

- Responses by States
  - Military
  - Law Enforcement
  - Social and Economic Development
- Variation in responses of different political systems
  - Western democracies, authoritarian regimes, monarchies, etc.
- The impact of counter terrorism on civilian populations
  - Psychological impacts
  - Economic impacts
  - Political impacts
- Civil rights, human rights and counterterrorism
  - Counterterrorism and democracy
  - Challenges s to laws protecting rights
- Comparative Review of Solutions around the globe to balancing security and individual and collective rights
- Reading:
  - WG pp. 129-165.
  - Pape pp. 237-262

- Richardson pp. 139-240
- Brady, Patricia. “The Impact of the September 11, 2001 Terrorist Attacks on Civil Liberties”. pp 175-182.
- Stohl, Michael. “Counterterrorism and Repression”. pp 57-70.
- Wilkinson, P. “Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice, and the Liberal State” pp. 61-88

## **Wrap Up**

May 5<sup>th</sup>

### **Academic Integrity**

Mason 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.

### **Honor Code and Plagiarism:**

All George Mason University students have agreed to abide by the letter and the spirit of the Honor Code. You can find a copy of the Honor Code at [academicintegrity.gmu.edu](http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. With specific regards to plagiarism, three fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular assignment, ask for clarification. If you have questions about when the contributions of others to your work must be acknowledged and appropriate ways to cite those contributions, please talk with the professor.

ICAR requires that all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit a student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. ICAR’s policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace or substitute for it.

### **Mason Email Accounts**

Students must use their MasonLIVE email account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

**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 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;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

**University Policies**

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies.