

## CONF 345- Terrorism and Conflict Resolution

SPRING 2015

Tuesday: 7:20 – 10:00 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. R. Scott Moore

Email: rmoorea@gmu.edu

Course Credit: 3 semester hours

**Course Description.** This course explores the behaviors, structures, and social constructs that, together, explain terrorism and terrorist groups. The first half of the course will analyze the nature, dynamics and, causes of terrorism, both in the past and today. It will focus on the dynamics and causes of terrorism, how terrorists operate, and why groups or individuals may resort to terrorism. The second half of the course will examine how terrorism may be prevented, managed, and, eventually, ended.

**Objectives.** Upon completing this course students will have an enhanced understanding of the nature of terrorism and its characteristics and causes and examine the strategies intended to counter and end terrorism. Students will be expected to:

- Explain the nature and characteristics of terrorism, as well as its historical development.
- Examine the underlying causes of terrorism.
- Analyze terrorist groups to identify their key dynamics and the underlying causes that drove them to terrorism.
- Using principles of conflict resolution, identify how terrorism may be prevented, managed, and ended.

### Texts and Readings

Hoffman, Bruce. (2006). *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press  
ISBN 0231126980

Laqueur, Walter (ed.). (2004). *Voices of Terror*. New York: Reed Press  
ISBN 1594290350

**Readings.** Additional readings listed in the syllabus are posted on the course site. In addition, students are expected to remain knowledgeable of current terrorism issues so they may be discussed in class.

## Assignments and Grading

**Paper: 30%.** Due April 7. Write a paper of about 12 pages (double-spaced, New Times Roman font 12) that examines the behaviors, structures, and social constructs of a terrorist group or conflict of your choice and identify the root cause of that terrorism. The paper will be submitted at the beginning of class.

**Quizzes: 20%.** Periodic, unannounced quizzes will be given during class. They will cover previous classes and the readings.

**Team Presentations: 20%.** The class will be divided into teams, each of which will create a terrorist group, identifying its types of attacks it conducts, its objectives, characteristics, and the root causes of the terrorism. Each team will then describe a strategy used to resolve the terrorism. Teams will brief the class on the following dates:

Mar 17: A ten minute presentation that describes the group and the key behaviors, structures, and social constructs that characterized the group.

Apr 28: A ten minute presentation that assesses the key aspects of a strategy used to end the terrorism and why it would be effective.

**Final Exam: 20%.** The final exam will be given during the assigned Finals Class Date. Attendance is mandatory. It will consist of a combination of short answer questions and one or more essays.

**Participation: 10%.** Students are expected to attend all class sessions, complete the assigned readings before coming to class (including the first session), and participate in classroom discussions and presentations. Please notify me if you may miss a class.

## Office Hours

There are no scheduled office hours for this class. Student requests for consultation will be handled before or after class each week. Arrangements can easily be made to meet outside of class to discuss any matters that may require more extensive student-instructor interaction.

## Classroom Etiquette

Students should be courteous to their classmates, refrain from vulgar or offensive language, and respect differences in backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives. While the class is a lecture format, it will be interactive, in that you will be expected to discuss issues and points. We will be discussing controversial and sometimes contentious issues in class; strong, informed opinions are expected and encouraged. So is maturity and the willingness to respect and listen to others. Opinions should be based on academic preparation and critical thinking; personal biases or emotions should not become the driving factors in any discussions.

### Late Submission of Work

The paper is due on April 7. Those submitted late will be penalized a half letter grade for each late day. Papers not submitted will result in a failing grade for the course. If illness or a family or other emergency prevents timely submission, please contact the instructor. Guidance will then be provided for submission.

### Academic Integrity

The GMU Honor Code provides guidelines for academic integrity; you should be familiar with those guidelines and, more important, abide by them. Plagiarism is unacceptable; all written work should include proper citations. If unsure if a citation is required, ask for help. Papers and quizzes/tests are intended to be an individual effort. While you may discuss your ideas with others and gain feedback, you must ensure that the work you submit is entirely your own. You may not submit previous work from another class or project to fulfill the assignment in this course.

### Disability Accommodations

If you have a learning or physical difference that may affect your academic work, you will need to furnish appropriate documentation to the Office of Disability Services. If you qualify for accommodation, the ODS staff will give you a form detailing appropriate accommodations for your instructor. In addition to providing the instructor with the appropriate form, please take the initiative to discuss accommodation with him at the beginning of the semester and as needed during the term. Because of the range of learning differences, the instructor needs to learn from you the most effective ways to assist you. If you have contacted the Office of Disability Services and are waiting to hear from a counselor, please tell the instructor.

### GMU Writing Center

The Writing Center fosters a writing climate on campus by offering free support to George Mason students. Writing specialists can help you develop the skills you need to be a successful writer. For additional information, go to the Writing Center website at <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>.

## Class Schedule

- Jan 20: Course Intro and Terrorism Basic Concepts  
Hoffman, Chapter 1  
Readings: Seguire Definitions  
Armed Conflict Definition
- Jan 27: The Nature of Terrorism: A Three Dimensional Framework  
Readings: Lederach
- Feb 3: History of Terrorism  
Hoffman, Chapters 2-3  
Laqueur, Part 1, Sections 2-3
- Feb 10: The Threat of Terrorism Today  
Hoffman, Chapters 4-5  
Laqueur, Part 3, Sections 1-2  
Readings: Terrorist TTP  
WMD- The Terrorist Threat
- Feb 17: Terrorist Operations and Organization  
Hoffman, Chapters 6-9  
Readings: Al Qaeda Manual
- Feb 24: Causes of Terrorism  
Laqueur, Part 1, Section 4  
Readings: Who Becomes a Terrorist? (pp 1-71)  
Religion, Politics, and Terrorism
- Mar 3: Analyzing Terrorism: Putting It All Together  
Readings: State Department Country Reports (Scan)
- Mar 10: NO CLASS. Spring Break
- Mar 17: Team Presentations
- Mar 24: Addressing the Problem of Terrorism  
Readings: National Strategy for CT  
EU CT Strategy  
UN Uniting Against Terrorism
- Mar 31: Preventing Terrorism Before It Occurs  
Readings: UK Prevent Strategy  
Role of Civil Society  
Council of Europe Terrorism Prevention

- Apr 7: Stopping Terrorist Attacks and Mitigating Their Effects  
Readings: DHS Preventing Terrorism  
Coping After Terrorism  
Papers Due
- Apr 14: Ending Terrorism  
Reading: How Terrorism Ends
- Apr 21: Can Terrorism Be Resolved?  
Readings: Interview with a Former Terrorist
- Apr 28: Team Presentations
- May 4: Course Review
- TBD: Final Exam