



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
PSY-435	The Psychology of Terrorism	6
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
PSY-110	Social Sciences	Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	Psychology	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
1 st Cycle	Dr. Stavroulla Soukara	4 th
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Co-requisites
Face-to-Face	N/A	None

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- Examine terrorism and responses to terrorism from an applied psychological perspective. Emphasis is on identifying these common features both within and across terrorist organizations, and on the understanding of the motives, objectives, and methods used by terrorists to achieve their goals. The main aim of the course is to develop an ability to describe and use the fundamental attributes of terrorist psychology, and to educate students on the examination, analysis, comprehension and evaluation of the behavior of terrorists. It also provides the intellectual foundation for further study in the field of terrorism.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Describe and discuss the factors affecting a person's choice of violence to support political ideals
2. Be aware of the differences between terrorism as a defense and terrorism as a violent choice
3. Identify terrorist' tactics, methods, and targets along with strategies of appropriate prevention, detection, and response
4. Recognize the effect that group thinking has on individual members
5. Identify the most serious contemporary terrorist threats
6. Explore the psychological processes that create a terrorist
7. Examine the psychological impact of terrorist activities
8. Explore counter-terrorism strategies through creative problem-solving
9. Differentiate between types of terrorism, such as religious and criminal terrorism
10. Appreciate the need for further understanding of terrorist events

Course Content:

1. Introduction to Psychology of Terrorism
2. Motivations. Social / Cultural / Psychological Factors in Terrorism
3. Political Ideologies
4. Religious Ideologies
5. Suicide Terrorism
6. Recruitment and Training
7. Media and Terrorism
8. Group Think and Group Psychology
9. Profiling Terrorists
10. Organized and Transnational Terrorism
11. Interrogation Practices of Terrorism Suspects
12. Counter Terrorism Practices
13. Changes and Future Directions
14. Case Studies Analyses
15. Women in Terrorism

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive Lectures, Discussions, Case Study Analysis

Assessment Methods:

Exams, Practical Assignments

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Psychology of Terrorism	Bongar, B. et al.	Oxford University Press	2010	978-0195172492

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Psychology of Terrorism (Political Violence)	John Horgan	Routledge	2014	978-0415698023
The Mind of the Terrorist	Jerrold M. Post	Palgrave Macmillan Trade	2008	978-0230612693