



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
MIREL-688	Terrorism and other forms of Asymmetric Threats	10
Prerequisites	Department	Semester
None	Politics and Governance	Fall or Spring
Type of Course	Field	Language of Instruction
Elective	International Relations	English
Level of Course	Lecturer(s)	Year of Study
2 nd Cycle	Dr. Constantinos Adamides	2 nd
Mode of Delivery	Work Placement	Corequisites
Conventional	N/A	N/A

Course Objectives:

The main objectives of the course are to:

Develop a profound understanding of several theoretical aspects of terrorism, including but not limited to, its historical roots, the different dimensions over the years, how it is funded and its relationship with the media, how organizations are funded and trained, how they operate, their tools (from conventional to cyber weapons) and their goals.

Furthermore, one of the primary objectives is to acquire knowledge and develop analytical skills on, inter alia, the history and Modus Operandi of terrorist groups, anti-terrorist governmental and non-governmental options and on the impact of terrorism on geopolitical relationships.

Furthermore, the objective is to study the issue of terrorism and the case studies within the frameworks of geopolitical developments, the international law and the responsibility and efforts of states to protect their citizens, with all the potentially inadvertent repercussions of their efforts towards the recycling of violence.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Comprehend what is – and equally importantly what is not – terrorism and terrorist groups.
- Develop analytical and research skills using the theoretical knowledge acquired on issues of mainstream and more contemporary terrorism.
- Analyze and present case studies of specific terrorist groups and terrorism incidences.
- Acquire profound knowledge on at least 4 case studies (Islamic State, Al Qaeda, Hamas, Hezbollah).
- Describe and evaluate the impact of specific geopolitical changes and historical circumstances on the development and actions of specific terrorist groups.
- Utilize international relations-based theoretical tools – especially from the field of security and conflicts – to analyze terrorism.
- Acquire a profound understanding of the different dimensions of terrorism and the contemporary challenges, including cyber terrorism, the ability (or inability) to profile potential terrorists, anti-terrorist options, cyber terrorism, etc.
- Develop the ability to understand and evaluate different aspects such as funding, recruitment, dissemination of information, radicalization, etc.

Course Content:

The course is separated into 3 main sections

Terrorism - theoretical approaches

The evolution of terrorism

The development of contemporary terrorism

State and other forms of terrorism

Drone attacks – state terrorism?

Ethnic/national terrorism

Violence and terrorism

Contemporary dimensions of terrorism

Media and terrorism

Terrorism and international law

Lone wolves

The risk of the 'returnees'

Terrorism and Weapons of Mass Destruction

International terrorism and asymmetric threats
Obstacles in identifying potential terrorist
Freedom vs. security
Foreign interventionism and terrorism
Recruitment, funding and training of terrorist groups
Cyber terrorism

Case studies

Hamas
Hezbollah
Al Qaida
ISIS

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, PowerPoint (PPT) presentations, research essays, discussion (in class and online)

Assessment Methods:

Research paper
Research paper presentation
Response papers
Participation
Final examination

Readings:

Combs, C. C. (2016). Terrorism in the Twenty-First Century (7th. Edition). Routledge

Abrams et. al. 2017. What comes after ISIS. Foreign Policy.

Al-Omari G. 2017. Is War in Gaza unavoidable? Why the current peace won't hold. Foreign Affairs.

Apuzzo Matt, 2016. Who will become a terrorist? Research yields few clues. The New York Times. Available at: <http://nyti.ms/1VPp5ep>

Aymenn Al-Tamimi, 2016. A Caliphate under Strain: The documentary evidence. CTC Sentinel. Vol.9, Issue 421. Available at: <https://ctc.usma.edu/posts/a-caliphate-under-strain-the-documentary-evidence>

Azani Eitan, 2013. The Hybrid Terrorist Organization: Hezbollah as a case study. Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Issue 36, pp. 899-916

Barret R. 2017. Beyond the Caliphate: Foreign Fighters and the threat of returnees. The Soufan Center

BBCa. Profile: Hamas Palestinian Movement. Available at: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-13331522>

BBCb. Profile: Lebanon's Hezbollah movement

Berger J.M. 2015. The Metronome of Apocalyptic Time: Social Media as Carrier Wave for Millenarian Contagion. Perspectives on Terrorism (9):4.

Blakeley Ruth, 2007. Bringing the state back into terrorism studies. European Political Science 6. pp. 228-235

Burk J. 2017. The Myth of the Lone wolf terrorist. The Guardian. Available at <https://www.theguardian.com/news/2017/mar/30/myth-lone-wolf-terrorist> (NOTE: while this is an article published in a newspaper it is still 'eligible' for a response paper.

Boaz Ganor, 2009. Terrorism in the twenty-first centry. In S.C Shapira et al. Essentials of Terror Medicine. Springer, pp. 13-26

Bunzel cole, 2015. From paper state to caliphate: The ideology of the Islamic State. Center for Middle East Policy, by Brookings.

Caschetta A.J. 2016. Flaws in the 'Lone Wolf' Analysis

Caschetta A.J. 2017. The Islamic State of Al Qaeda. New English Review. http://www.newenglishreview.org/custpage.cfm?frm=188942&sec_id=188942

Cottee Simon. 2015. The Zoolander Theory of Terrorism. The Atlantic

CNN, 2016. The inside story of the Paris terror attack. Available at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2016/03/30/europe/inside-paris-brussels-terror-attacks/index.html>

Cordesman A. 2017. Global Trends in Terrorism 1970-2016. Available on platform.

CRS 2014. Al Qaeda-Affiliated Groups: Middle East and Africa. Congressional Research Service.

Doornbos H. and Moussa J. 2016a. Present at the creation: the never-told-before story of the meeting that led to the creation of ISIS, as explained by an Islamic State Insider. Foreign Policy

Doornbos H. and Moussa J. 2016b. How the Islamic State Seized a Chemical Weapon Stockpile. Foreign Policy

Doornbos H. and Moussa J. 2016c. The Greatest Divorce in the Jihadi World. Foreign Policy

Dubin R. 2018. Coalition Analysis Warns of Potential Islamic State Resurgence. Foreign Policy

Ekmekci F. 2011. Terrorism as war by other means: national security and state support for terrorism. Rev. Bras. Polit. Int. 54(1): 125-141.

Finn M. and Momani B. (2017), Building foundations for the comparative study of state and non-state terrorism, Critical Studies on Terrorism, 10(3): 379-403.

Flournoy and Klein. 2016. What Europe got wrong about the NSA and why terrorism might change its mind about spying. Foreign Affairs. Available at:
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/germany/2016-08-02/what-europe-got-wrong-about-nsa>

Foreign Terrorist Organizations (US list) – available on platform

Ganor, 2009, Terrorism in the twenty-first century, in S.C. Shapira et. al. Essentials of Terror Medicine, Springer, pp. 13-26.

Gartenstein-Ross and Barr N. 2016. The Myth of the Lone Wolf Terrorism: The Attacks in Europe and Digital Extremism. Foreign Affairs

Gardenstein-Ross & Al-Tamini 2015. Al Nusra atrocities against Syrian Druze Belie its Rebranding. Foreign Affairs.

Global Security. Al-Qaida / Al-Qaeda Background. Available at:
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/al-qaida-background.htm>

Global Security. Al-Qaida / Al-Qaeda (The Base). Available at:
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/para/al-qaida.htm>

Gordon P. 2007. Can the War on Terror be Won? How to fight the right way. Foreign Affairs. 86(6): 52-66.

Jansen F. 2009. Hamas and its positions towards Israel: Understanding the Islamic Resistance Organization through the concept of framing. Netherlands Institute of International Relations Clingendael.

Kaminski Matthew, 2015. Interview 'All the terrorists are migrants'. Politico. Available at:
<http://www.politico.eu/article/viktor-orban-interview-terrorists-migrants-eu-russia-putin-borders-schengen/>

Kenney M. 2015. Cyber-Terrorism in a Post-Stuxnet World. Orbis. 59(1): 111-128.

Laub Z. 2014. CFR report - Hamas

Levitt M. 2004. Hamas from Cradle to Grave. Middle East Quarterly, pp.3-15

Levitt M. 2016. Hezbollah's Transnational Organized Crime. The Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Lyer et al. (Aarti Lyer, Webster Joanna, Hornsey Matthew, Vanman Eric J, 2014). Understanding the power of the picture: the effect of image content and emotional and political responses to terrorism. Journal of Applied Social Psychology. 44: 511-521.

McLaughlin John, 2016. Islamic State and WMD: A future nightmare? Available at: <http://www.ozy.com/OZY-TRIBE/JOHN-MCLAUGHLIN/2751>

Sandler Todd, 2013. Advances in the study of the economics of terrorism. Southern Economic Journal 79(4), 768-773

Spyer J. 2016. Hezbollah sinking into the Syrian Quagmire. www.meforum.org

Stewart S. 2017. Al Qaeda in 2017: Slow and Steady Wins the Race. On Security, Stratfor.
Walt Stephen, 2015. ISIS as Revolutionary State: New Twist on an old story. Foreign Affairs. Nov/Dec 2015 issue.

Walt Stephen, 2016. Monsters of our imaginings. Foreign Policy. (March 24, 2016).

Walter Christian, 2003. Defining Terrorism in National and International Law. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/tldb/bibliography/Biblio_Terr_Def_Walter_2003.pdf

Wood (The Atlantic), 2015. What ISIS really wants. The Atlantic. Available at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/03/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>

Zakaria 2017. The Taliban: Undefeated and possible undefeatable. Al Jazeera.com