



Course Syllabus

Course Code	Course Title	ECTS Credits
PSY-435	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:

This course examines 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 life course of these offenders will be examined during the case studies analyses in relation to the risk factors for their antisocial/criminal onset and persistence. 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 behaviour 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 and Religious Ideologies
4. Suicide Terrorism
5. Recruitment and Training
6. Media and Terrorism
7. Children in Terrorism
8. Profiling Terrorists / Life Course Analysis of Engagement in Violent Acts (e.g. onset, persistence, risk factors, life events)

- 9. Interrogation Practices of Terrorism Suspects
- 10. The Becoming of Terrorists
- 11. Women in Terrorism
- 12. Counterterrorism Strategies

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Interactive Lectures, Discussions, Case Study Analysis

Assessment Methods:

Exams, Assignments

Required Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Psychology of Terrorism	Shortland, Neil	Routledge	2021	9780367353315
Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counterterrorism	Silke, Andrew	Routledge	2021	9780367580520

Recommended Textbooks / Readings:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The Handbook of the Criminology of Terrorism	LaFree, G. and Freilich, J. D.	John Wiley	2017	9781118923955
Terrorist Minds: The Psychology of Violent Extremism from Al-Qaeda to the Far Right	Horgan, John	Columbia University Press	2023	9780231198394

Understanding Terrorism: Challenges, Perspectives, and Issues (7th Ed.)	Gus, Martin	Sage	2020	9781544375861
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