This course is a survey of the evolution of the phenomenon of terrorism and an analysis of its causes, forms, and consequences. It concludes with an analysis of U.S. policy toward international terrorism over the past thirty years. We will employ an interdisciplinary approach, linking history, psychology, sociology, anthropology, and political science.

Readings

The following books can be purchased at the bookstore and will also be on reserve:

Martha Crenshaw, ed., *Terrorism in Context*.

Walter Reich, ed., *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*.

Mark Juergensmeyer, *Terror in the Mind of God*.

Kevin Toolis, *Rebel Hearts*.

Additional readings will be on reserve (electronic and/or hard copy) or available through the library’s electronic databases. Students should be familiar with the library’s electronic resources, especially electronic journals.

Requirements

Students will be expected to prepare for class discussions by doing all reading thoroughly and in advance. It is equally essential that students be well informed about current events, preferably by reading *The New York Times* daily. Class participation will count 20% of the final grade. (Note: Students must arrive on time and stay for the duration of the class, barring illness that precipitates a sudden and irrevocable departure. This means that it will not be acceptable to wander in and out of class. Please don’t eat in class or leave cell phones on.)

The class will require three types of written work. **First** will be a comparative analysis of different cases of terrorism, completed in two stages (total 40% of final grade). Your paper will address a comparative question, using the cases discussed in class thus far as examples for your argument. You should also include at least one case outside those assigned in class (the syllabus lists some sources on these cases). (I will provide a list of questions, and you can also propose one of your own.) The first paper should be about five pages long (1000 words). The second expanded (approximately ten pages) final version will continue the same line of analysis, but it will include all the cases considered in class as well as the outside case or cases you initially selected. It
should also take my comments on the first paper into account. The second writing project will be a short research paper, approximately 5 pages long, focusing on government responses to terrorism (20%, due December 9). Third, the final exam, an essay, will be take-home, due December 20 (20%).

All writing assignments should be submitted electronically and in hard copy. Text should be double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides, and should use twelve point font. Pages should be numbered. Papers should be stapled together. Citations to references should be clear, consistent, and comprehensive. Requests for extensions on assignments must be made in writing and in advance, unless there is a medical or family emergency. In that case, your dean or the health center should notify me. Otherwise late work will not be accepted. Incompletes will not be possible.

PART I

September 3  Introductory class: Definitions of Terrorism

September 5  Understanding the Concept

Martha Crenshaw, “Introduction: Thoughts on Relating Terrorism to Historical Contexts,” in Terrorism in Context.

September 10  Nineteenth Century Origins of Terrorism


Philip M. Pomper, “Russian Revolutionary Terrorism” in Terrorism in Context.

Suggested further reading:


Peter Heehs, The Bomb in Bengal: The Rise of Revolutionary Terrorism in India 1900-1910.

September 12  Algeria: The Prototype of Urban Terrorism

Martha Crenshaw, “The Effectiveness of Terrorism in the Algerian War,” in Terrorism in Context.

Note: The film, “The Battle of Algiers,” will be shown outside of class. Yacef Saadi, the head of the ZAA in Algiers, plays himself.

Suggested further reading:

Frantz Fanon, The Wretched of the Earth.

September 17  “Urban Guerrilla” and Maoist Terrorism in Latin America

Frédéric Bozon, The Maoist Terrorism in Latin America.

David Scott Palmer, “The Revolutionary Terrorism of Peru’s Shining Path,” in Terrorism in Context.

Suggested further reading:


Carlos Marighela, For the Liberation of Brazil.

Maria Moyano, Argentina’s Lost Patrol.


*Note: The library has subscribed to the online version of the National Security Archive, which has recently posted some newly declassified State Department documents on Argentina from 1975 to 1984. See NYT 8-22-02.

September 24    Terrorism in the Arab-Israeli Conflict: Clashing Nationalisms


Note: we are concerned here with the period before the Oslo Accords.

Suggested further reading:

Kati Marton, A Death in Jerusalem: The Assassination by Jewish Extremists of the First Arab-Israeli Peacemaker.

Menachem Begin, The Revolt.

J. Bowyer Bell, Terror out of Zion.


Ehud Sprinzak, Brother Against Brother: Violence And Extremism In Israeli Politics From Altalena To The Rabin Assassination.


September 26    Terrorism in Democracies

Ehud Sprinzak, “The psychopolitical formation of extreme left terrorism in a democracy: The case of the Weathermen,” in Reich, ed.


**October 1**

**Italy**

Franco Ferracuti, “Ideology and repentance: Terrorism in Italy,” in Reich, ed.

Donatella della Porta, “Left-Wing Terrorism in Italy,” in Terrorism in Context.

**October 3**

**Germany**

Peter Merkl, West German Left-Wing Terrorism,” in Terrorism in Context.

Konrad Kellen, “Ideology and rebellion: Terrorism in West Germany,” in Reich, ed.

Suggested further reading for both classes on European terrorism:

Donatella della Porta, Social Movements, Political Violence, and the State: A Comparative Analysis of Italy and Germany.

Robin Erica Wagner-Pacifici, The Moro Morality Play.

Yonah Alexander and Dennis A. Pluchinsky, eds., European Terrorism: Today & Tomorrow.


Franco Ferraresi, Threats to Democracy: The Radical Right in Italy after the War.

**October 7**

Paper due (first stage of comparative analysis)

**October 8-17**

Ethnonationalist Separatism: Ireland (3 classes)


Kevin Toolis, Rebel Hearts.

Suggested further reading on Ireland and ethnonationalist terrorism in general:
Suggested further reading on Ireland and ethnonationalist terrorism in general:


Eamon Collins, *Killing Rage*.

Malachi O’Doherty, *The Trouble With Guns: Republican Strategy and the Provisional IRA*.

Cynthia K. Mahmood, *Fighting for Faith and Nation: Dialogues with Sikh Militants*.


[October 15             Fall Break]

October 22            Ethnonationalist Separatism: Spain

Goldie Shabad and Francisco Llera, “Political Violence in a Democratic State: Basque Separatism in Spain,” in *Terrorism in Context*.


October 24            Nationalism or Religion? India


October 29            Iran and Hezbollah

Jerrold Green, “Terrorism and Politics in Iran,” in *Terrorism in Context*.

Suggested further reading:

 Magnus Ranstorp, Hizb’Allah in Lebanon.

 Hala Jaber, Hezbollah: Born with a Vengeance.

 **October 31**  
 **Israel-Palestine: Hamas**

 Ariel Merari, “The readiness to kill and die,” in Reich, ed.


 Suggested further reading:


 Gilles Kepel, Jihad.

 Michael Willis, The Islamist Challenge in Algeria.

 **November 5**  
 **The Al Qaeda Phenomenon: A New Terrorism?**


 David Rapoport, “Sacred terror: A contemporary example from Islam,” in Reich, ed.

 Suggested further reading:


 Rohan Gunaratna, Inside Al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror.

November 7    Explaining Terrorism: Strategy or Emotion?

Martha Crenshaw, “The logic of terrorism,” in Reich, ed.

Jerrold M. Post, “Terrorist psycho-logic,” in Reich, ed.

Albert Bandura, “Mechanisms of moral disengagement,” in Reich, ed.

Martha Crenshaw, “Questions to be answered. . . ,” in Reich, ed.

Walter Reich, “Understanding terrorist behavior,” in Reich, ed.

Suggested further reading:


Max Taylor, The Terrorist.


November 12-14    Sociological Perspectives: What is “Religious Terrorism”?  

Mark Juergensmeyer, Terror in the Mind of God, especially Chapter 1 and Chapters 7-11, “The Logic of Religious Violence.”

Suggested further reading:


November 18    Paper due (expanded final version of comparative analysis)

PART II

November 19    American Policy: Overview

David Tucker, Skirmishes at the Edge of Empire: The United States and International Terrorism, Chapter 1,
“History.”

Suggested further reading:

Department of State, *Patterns of Global Terrorism* (look at http://www.state.gov/s/ct/)

David A. Korn, *Assassination in Khartoum*.

David C. Martin and John Walcott, *Best Laid Plans*.

Stansfield Turner, *Terrorism and Democracy*.

Paul Pillar, *Terrorism and U.S. Foreign Policy*.


Jeffrey D. Simon, *The Terrorist Trap*.


**November 21-26 Responding to Terrorism**


Suggested further reading:

Margaret G. Hermann and Charles F. Hermann, “Hostage taking, the presidency, and stress,” in Reich, ed.

Gary Sick, “Taking vows,” in Reich, ed.


Ian O. Lesser, et al., *Countering the New Terrorism*.
December 3                 The War on Terrorism


Suggested further reading:


December 5                 Post-Afghanistan: A Counter-Terrorist Grand Strategy?


December 9                 Paper due (analysis of government response)

December 20                Final exam due by noon