



**Terrorism, Insurgency,
and Counterterrorism**
POL 469
MW: 3:00 pm-4:15 pm, FH 200

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Department of Political Science & Sociology

Credit Hours: 3

Revised: February 28, 2018

1 Terrorism, Insurgency, and Counterterrorism

2 Course Description and Prerequisite(s):

This course will provide an overview of terrorism, including its psychological and economic roots, the political consequences of terrorism and insurgencies, and analyze how countries work domestically and internationally to combat these activities.

Prerequisite(s): None

3 Course Objectives

By the end of the semester the student should be able to do the following.

- A. Identify and critically evaluate common, contemporary approaches to understanding the logic of terrorism;
- B. analyze individual, state-level, and international explanations of the rise of terrorism; and
- C. to develop critical writing and analytical skills.

4 Course Outline

This course will help orient students with the various theories and methods for studying different forms of political violence. This course is rooted in the study of international relations, although we will take some components of comparative politics to understand collective action. Rather than focusing on specific terrorist acts or organizations, we will aim to study the root causes of these acts, as well as governments' efforts to prevent and end terrorism.

The topics of this course can roughly be divided into three sections. The first section of this course will discuss basic understandings of collective action, which will orient students with how and when individuals will work as a unit. We will then apply this basic foundation into more specific psychological and economic theories of terrorism. The second section will explore the tactics and targets of terrorist actions. This section will also explore the nuances of terrorist organizations and how states aim to protect themselves. The final section will investigate other forms of political violence, including civil wars, insurgency, and counterinsurgency strategies. The end of the course will tie all of this knowledge together by applying these theories in practice. We will also discuss the future of terrorism research and some of the dynamics that complicate these studies.

5 Field, Clinical, and/or Laboratory Experiences: None

6 Text(s) and Resources

In this course, there will be two required texts. Please be sure to get these as soon as possible.

- (a.) White, Jonathan R. 2017. *Terrorism and Homeland Security*, 9th Edition. Cengage Publishing.

Additional readings will be made available on the course's *Canvas* site. These readings will be announced in class and will be made available before the corresponding class. It is important to note that the readings supplement the lectures, and therefore, they are not identical to lectures. **It is the responsibility of the student to read all of the necessary materials as well as to attend each lecture.** Both the lectures and readings are fair game for exams.

7 Evaluation and Grading Procedures

Students' grades will be comprised of three main parts. The first part is made up of two exams (a midterm and a final), with **each** exam worth 20% of the student's final grade. The exams are not cumulative, *per se*, but there are some foundational items that we will learn earlier in the course that will be applied to later material. These exams will consist of multiple choice, short answer, and/or essay questions.

The second part of students' grades are weekly reading quizzes. These will be administered every week to ensure that students are keeping up with the readings. They will also be used for student preparations for exams.

The final part of students' grades is a final paper and presentation. This paper will be completed throughout the semester, with the final presentations given at the end of the semester. This assignment will have the student provide an in-depth case study of a particular terrorist or insurgent group that will illustrate a major theory learned in class. More details will be given as the course proceeds.

Grade Components:

Exam One	25%
Exam Two	25%
Quizzes and Participation	20%
Final Paper	25%
Presentation	5%

No curve will be given in this course; the grade you earn is the grade you receive. I will use the following grading scale in this course:

A (Excellent): 90-100%

B (Good): 80-89%

C (Satisfactory): 70-79%

D (Poor): 60-69%

E (Failure): 0-59%

8 Attendance Policy

Due to the nature of this course, it is important to attend every lecture. This course progresses rather quickly at points, and it is a cumulative subject, students must attend all lectures in order for subsequent material to make sense. To assess whether students are coming to class and coming prepared, I will administer weekly reading quizzes.

Makeup Exams and Quizzes:

There will be no makeup exams or quizzes administered without ample cause and notice. Valid excuses include significant illness, death in the family, or required attendance at a university sponsored event (including athletics). I must receive notice of these issues before the scheduled date of the exam or quiz. Documentation for your absence must be given to me **within one week after the exam is administered**. If you miss an exam without fulfilling these duties, you will receive a 0. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

9 Classroom Conduct

Students are to be respectful of both other students and the instructor. To be respectful of others, please refrain from talking or whispering during class time. Any inappropriate or disruptive behavior by a student may result in the student being asked to leave the classroom. Be respectful of one another and each other's ideas.

Electronics Policy: Studies have found that handwritten notetaking is better for the retention of information than taking notes on a computer or other device. Further, electronic devices provide a great disturbance to other students, and at times, the instructor. Therefore, students will not be allowed to use electronic devices in this course, including laptops, tablets, or phones. This is to ensure that all students have access to lecture material without interruption or disturbance from other students. Please ensure that your phones are placed on silent *before* class starts, and all other electronics are turned off. If you are seen using any of these devices, you will automatically lose points for your participation grade, regardless of current performance in the course. If you have an extenuating circumstance or need some accommodation for usage of an electronic device, please see me before or after class so we can make alternative arrangements.

Emails:

Do not expect to receive any correspondence from me between the hours of 6pm and 8am on

any day, including the night before an exam. Do not email me to ask about grades, I am not allowed to discuss those over email per FERPA regulations. If you have questions, come to my office hours or set up an appointment. You must email me from your Murray State account; I will not respond to any other email addresses. **Do not email me any questions about the course without first consulting the syllabus.**

Recording of Lectures:

In this course, students may not make audio or video recordings of course activity, except students permitted to record as an accommodation arranged through Disability Services. All other students who record and/or distribute audio or video recordings of class activity are subject to discipline according to Murray State University's guidelines.

Those students who are permitted to record are not permitted to redistribute audio or video recordings of statements or comments from the course to individuals who are not students in the course without the express permission of the faculty member and of any students who are recorded. Students found to have violated this policy are subject to discipline in accordance with the provisions of the University.

If it is brought to my attention that you have been selling notes, study guides, exams, etc. on any site such as Flashnotes, Studyblue, etc. you will be treated as if you have openly cheated and will suffer the same consequences of academic dishonesty outlined in this syllabus.

10 Academic Honesty Policy

Murray State University takes seriously its moral and educational obligation to maintain high standards of academic honesty and ethical behavior. Instructors are expected to evaluate students' academic achievements accurately, as well as ascertain that work submitted by students is authentic and the result of their own efforts, and consistent with established academic standards. Students are obligated to respect and abide by the basic standards of personal and professional integrity.

Violations of Academic Honesty include:

Cheating - Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized information such as books, notes, study aids, or other electronic, online, or digital devices in any academic exercise; as well as unauthorized communication of information by any means to or from others during any academic exercise.

Fabrication and Falsification - Intentional alteration or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise. Falsification involves changing information whereas fabrication involves inventing or counterfeiting information.

Multiple Submission - The submission of substantial portions of the same academic work, including oral reports, for credit more than once without authorization from the instructor.

Plagiarism - Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas, creative work, or data of someone else as one's own in any academic exercise, without due and proper acknowledgment.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the accuracy of your material, please see me immediately! It is best to come have a conversation with me before an assignment is due, than to wait until afterwards and risk disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to the following:

- 1.) Requiring the student(s) to repeat the exercise or do additional related exercise(s).
- 2.) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) on the particular exercise(s) involved.
- 3.) Lowering the grade or failing the student(s) in the course.

If the disciplinary action results in the awarding of a grade of E in the course, the student(s) may not drop the course.

Faculty reserve the right to invalidate any exercise or other evaluative measures if substantial evidence exists that the integrity of the exercise has been compromised. Faculty also reserve the right to document in the course syllabi further academic honesty policy elements related to the individual disciplines.

A student may appeal the decision of the faculty member with the department chair in writing within five working days. Note: If, at any point in this process, the student alleges that actions have taken place that may be in violation of the Murray State University Non-Discrimination Statement, this process must be suspended and the matter be directed to the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity and Access. Any appeal will be forwarded to the appropriate university committee as determined by the Provost.

11 Non-Discrimination Policy and Students with Disabilities

Policy Statement:

Murray State University endorses the intent of all federal and state laws created to prohibit discrimination. Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, veteran status, or disability in employment, admissions, or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities equal access to participate in all programs and activities. In particular and without limiting the preceding and pursuant to and consistent with the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its regulations 34 CFR 100 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and its regulations 34 CFR 104; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 USC 1681 et seq., and its regulations 34 CFR 106 et seq; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and its regulations 34 CFR 110, Murray State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, handicap, or age in its educational programs and activities. This non-discrimination in education programs and activities extends to employment and admissions and to recruitment, financial aid, academic programs, student services, athletics, and housing. Murray State is required by Title IX and 34 CFR part 106 not to discriminate on the basis of sex and the prohibition against sex discrimination specifically includes a prohibition of sexual harassment and sexual violence. For more information contact the Executive Director of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Access/ Murray State University Title IX Coordinator, Murray State University, 103 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071 Telephone: (270) 809-3155 Fax: (270) 809-6887; TDD: (270) 809-3361; Email: msu.titleix@murraystate.edu

Students with Disabilities

Students requiring special assistance due to a disability should visit the Office of Student Disability Services immediately for assistance with accommodations. For more information, students should contact the Office of Student Disability Services, 423 Wells Hall, Murray, KY 42071. 270-809-2018 (voice) 270-809-5889(TDD).

Safe Zone Statement

I am a member of a Safe Zone Project and I am available to listen and support you in a safe and confidential manner. As a Safe Zone participant, I can help you connect with resources on campus to address problems you may face that interfere with your academic and social success on campus as it relates to issues surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity. My goal is to help you be successful and to maintain a safe and equitable campus. For more information, visit the Office of LGBT Programming at 243 Blackburn Science Building or online at www.murraystate.edu/lgbt.

Weekly Schedule:

The following outline should be considered tentative. I reserve the right to change the syllabus as I see fit. Any and all changes will be announced in advance, both in class and electronically. Please keep up to date with Canvas, and check your University email often to be aware of any changes that occur.

Week 1 (Jan 17): Introduction

- No classes: Snow Day
- White, Ch 1 “Shifting Definition of Terrorism”

Week 2 (Jan 22, 24): Introduction & Collective Action

- White, Ch 1 “Shifting Definition of Terrorism”
- White, Ch 2 “Practical Criminology, Radicalization, and Types of Terrorism”

Week 3 (Jan 29, 31): Collective Action

- Tarrow, Sidney. 2008. Ch. 1 “Contentious Politics and Social Movements.” In *Power in Movement: Social Movements and Contentious Politics*, 2nd Edition. Cambridge University Press.

Week 4 (Feb 5, 7): Psychological Approaches

- Victoroff, Jeff. 2008. “The Mind of the Terrorist: A Review and Critique of Psychological Approaches.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49(1): 3-42.
- Silke, Ch. 6 “Leaving Terrorism Behind: An Individual Perspective”

Week 5 (Feb 12, 14): Economic Theories of Terrorism

- White, Ch 3 “Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering”

Week 6 (Feb 19, 21): Targets of Terrorism and Effectiveness

- White, Ch 5 “Force Multipliers, Gender Roles, and Tactics”
- Abrahms, Max. 2006. “Why Terrorism Does Not Work.” *International Security* 31(2): 42-78.

Week 7 (Feb 26, 28): Suicide Terrorism

- Crenshaw, Martha. 2007. "Explaining Suicide Terrorism: A Review Essay." *Security Studies* 16(1): 133-162.

Week 8 (Mar 5, 7): Religious Terrorism

- **Midterm Exam: Wednesday, March 7**
- Gunning, Jeroen and Richard Jackson. 2011. "What's so 'religious' about 'religious terrorism'?" *Critical Studies on Terrorism* 4(3): 369-388.

Week 9 (Mar 12, 14): Midterm Exam

- **M: Review for Midterm Examination**
- **W, 14 March: Midterm Examination**

Week 10 (Mar 19, 21): Spring Break

- **No class this week: Spring Break**

Week 11 (Mar 26, 28): Counterterrorism

- White, Ch 13 "An Introduction to Homeland Security"
- Bueno de Mesquita, Ethan. 2005. "Conciliation, Counterterrorism, and Patterns of Terrorist Violence." *International Organization* 59: 145-176.

Week 12 (Apr 2, 4): Civil Wars

- **No class: Wednesday, April 4: International Studies Association Conference**
- White, Ch 6 "Long-term Separatist Terrorism"

Week 13 (Apr 9, 11): Insurgency

- White, Ch 7 "Nationalistic and Endemic Terrorism"

Week 14 (Apr 16, 18): Domestic Terrorism

- White, Ch 12 "Domestic Terrorism"

Week 15 (Apr 23, 25): Gender and Terrorism

- Jackson et al., eds. Ch 10 "Bringing Gender into Critical Terrorism Studies"

Week 16 (Apr 30, May 2): Presentations

- Final presentations given this week

FINAL EXAM: Friday, May 11 from 10:30 am-12:30 pm in normal lecture room