

Course POL 949 A
Course Title Terrorism and Counterterrorism
Professor Whitney Manzo
Term Spring 2019
Meetings MWF 12-12:50 PM



Professor's Contact Information

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| Office Phone | Ext. 8540 |
| Office Location | Joyner 224 |
| Email Address | wrmanzo@meredith.edu |
| Office Hours | 1-2 PM MW, 2-3 PM T/Th, or by appointment |

General Course Information

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| Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, & other restrictions | None |
| Course Description | This course is an introduction to terrorism and counterterrorism. We will begin by studying definitions and theories of terrorism, proceed to examining the real-life causes, types, and consequences of terrorism around the world, and conclude by learning the methods and practices of counterterrorism. *This course satisfies the Global Perspectives requirement of General Education. |
| Learning Outcomes | <p>The course learning outcomes are for you to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explore the patterns and implications of terrorism for various countries and cultures using a variety of perspectives and methods. (Global Perspectives learning outcome #1) 2. Know the basic theoretical frameworks which have been developed to understand terrorism and apply them to the behavior of individuals, organizations and institutions. (Social Science learning outcome #1) 3. Improve your ability to think clearly and critically about political violence and about current issues in terrorism and counterterrorism. (Social Science outcome #5) 4. Analyze how different world cultures experience and respond to terrorism. (Global Perspectives learning outcome #2) |
| Required Texts & Materials | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Terrorism and Counterterrorism</i> (5th ed) by Brigitte L. Nacos. Routledge, 2016. ISBN-13: 978-1-138-19014-6. 2. <i>Bombshell: Women and Terrorism</i> by Mia Bloom. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011. ISBN-13: 978-0-8122-4390-1. 3. There will also be assigned academic journal articles that I will either post to Brightspace or will be available via the library website. 4. 3 blue books for exams |

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| | You will also need access to the internet, a word processing program, and Meredith gmail (you should check this every morning). |
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Assignment Weight and Descriptions

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| Grade Breakdown | 100 points Attendance 150 points Class Participation 75 points Discussion Leadership 300 points Written Exams (3) 150 points <i>Bombshell</i> Paper 150 points Counterterrorism Memo <u>75 points</u> Presentation of Counterterrorism Memo 1000 points Total |
| Attendance | Attendance is expected at all class meetings, and I will be taking attendance each class period. However, I also understand that life happens and I really do not want you coming to class unable to focus or sick. You have one free absence, no questions asked. After that, each additional absence will deduct 10 points from your attendance grade. You can have the 10 points restored if you provide evidence you got notes from a classmate and/or took written notes over the assigned reading from the day you missed. (School-sponsored activities are exempt from this policy.) |
| Class Participation | This grade includes but is not limited to contribution to class discussion, active participation in group work/group assignments, and short papers. |
| Discussion Leadership | Twice during the semester you will be in charge of leading the discussion of the class reading. You will come to class with at least 4 thought-provoking, open-ended questions for everyone to discuss (none of which may be discussion questions found in your textbook). Rarely, two of you will be assigned to discuss the day's readings; in those cases, I'd like each of you to take one reading and be prepared to discuss how the readings relate to/debate one another. Your grade will be based on the evidence of your thoughtful reading, the quality of your questions, and your ability to keep the discussion going. |
| Written Exams | There will be three short answer/essay exams throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to provide the blue books for these exams, and you must write them in pen. |
| <i>Bombshell</i> Paper | Each student will take a chapter of <i>Bombshell</i> that covers a terrorist group and write a 6-page research paper on the group, its motivations for committing terrorism, and its use of women as combatants. Further guidelines and a rubric may be found on Brightspace. |
| Counterterrorism Memo | The culminating activity in this course is a memo to the Secretary of Homeland Security arguing the best ways to combat a certain terror group. You may choose the group you discussed in the <i>Bombshell</i> project or choose a new one. You will need to fully explain your chosen group, including its history and theoretical justification for committing terrorist acts, in order to present the best tools the US government may use to fight them. Further guidelines and a rubric may be found on Brightspace. |

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| Presentation of Counterterrorism Memo | In the final days of our class, you will present your Counterterrorism Memo to the Secretary of Homeland Security (the professor). She is a very busy person, so your presentation needs to be concise yet clear and intelligent. You should also be prepared for at least one question from the Secretary during your presentation. Further guidelines and a rubric may be found on Brightspace. |
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Course Calendar

Readings noted * are provided on Brightspace. All others may be found in your assigned textbooks, via the library website, or a simple Google search.

| Date | Topic | Readings/Assignments |
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| January 9 | Introduction | |
| January 11 | The Terrorist Threat | Nacos Ch. 1 |
| January 14-16 | What is Terrorism? | Nacos Ch. 2 |
| January 18 | No class, professor out | |
| January 21 | No class, MLK Day | |
| January 23-25 | History of Terrorism | Nacos Ch. 3 |
| January 28 | History and Logic of Terrorism | Bloom Ch. 1 |
| January 30-February 1 | The Making of Terrorists | Nacos Ch. 6 |
| February 4 | Psychology of Terrorism | Gordon H. McCormick, "Terrorist Decision Making," <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> , no.6, 2003, pp.473-507 |
| February 6 | Root Cause: Economic Reasons? | Kruger, Alan and Jitka Maleckova. "Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection?" <i>Journal of Economic Perspectives</i> 17(4): 119-144. Serman, David. "Don't Dismiss Poverty's Role in Terrorism Yet." <i>TIME</i> , 2/4/2015. |
| February 8 | Root Cause: Modernization? | Wright, Robert. "Does Globalization Cause Terrorism or Cure It?" <i>Slate</i> , 9/11/2002. |
| February 11-13 | Root Cause: Ethnic Conflict? | Byman, Daniel. "The Logic of Ethnic Terrorism," <i>Studies in Conflict and Terrorism</i> , vol.21, No.2, (April-June 1998), pp. 149-169. Kaarthikeyan, Shri D.R. "Root Causes of Terrorism? A Case Study of the Tamil Insurgency and the LTTE."* |
| February 15-18 | Root Cause: State Sponsorship? | Richardson, Louise. "State Sponsorship- a Root Cause of Terrorism?*" Byman, Daniel, and Sarah E. Kreps. "Agents of Destruction? Applying |

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| | | Principal-Agent Analysis to State-Sponsored Terrorism.” <i>International Studies Perspectives</i> 11 (1): pp. 1-18. |
| February 20 | Exam #1 | |
| February 22-25 | No class, professor out | <i>Bombshell</i> Paper Research |
| February 27 | There is No One Root Cause | Taspinar, Omer. “Fighting Radicalism, Not Terrorism: Root Causes of an International Actor Redefined.” <i>SAIS Review</i> , vol.22, No. 2 (Summer-Fall 2009), pp. 75-86. |
| March 1 | Invited Speaker Mia Bloom | |
| March 4 | Organized Crime and Terrorism | Piazza, James A., and Scott Piazza (2017). “Crime Pays: Terrorist Group Engagement in Crime and Survival.” <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> . |
| March 6 | Narco-Terrorism | Campbell, Howard, and Tobin Hansen (2014). “Is Narco-Violence in Mexico Terrorism?” <i>Bulletin of Latin American Research</i> 33 (2): pp. 158-173. |
| March 8 | Invited Speaker Viveca Pavon | <i>Bombshell</i> Paper Due |
| March 11-15 | No class, Spring Break | |
| March 18-20 | US Domestic Terrorism | Nacos Ch. 4 Reitman, Janet. “US Law Enforcement Failed to See the Threat of White Nationalism. Now They Don’t Know How to Stop It.” <i>New York Times Magazine</i> , November 3, 2018. |
| March 22 | Writing Memos | |
| March 25 | Religious Terrorism | Nacos Ch. 5 |
| March 27 | Exam #2 | |
| March 29 | Post 9/11 World | Nacos Ch. 10 |
| April 1-3 | Counterterrorism: Hard and Soft Power | Nacos Ch. 11 |
| April 5 | No class, professor out | |
| April 8 | Terrorism and the Media | Nacos Ch. 14 |
| April 10 | Terrorism Online | Nacos Ch. 15 Stokel-Walker, Chris. “Does the Internet Really Radicalize Terrorists? It’s (Really) Complicated.” <i>Wired.com</i> , December 12, 2018. |
| April 12 | Balancing Security and Rights | Nacos Ch. 12 |
| April 15 | Counterterrorism and Human Rights | Mendick, Robert. “Human Rights Act has helped 28 terrorists to stay in UK.” <i>The Telegraph</i> , January 31, 2015. Greener, Bethan. “Why travel bans and changes to human rights laws won’t stop terrorist attacks.” <i>The Conversation</i> , June 29, 2017. |
| April 17 | Evaluating US Counterterrorism | Schmidt, Averell, and Kathryn Sikkink (2018). “Partners in Crime: An |

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| | | Empirical Evaluation of the CIA Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation Program.” <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> 16 (4): pp. 1014-1033. |
| April 19 | No class, Easter Break | |
| April 22-26 | Counterterrorism Memo Presentations | Counterterrorism Memo Due 4/22 |
| Tuesday, May 7 from 1-4 pm | Exam #3 | |

Course Policies

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| Letter Grade Requirements | <p>A: 900-1000 points B: 800-899 points C: 700-799 points D: 600-699 points F: 599 or fewer points</p> <p>I moved to a point system in order to offer clarity at all times in the course as to what you need to do to achieve the grade you want. This also means there will be NO rounding; the points you get = the letter grade listed here, period.</p> |
| Extra Credit | Any extra credit will be offered at my discretion. |
| Makeup Work | Papers may be turned in late, and will lose 10% each day they are late. Exams and the Memo Presentations may be made up if you have a valid excuse for missing the exam or presentation and notify me in advance that you will be absent. In-class activities cannot be made up. |
| Inclement Weather | You can expect for us to hold class unless the school closes due to unsafe conditions. You can check your Meredith email and/or the Meredith website or Facebook page for school closure messages. However, I do not want you to risk your life to get to class- final judgment on this matter rests in your hands. |
| Food, Drink, Laptops, Cell Phones | Food and drink will be allowed so long as they do not become distracting. Laptops will be allowed for note taking, but I reserve the right to ask you to put it away if you clearly are not taking notes or otherwise working on class work. Cell phone usage is banned during class time except for extreme emergencies. |
| Classroom Citizenship | We will have lots of discussion in this course, and politics is by nature highly contentious. However, it is essential that every student be polite and courteous to other students, even if they are expressing views that offend or anger you. I will encourage scholarly debate of justifiable opinions, but not disparaging remarks or personal attacks. If I feel you have crossed the line, you will be asked to leave class and your participation points will be marked down. |

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| Course Drop Dates | <p>If you decide you cannot complete this course for whatever reason, you may withdraw. You must initiate this process with the Registrar's Office, I cannot do it for you. If you fail to meet the last drop date, you will receive a grade for this course, usually an "F".</p> <p>Last day to drop without a "W": Tuesday, January 15, 2019 Last day to drop with a "W": Wednesday, March 27, 2019</p> |
| Meredith Honor Code | <p>We, the Meredith Community, are committed to developing and affirming in each student a sense of personal honor and responsibility. Uncompromising honesty and forthrightness are essential elements of this commitment. The Honor System is a method by which individual honors are protected and maintained. Any dishonorable action will be regarded as a violation of this commitment, and corrective action will be taken.</p> <p>If I am in violation of the Honor Code, to prevent jeopardizing the Honor System or weakening our system of self-government, I have an obligation to report myself to the proper authorities. If I am aware of a violation of the Honor System by another student, I shall call this matter to the attention of that student as a violation of responsibility to the community.</p> <p>In choosing Meredith College, I am accepting the Honor System as a way of life. As a Meredith student, I am responsible for insuring that the Honor System is at all times carried out.</p> |
| Disability Statement | <p>Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with documented disabilities. In order to receive accommodations, students must go through the Counseling Center/Disability Services office. Disability Services is located in Carroll Hall and can be reached at (919)760-8427 or disabilityservices@meredith.edu. For additional information see the Disability Services website.</p> |

The descriptions and timelines contained in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.