

**Political Science 3893: Terrorism and Emergency Management  
Spring 2017**

Dr. Stephen C. Nemeth

208 Murray Hall

Phone: (405) 744-5573

Email: [stephen.nemeth@okstate.edu](mailto:stephen.nemeth@okstate.edu)

Class Time and Location:

TR 12:30-1:45

CLB 103

Office Hours:

MW: 9:00-12:00

**Course Description:**

Despite the present-day attention devoted to it, terrorism is a form of violence that has existed throughout human history. This course is designed to introduce students to the origins and significance of the phenomenon of terrorism. We will discuss the theories and motivations that underlie international and domestic terrorism. More specifically, we will seek to understand why a person chooses to commit terrorist acts, why organizations arise and decline, and the efficacy of counterterrorism efforts.

The field of terrorism research has existed for decades before the events of 9/11. We will sample a small portion of that work as well as delve into the sophisticated work that has come about in the past decade. Our readings will provide a range of explanations and methodologies - quantitative analyses, formal modeling, and case study approaches. We will also discuss some of the datasets that we use to study terrorism. This focus on both theory and data should provide a solid background that allows you to develop your own research agenda and interests

**Required Readings:**

There are no required textbooks. I have instead assigned readings from selected books, journals, and magazines. These are all available on D2L ([online.okstate.edu](http://online.okstate.edu)).

**Course Requirements and Grading:**

| <u>Item</u>              | <u>Weight</u> | <u>Due Date</u>                |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Assignments              | 15%           | Various                        |
| Unannounced Quizzes (10) | 10% (1% each) | Various                        |
| Midterm                  | 20%           | Tuesday, March 7 <sup>th</sup> |
| Paper Project            | 20%           | Various                        |
| Attendance/Participation | 10%           | N/A                            |
| Final Exam               | 25%           | Thursday, May 11 <sup>th</sup> |

**Assignments** – Throughout the semester, you will be given several assignments related to better understanding the existing data sources on terrorism. This will typically involve finding out information about incidents of terror, individual perpetrators, and terrorist organizations. This will involve the datasets located at the University of Maryland's START (National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism) Center. Their website is [www.start.umd.edu/gtd](http://www.start.umd.edu/gtd).

**Unannounced Quizzes** - I will randomly assign 6 (or more) quizzes throughout the semester. These will be given in class and will concern the reading that is due for that day. I will assign them based on participation and feedback. These are meant to ensure that you do the reading. During the quiz, you may use 1 page of notes (both sides of the page can be used) to assist you. This is to encourage you to take notes while you read and to build up a supply of notes to assist you in preparation for the exams. An additional bonus is that these questions have a habit of showing up on the two exams. I will keep the best 5 quizzes. Students who miss a quiz will not be allowed to make it up, unless the student was participating in a school-sponsored event or military service and only if I am made aware of the absence beforehand.

**Midterm** - The test will be taken in class and consist of 20-25 questions (of various types) and a short essay.

**Paper Project** – This semester, I am going to try something new. The writing assignments I have in mind will be Wikipedia-based. I anticipate that this will, ultimately, involve writing a new Wikipedia article or improving an existing one regarding some element of terrorism.

This will be interesting. First, you will be honing your skills as writers since entries need to be understandable and balanced. Second, the audience for your writing will not just be me, but anyone that reads your Wikipedia article. Lastly, we are providing a public good by improving the information that is already out there because, let's face it, Wikipedia is often the only source of information that many people consult.

I hope this will be fun. Here we go...

**Attendance/Participation** – Students are expected to attend class and complete all of the required readings prior to class. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. Late arrivals will be noted. Each student is allowed three (3) "grace days" before absences (excused or unexcused) begin to impact the final grade. This grade will be calculated proportionally to your actual attendance. School-sponsored events and military service will not deduct from the allotted grace days, however you must alert me ahead of the absence. Neither school-sponsored events nor military service are excuses for failing to turn in an assignment on time. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining notes and any pertinent class news from a classmate.

**Final Exam** - The final exam will be taken in class and is cumulative. It will also consist of 25-35 questions, a short essay, and a longer essay integrating everything we have learned.

**Grades:**

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale:

| <u>Point Range</u> | <u>Final Course Letter Grade</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| 90 - 100           | A                                |
| 80 - 89.99         | B                                |
| 70 - 79.99         | C                                |
| 60 - 69.99         | D                                |
| 59.99 or below     | F                                |

Any requests for grade changes on tests, assignments, etc. need to be accompanied by a written statement detailing the request and the nature of the problem. The request must detail a substantive issue (clerical error, mathematical error, etc.); frivolous requests will be denied. Grading challenges will never result in a lower grade.

### **University Guidelines:**

Please see the attached document regarding university policies and procedures.

### **Notes:**

*Assignment Policy* - All assignments are to be submitted to the pertinent class dropbox on D2L (online.okstate.edu). I will not accept emailed attachments. Compatibility with my office computer (Windows 7 PC) is the responsibility of the student. Late assignments are penalized 10 points each day late.

*Changes to the Syllabus* - I retain the right to amend this syllabus at any point in the semester. Depending on conditions in the classroom and other factors, reading schedules and assignments may be adjusted or completely revised. I will announce any syllabus changes at least one class period prior to the changes taking effect.

*Technology Policy* - There will be a website for the class on D2L. Non-text book readings, the syllabus, and information about deadlines, assignments, and any other relevant information will be posted there. Each student is responsible for checking the website for announcements and to retrieve any assignment in a timely manner. The instructor is not responsible for any technical difficulties encountered when accessing the course website. Technical difficulties with the course website do not serve as an excuse for late assignments. If you do experience technical problems, there is a "Student Help" link on D2L. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

*Email Policy* - Please note that all class-wide emails will be sent to your school email address. If this mail is forwarded to another account, it is your responsibility to receive messages that I send. Failure to adequately and periodically check your email does not serve as an excuse for late/incomplete assignments or absences. Please also be aware that email is not necessarily a secure medium so, as a result, I will not provide grade information via email. If you have a question/concern about your grade, it is your responsibility to meet with me during office hours.

*Incomplete Policy* – University Policy states that "a student must satisfactorily complete the *majority* of course work, and average 'D' or better on work to date, but has been 'unavoidably prevented from completing the remaining work of the course'".

*Class Cancellations* - In the event that class must be cancelled (instructor illness, inclement weather, a better version of *Rogue One* is released, etc.), I will contact you via your OSU email and I will make note of the cancellation on the D2L course site.

*Meeting with Students* – Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please note that questions and concerns about grades are easier to solve early in the semester rather than late.

## **Course Outline:**

### **Week 1 - INTRO**

Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup>:

- Review Syllabus

Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>:

- Hoffman, Bruce. 1998. *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1.

### **Week 2 – HISTORY OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>:

- Rapaport, David. 2004. "The Four Waves of Modern Terrorism." In *Attacking Terrorism: Elements of a Grand Strategy*, eds. Audrey Kurth Cronin and James Ludes. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 46–73.

Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>:

- Tucker, David. 2001. What's New about the New Terrorism and How Dangerous is It? *Terrorism and Political Violence* 13(3): 1-14.

### **Week 3 – APPROACHES TO STUDYING TERRORISM**

Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>:

- Crenshaw, Martha. 2004. "Why Terrorism? The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Strategic Choice." In *Terrorism and Counterterrorism : Understanding the New Security Environment : Readings & Interpretations*, eds. Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer. Guilford CT: McGraw-Hill.

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Abrahms, Max. 2008. What Terrorists Really Want. *International Security* 32(4): 78-105.

### **Week 4 – SPECIFIC CAUSES OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>:

- Brooks, Risa. 2009. Researching Democracy and Terrorism: How Political Access Affects Militant Activity. *Security Studies* 18(4): 756-788.

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup>:

- Piazza, James A. 2006. Rooted in Poverty?: Terrorism, Poor Economic Development, and Social Cleavages. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 18(1): 159-177.

### **Week 5 – TYPES OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:

- Sanchez-Cuenca, Ignacio. 2007. The Dynamics of Nationalist Terrorism: ETA and the IRA. *Terrorism and Political Violence* 19(3): 289-306.

Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>:

- Lutz, James, and Brenda Lutz. 2004. *Global Terrorism*. London: Routledge, Chapter 5.

## **Week 6 – SUICIDE TERRORISM**

Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>:

- Scott Atran. 2003. The Genesis of Suicide Terrorism. *Science* 299(5612): 1534-1539.
- Pape, Robert. 2003. The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. *American Political Science Review* 97(3): 343-361.

Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- Bloom, Mia. 2005. *Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror*. New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 1.

## **Week 7 – JOINING AND RECRUITING I**

Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>:

- McAdam, Douglas. 1986. Recruitment to High-Risk Activism: The Case of Freedom Summer. *American Journal of Sociology* 92(1): 64-90.
- White, Robert W. 1989. From Peaceful Protest to Guerrilla War: Micromobilization of the Provisional Irish Republican Army. *American Journal of Sociology* 94(6): 1277-1302.

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Hegghammer, Thomas. 2013. The Recruiter's Dilemma: Signaling and Terrorist Recruitment Tactics. *Journal of Peace Research* 50(1): 3-16.
- Review for Midterm

## **Week 8 – MIDTERM**

Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>:

- Midterm

Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>:

- Film TBA

## **Week 9 – SPRING BREAK**

## **Week 10 – INSIDE THE ORGANIZATION**

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>:

- Fishman, Brian, ed. 2008. *Bombers, Bank Accounts and Bleedout: Al-Qa`ida's Road In and Out of Iraq*. West Point, NY: Combating Terrorism Center, Chapter 3.
- Cullison, Alan. 2004. Inside Al-Qaeda's Hard Drive. *The Atlantic Monthly* 294: 55-65.

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>:

- Nesser, Petter. 2006. "Profiles of Jihadist Terrorists in Europe." In *A Future for the Young, Options for Helping Middle Eastern Youth Escape the Trap of Radicalization*, ed. Cheryl Benard. Washington DC: RAND, 31-49.
- Zawodny, J.K. 1978. Internal Organizational Problems and the Sources of Tensions of Terrorist Movements as Catalysts of Violence. *Terrorism* 1(3-4): 277-285.

### **Week 11 – GROUP OPERATIONS**

Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:

- Kydd, Andrew and Barbara Walter. 2006. The Strategies of Terrorism. *International Security* 31(1): 49-80.

Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>:

- Asal, Victor and R. Karl Rethemeyer. 2008. The Nature of the Beast: Organizational Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks. *Journal of Politics* 70(2): 437-449

### **Week 12 - STATE SPONSORSHIP OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>:

- Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism. 2016. *Country Reports on Terrorism 2015*. Washington DC: Department of State, Chapter 3.
- Byman, Daniel. 2005. *Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 2.

Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>:

- James A. Piazza. 2008. Incubators of Terror: Do Failed and Failing States Promote Transnational Terrorism? *International Studies Quarterly* 52(3): 469-488.
- Byman, Daniel. 2005. *Deadly Connections: States that Sponsor Terrorism*. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 3.

### **Week 13 – END OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>:

- Abrahms, Max. 2006. Why Terrorism Does Not Work. *International Security* 31(2): 42-78.

Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>:

- Cronin, Audrey K. 2006. How Al Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups. *International Security* 31(1): 7-48.

### **Week 14 – COUNTERING TERRORISM**

Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:

- Norwitz, Jeffrey H. 2004. "Combatting Terrorism: With a Helmet or a Badge." In *Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment : Readings & Interpretations*, eds. Russell D. Howard and Reid L. Sawyer. Guilford CT: McGraw-Hill.

Thursday, April 20<sup>th</sup>:

- White, Jonathan R. 2009. *Terrorism and Homeland Security*. Belmont: Wadsworth Cengage. Chapter 15.

### **Week 15 – CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM**

Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:

- Kelly, Michael J. 2002. Executive Excess v. Judicial Process: American Judicial Responses to the Government's War on Terror. *Indiana International & Comparative Law Review* 13(): 787-823.

Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>:

- Weisburd, David, Thomas Feucht, Idit Hakimi, Lois Mock, and Simon Perry, eds. 2011. *To Protect and To Serve: Policing in an Age of Terrorism*. New York: Springer. Chapter 4.

### **Week 16 – RESPONDING TO TERRORISM**

Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>:

- Perry, Ronald. 2003. Emergency Operations Centres in an Era of Terrorism: Policy and Management Functions. *Journal of Contingencies and Crisis Management* 11(4): 151-159.
- Perry, Ronald W., and Michael K. Lindell. 2003. Preparedness for Emergency Response: Guidelines for the Emergency Planning Process. *Disasters* 27(4): 336-350.

Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>:

- Eyerman, Joe and Kevin Strom. 2008. Multiagency Coordination and Response: Case Study of the July 2005 London Bombings. *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice* 32(1): 89-109.
- Finals Review

**FINAL – 10:00-11:50 Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>**