Political Science 4040, Section 3: International Terrorism  
Fall 2008  
Class Meetings: Tuesday and Thursday 1:40-3:00  

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Class Location: 218 Coates  
Office Phone: 578-2134  
Office Hours: Monday 9:30-10:30  
Wednesday 9:00-10:00  

Course Objectives:  
September 11th, 2001 has unfortunately brought home to many Americans the realities of international terrorism. Since then, Americans have been inundated with conflicting information about the causes, consequences, and outcomes of terrorism. This course is meant to provide you with a foundation of knowledge that will allow you to arrive at informed opinions about international terrorism. Clearly this is an emotional and politically charged issue, but that does not mean that objective information does not exist. The course is designed to give you a survey of the historical roots of terrorism as well as its current manifestation. In addition, the course examines how governments, in particular democracies, respond to terrorism.

Required Books:  


Class Assignments:

3 Reaction Papers (20 points [6.67% of final grade] each): You will be required to write 3 one-page, single-spaced reaction papers throughout the semester. The deadlines for the reaction papers are: September 16th, October 28th, and December 2nd. Failure to turn in a reaction paper by its due date will result in a 3-point per day deduction. The reaction papers are meant to summarize the reading assignment. In other words, what were the salient aspects of the day’s reading? How do they relate to previous readings?

2 Exams (45 points [15% of final grade] each): The course will have 2 exams in the course of the semester (September 30th and November 6th). These will be short answer exams where you will be required to answer 5 questions out of 7. While not essay questions, the exam will require you to accurately and concisely explain a concept and/or define a term.

Final Exam (60 points [20% of final grade]): You will have a final exam (December 8th) that will consist of 2 essay questions. The questions will test not only how well you have learned the course material, but also the extent to which you have integrated the knowledge. Simply repeating the information will not garner an “A” because it is assumed you will have learned the material.

Final Paper (60 points [20% of final grade]): The final paper for the course is a 5 to 7 page analysis of a single terrorist organization and is due on November 20th. You will be able to choose the group later in the semester. Your paper should answer three critical questions. First, is the group driven by strategic or psychological factors? Second, what are the most important goals/demands of the organization? Third, has the organization been successful in achieving its goals? A more detailed explanation of the paper will be distributed later in the semester.

Participation (30 points [10% of final grade]): Participation in class discussion is critical for this course. As such, you will need to actively participate in six (6) classes throughout the semester. At the end of the classes in which you felt you participated, you need to write on a sheet of paper your name and how you participated and hand this in to me. I will either accept your participation and count it towards your grade, or reject it (in which case it will not be recorded).

The course has a total of 300 available points. Final grades will be distributed on the following basis.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Number of Points Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>270</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>240</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>210</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>180</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>179 or less</td>
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Extra-credit: You will have two opportunities to gain extra-credit points in the course. First, you may write a 4th reaction paper. The additional reaction paper will be graded and could garner as much as 3 extra-credit points. Note that it is a maximum of 3 extra-credit points. If you do poorly on the assignment, then you could also receive no extra-credit. The second option for extra-credit is to write a second paper. This could gain you an extra 9 points. As with the additional reaction paper, poor work will receive fewer points. You may choose to do both extra-credit assignments, which means that a total of 12 extra-credit points are available. No extra-credit will be accepted after December 4th.
Reading Schedule

Part I: What is Terrorism?
8-26: Introduction
8-28: Hoffman, Chapter 1-2

9-2: Hoffman, Chapter 3-4
9-4: Juergensmeyer Chapter 1

9-9: Hoffman Chapter 5-7
9-11: Laqueur, Chapter 1

Part II: History of Terrorism
9-16: Laqueur, Chapters 2-3: First Reaction Paper Due
9-18: Juergensmeyer Chapters 2-3

9-23: Juergensmeyer Chapters 4-6
9-25: Laqueur, Chapters 5-6 and Review for Exam 1

9-30: Exam #1

Part III: Explanations for Terrorism
Part IIIa: Psychological Explanations
10-2: Reich Chapters 2 and 8
10-7: Reich Chapters 9 and 14
10-9: No Class: Fall Break
10-14: Juergensmeyer Chapters 7-9
10-16: Juergensmeyer Chapters 10-11

Part IIIb: Strategic Explanations
10-21: Reich Chapter 1, 6

10-30: Laqueur, Chapter 4

11-4: Review for second exam
11-6: Exam #2
Part IV: Responses to Terrorism


11-18: Silberstein, Chapters 1-2
11-20: Silberstein, Chapter 3: **FINAL PAPER DUE**

11-25: Silberstein, Chapter 5
11-27: Thanksgiving Holiday- No Class

12-2: Silberstein, Chapters 6-7: **Third Reaction Paper Due.**
12-4: Silberstein, Chapter 8 and Review for Final Exam: **All extra-credit due.**

12-8 (Monday) 3pm-5pm: Final Exam