

**University of Massachusetts Lowell
CRIM 2480 – Terrorism
HONORS COLLEGE
Fall 2015
Tuesday & Thursday 2:00-3:15
McGauvran 310**

Professor Information

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Office Hours: By Appointment Only

Course Description and Objectives

Terrorism dominates the news and political discourse, yet few attempt to think critically about the origins, tactics, motivations, structures, and historical conditions that give rise to terrorism. This course centers around the puzzles of terrorism studies. How is terrorism different than other forms of violence? Why do groups and individuals choose terrorism and what leads them to it? Is terrorism effective? How do terrorist groups end? Is terrorism different across history? How has terrorism evolved since 9/11?

This course offers a broad overview of the field of terrorism studies. This is accomplished by introducing the main approaches explaining terrorism, examining the central methodological tools and critiques in the field, evaluating the main types of terror groups, examining the tactics and strategies employed by groups, and outlining ways to end terrorist organizations. This course has several goals. Examinations, writing assignments, and discussions in class are all intended to help students develop their ability to: 1) understand leading theories in the field. 2) to comparatively explore types of terrorism and terror organizations throughout history, including eco, anarchist-left, right-wing, religious, and ethnonationalist. 3) independently analyze and conduct original research on terrorist groups. 4) thoroughly describe and understand how terrorist groups impact topics such as WMD, globalization, religion, diplomacy, and more. 5) have an introductory understanding of counter-terrorism strategies and critiques.

Required Material

All assignments are available on Blackboard. All required readings must be completed prior to the class meeting and lecture discussion for that lesson.

Expectations and Grading

This is an honors course and thus the bar is quite high for student performance. You are expected to attend class regularly, participate verbally and non-verbally, and keep current with the reading

schedule. We will be reading several hundred pages per week. The reading will prove overwhelming in a single sitting, so I highly recommend daily work. Quizzes are designed to enforce this expectation and develop essential critical reading, retention, and content delivery skills.

I do not post lecture notes online. I will provide an outline of the lecture during class to assist with note-taking. You must participate in the course by active and attentive note-taking. If you miss a class, you are expected to get notes from a classmate. You must attend class regularly, arrive early, and be fully prepared for a lecture and discussion. Finally, you are expected to engage in engaged, respectful, inclusive, and professional demeanor at all times. Students can expect the same from me.

Course grades will be based on the following elements, but failure to complete any of the individual assignments is grounds for failing the course.

Midterm Exam (35%) The take-home midterm exam will be distributed in class on March 3 and it will be due on March 10. The exam accounts for 35% of the total course grade and covers material through March 10. Late exams will receive substantial deductions.

Research Paper (35%) The final paper, worth 35% of the total course grade, will be a 15-page original research paper on one of the following four topics:

- (1) compare two groups (one violent, one nonviolent) and explain why one group adopted violence while the other did not;
- (2) choose two terrorist groups (one active and one that has abandoned terrorism) and explain why one has abandoned armed struggle where the other has not;
- (3) choose two countries that have confronted terrorism threats using different policies, and explain why the states chose different counterterrorism policies;
- (4) select two different types of counterterrorism policies (one successful and one failed), and explain why one policy has succeeded where the other has failed.

The paper is due at the end of the assigned final exam day. Students should submit their papers on Blackboard.

Course Participation (20%) Students should think of the course participation grade as an in-class oral examination extended throughout the semester. I evaluate participation on the basis of preparation, comprehension, professionalism, and engagement. To achieve the maximum score on participation, students should attend class regularly, prepare for discussion by completing the readings in advance, contribute to the discussion in class, and be respectful of and responsive to other students. Quantity of participation is not as important as quality. Questions, insights, and synthesis are all considered quality. Irregular attendance, arriving to class late, failing to participate in discussions, and disrupting class with side conversations, texting, sleeping, or using your laptop for non-course related reasons can detract from the participation grade. Additionally, your attendance is required to do well on the quiz portion of the course grade.

Each student will take the lead presenting the entirety of the readings for one class period, guiding discussion and asking questions of the class. Sign ups will be available on the second day of class.

Reading Quizzes (10%) This course requires a commitment to a strict reading schedule. To enforce this, I will regularly begin classes with quizzes designed to show mastery over material assigned for that day. These require knowledge of key arguments of each reading assignment, understanding of broad themes, and occasionally, specific arguments from the reading. Quizzes are designed to develop critical thinking, retention, and content delivery skills – all of which will serve you very well in the professional world. Quizzes are graded on a three-point level, with 3 being the highest grade. Grades of 2 show missed crucial points. Grades of 1 are given for a student who demonstrably did not do the reading. Attendance is required to receive credit for a quiz (note that a 1 is better than a 0).

Course Policies

1. Grading

I take grading very seriously. There will be no grade inflation in this course. Excellent grades must be earned and this requires tremendous effort. All grades are weighted on a 4.0 system using the following allocation:

Grade %	Grade %
A 94.0-100%	C+ 77.0-79.9%
A- 90.0-93.9%	C 74.0-76.9%
B+ 87.0-89.9%	C- 70.0-73.9%
B 84.0-86.9%	D 67.0-69.9%
B- 80.0-83.9%	F <67.0%

More information about the University of Massachusetts-Lowell grading policies is available online at:

<http://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Undergraduate/Policies/Grading-Policies.aspx#a>

Assignment Due Dates / Make Up

Incompletes are granted only for significant and verifiable personal emergencies (e.g., serious personal illness, death in the family), which are accommodated only at my discretion. I must be notified in advance of the due date through the appropriate administrator. No extensions are granted due to the pressures of academic life (such as work due in other classes, extracurricular activities, or stress). I encourage students to think of course deadlines as opportunities to practice the self-discipline required for a successful professional life.

Academic Integrity

Cheating and plagiarism should not be tolerated in any academic environment, and I intend to hold everyone equally accountable to that standard. If you witness an incident of concern, you should report it right away, as this protects the integrity of your own degree program. Please review the University policy on academic dishonesty, cheating and plagiarism at:

http://www.uml.edu/catalog/undergraduate/policies/academic_dishonesty.htm

Student Complaints and Grade Disputes

In the event you disagree with a grade, you must notify me via email and then schedule an appointment with me to discuss the grade. To this appointment, you must bring the original piece of work with a professional, typed note outlining the reasons why you believe the grade is unfair or wrong. I will deliberate and revise the grade as I see fit. Please keep in mind that revisions of

grades go both ways – up and down. If a dispute still remains, this course will follow the dispute procedure outlined by the university:

<http://www.uml.edu/Catalog/Undergraduate/Policies/Grading-Policies.aspx#a>

Student Disabilities

Students with disabilities should notify me immediately so that I can make the appropriate accommodations. Please see the University’s policies on students with disabilities, available at the following website: <http://www.uml.edu/student-services/Disability/Students/Information-for-Students.aspx>

Lecture and Reading Schedule

Topic	Reading / Assignment	Date
Introduction	None	1/19
Defining Terrorism	Leonard Weinberg, Ami Pedahzur, and Sivan Hirsch-Hoeffler, “The Challenges of Conceptualizing Terrorism,” <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> , Vol. 16, No. 4 (2004), pp. 777-94. Joseph K. Young and Michael G. Findley, “Promises and Pitfalls of Terrorism Research,” <i>International Studies Review</i> (2011).	1/21
Methods of Studying Terrorism I	Senechal de la Roche, “Toward a Scientific Theory of Terrorism,” <i>Sociological Theory</i> , Vol. 22, No. 1 (2004), pp. 1-4.	1/26
Methods of Studying Terrorism II	Gary LaFree and Laura Dugan, “Introducing the Global Terrorism Database,” <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> , No. 19 (2007), pp. 181-204. Freilich, Joshua D., Steven M. Chermak, and Jeff Gruenewald. 2014. The future of terrorism research: A review essay. <i>International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice</i> : 1-17	1/28
Strategic Approaches to Terrorism	Ariel Merari, “Terrorism as a Strategy of Insurgency,” <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> , Vol. 5, No. 4 (Winter 1993), pp. 213-251 Barbara Walter and Andrew Kydd, “Strategies of Terrorism,” <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 49-80.	2/2
Organizational Approaches to	Max Abrahms, “What Terrorists Really Want: Terrorist Motives and Counterterrorism Strategy,” <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 32, No. 4 (Spring 2008), pp. 78-105.	2/4

Terrorism	<p>Max Abrahms, Erica Chenoweth, Nicholas Miller, Elizabeth McClellan, Paul Staniland, and Hillel Frisch, "Correspondence: What Makes Terrorists Tick?" <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 33, No. 4 (Spring 2009), pp. 180-202.</p> <p>Abrahms, Max, and Philip B. K. Potter. 2015. Explaining terrorism: Leadership deficits and militant group tactics. <i>International Organization</i> 69, (2): 311-342</p>	
Psychological and Ideational Approaches to Terrorism	<p>Jerrold M. Post, " 'When Hatred is Bred in the Bone': The Social Psychology of Terrorism," <i>Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences</i>, Vol. 1208 (October 2010), pp. 15-23</p> <p>Martha Crenshaw, "The Psychology of Terrorism: An Agenda for the Twenty First Century," <i>Political Psychology</i>, Vol. 20, No. 2 (2000).</p> <p>Shaffer, Ryan. 2015. The terrorism, ideology, and transformations of al-qaeda. <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> 27, (3): 581</p> <p>Stuart J. Kaufman, "Narratives and Symbols in Violent Mobilization: The Palestinian-Israeli Case," <i>Security Studies</i>, Vol. 18 (2009), pp. 400-434.</p>	2/9
Critical Approaches to Terrorism	<p>Richard Jackson, "The Core Commitments of Critical Terrorism Studies," <i>European Political Science</i>, Vol. 6, no. 3 (September 2007): 244-232.</p> <p>Jeroen Gunning, "Babies and Bathwaters: Reflecting on the Pitfalls of Critical Terrorism Studies," <i>European Political Science</i>, Vol. 6, no. 3 (September 2007): 236-244.</p>	2/11
No Class	Monday Schedule	2/16
Globalization and Terrorism	<p>Audrey Kurth Cronin, "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism," <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Winter 2002/2003), pp. 30-58.</p> <p>Hernández, Joel. 2013. Terrorism, drug trafficking, and the globalization of supply. <i>Perspectives on Terrorism</i> 7, (4)</p>	2/18
Suicide Terrorism I	<p>Robert A. Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism," <i>American Political Science Review</i>, Vol. 97, No. 3 (August 2003), pp. 343-361.</p> <p>Michael C. Horowitz, "Nonstate Actors and the</p>	2/23

	Diffusion of Innovations: The Case of Suicide Terrorism,” International Organization 64:1 (Winter 2010), pp. 33-64	
Suicide Terrorism II	Mia M. Bloom, “Outbidding, Market Share, and Palestinian Suicide Bombing,” Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 119, No. 1 (2004), pp. 61-88 Martha Crenshaw, “Explaining Suicide Terrorism: A Review Essay,” Security Studies, Vol. 16, No. 1 (January 2007), pp. 133-162.	2/25
Political Terrorism	David Tucker, “What is New about the New Terrorism and How Dangerous Is It?” Terrorism and Political Violence, 13(3) (2001), pp. 1-14 Heather Gregg, "Defining and Distinguishing Traditional and Religious Terrorism," Perspectives on Terrorism 8(2), April 2014.	3/1
Leftist /Right Wing Terrorism	Hans Horchem, “The Decline of the Red Army Faction” Terrorism and Political Violence, 3 (1991) Kurzman and Schanzer, “The Growing Right-Wing Terror Threat” New York Times, June 16 2015	3/3
Religious Terrorism	Henne, Peter. “The Ancient Fire: Religion and Suicide Terrorism.” Terrorism and Political Violence 24, no. 1 (2012): 38–60. Richard Jackson, “Constructing Enemies: ‘Islamist Terrorism’ in Political and Academic Discourse,” Government and Opposition, Vol. 42, no. 3 (2007): 394-426	3/8
The Rise of Global Islamic Terrorism	Thomas Hegghammer, “The Rise of Muslim Foreign Fighters: Islam and the Globalization of Jihad,” International Security 2011 Marc Sageman, “The Next Generation of Terror,” Foreign Policy, Vol. 165 (March/April 2008).	3/10 *MidTerm Due
No Class	Spring Break	3/15
No Class	Spring Break	3/17
Al Qaeda	Marc Sageman and Bruce Hoffman, “Does Osama Still Call the Shots? Debating the Containment of al Qaeda’s Leadership,” Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008. Assaf Moghadam, “How Al Qaeda Innovates,” in Security Studies, Vol.22, Issue 3 (2013), pp. 466-497	3/22

ISIS	<p>Phillips, David. 2014. ISIS crisis. American Foreign Policy Interests 36, (6): 351-360</p> <p>Graeme Wood, "What ISIS Really Wants," The Atlantic, March 2015.</p> <p>Caner K. Dagli "The Phone Islam of ISIS" The Atlantic, February 27, 2015</p>	3/24
Women and Terrorism	<p>Mia Bloom, "Female Suicide Bombers: A Global Trend," Daedalus (Winter 2007), p. 94-102</p> <p>Karla Cunningham, "Cross-Regional Trends in Female Terrorism," Studies in Conflict & Terrorism, Vol. 26, No. 3 (2003), pp. 171-96.</p>	3/29
State Sponsorship	<p>David Barsamian, "The U.S. Is Leading a Terrorist State: An interview with Noam Chomsky," available at http://www.monthlyreview.org/1101chomsky.htm</p> <p>Paul Wilkinson, "Can A State Be 'Terrorist'?" International Affairs, Vol. 57, No. 3 (Summer 1981), pp. 467-472.</p> <p>Sarah Kreps and Daniel Byman, "Agents of Destruction? Applying Principal-Agent Analysis to State Sponsorship of Terrorism," International Studies Perspectives, Vol. 11, no. 1 (February 2010), pp. 1-18.</p>	3/31
Terrorism and WMD	<p>Peter Zimmerman and Anna Pluta, "Nuclear Terrorism: A Disheartening Dissent," Survival, Vol. 48, No. 2 (Summer 2006), pp. 55-70.</p> <p>Matthew Bunn and Anthony Wier, "Seven Myths of Nuclear Terrorism," Current History (April 2005), pp. 153-161.</p>	4/5
Terrorism, Social Media, Cyber Terrorism	<p>Heickerö, Roland. 2014. Cyber terrorism: Electronic jihad. Strategic Analysis 38, (4): 554-565</p> <p>Siboni, Gabi, Daniel Cohen, and Tal Koren. 2015. The islamic state's strategy in cyberspace. Military and Strategic Affairs 7, (1): 127-144</p>	4/7
Terrorism and Regime	<p>Risa Brooks, "Researching Democracy and Terrorism: How Political Access Affects Militant Activity," Security Studies, Vol. 18, No. 4 (December 2009), pp. 756-788.</p> <p>Erica Chenoweth, "Political Competition and Terrorist Activity," Journal of Politics, Vol. 72, No. 1 (January 2010), pp. 16-30.</p>	4/12
How Terrorism Ends	<p>Audrey Kurth Cronin, "How Al Qaida Ends: The Decline and Demise of Terrorist Groups," International</p>	4/14

	Security, Vol. 31, No. 1 (Summer 2006), pp. 7-48	
Counter-terrorism Politics I	<p>Matthew Kroenig and Barry Pavel, "How to Deter Terrorism," The Washington Quarterly 35, No. 2 (2012), p. 21-36.</p> <p>Gregory Miller, "Confronting Terrorisms: Group Motivation and Successful State Policies," Terrorism and Political Violence vol. 19, no. 3 (2007), p. 331-350</p>	4/19
Counter-terrorism Politics II	<p>Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, "Politics and the Suboptimal Provision of Counterterrorism," International Organization, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Winter 2007), pp. 9-36.</p> <p>Jason Lyall, "Do Democracies Make Inferior Counterinsurgents? Reassessing Democracy's Impact on War Duration and Outcome," International Organization, Vol. 64, no. 1 (January 2010), pp. 167-192.</p> <p>Jonathan Powell, "Negotiate With ISIS" The Atlantic. Dec. 7 2015.</p>	4/21
The Future of Terrorism	<p>John Mueller, "Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism," Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol. 17, No. 4 (October 2005)</p> <p>Richard Betts, Daniel Byman, and Martha Crenshaw, "Comments on John Mueller's 'Six Rather Unusual Propositions about Terrorism'," Terrorism and Political Violence, Vol. 17, No. 4 (October 2005), pp. 507-521.</p>	4/26
Course Wrap	None	4/28
Final Paper Due		TBD