



UNSW Course Outline

POLS5131 Political Violence, Insurgency and Terrorism - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : POLS5131

Year : 2024

Term : Term 2

Teaching Period : T2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : Faculty of Arts, Design and Architecture

Academic Unit : School of Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : Multimodal

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : Kensington

Campus : Sydney

Study Level : Postgraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

This course introduces you to the key concepts, unifying themes, trends, central actors and issues (causes and strategic responses) in the study of insurgency and terrorism in the 20th and 21st Centuries, but with an emphasis on the evolution of the phenomena since the end of the

Cold War. In doing so, the course reflects on some of the historical and more enduring forms of political violence—asymmetric and irregular warfare—which draw attention to the underlying and fundamental causes of rebellion/terrorism and responses to it. You will explore how non-state armed groups organise themselves, extract resources, deploy violence, attract recruits, and both fight and negotiate with states. You will also explore the nature and challenge of global terrorism across levels of analysis, focusing on the responses and strategies of both non-state and state actors. This course utilises perspectives and knowledge drawn from international relations, political science, history, terrorism and counter-insurgency studies to examine, in a holistic manner, the phenomenon of contemporary political violence.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Critically examine key concepts and unifying themes in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence
CLO2 : Appraise key theoretical approaches to the study of insurgency, terrorism and political violence'
CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate central actors and issues (causes of terrorism and strategic responses to terrorism) in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Critically examine key concepts and unifying themes in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Review Essay• Essay Plan• Research Essay
CLO2 : Appraise key theoretical approaches to the study of insurgency, terrorism and political violence'	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Review Essay• Research Essay
CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate central actors and issues (causes of terrorism and strategic responses to terrorism) in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay Plan• Research Essay

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Blackboard Collaborate

Learning and Teaching in this course

N/A

Additional Course Information

Please note that in T2 2024, POLS5131 will be taught through a weekly one-hour lecture AND a one-hour tutorial.

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Critical Review Essay Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	30%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 21/06/2024 11:30 PM Post Date: 05/07/2024 11:30 PM
Essay Plan Assessment Format: Individual Short Extension: Yes (2 days)	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 15/07/2024 10:00 AM Post Date: 29/07/2024 10:00 AM
Research Essay Assessment Format: Individual	50%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 08/08/2024 11:30 PM

Assessment Details

Critical Review Essay

Assessment Overview

1500 word critical review essay comparing and contrasting *at least* two different seminal texts (drawn from the required readings and recommended readings lists) discussed in seminars.

You will receive written feedback and a grade within 10 working days of your facilitation.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically examine key concepts and unifying themes in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence
- CLO2 : Appraise key theoretical approaches to the study of insurgency, terrorism and political violence'

Assessment Length

1500

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Essay Plan

Assessment Overview

You will submit one essay plan of 1200 words. Essay Topics/Questions will be provided in class (and uploaded onto the LMS). You will receive written feedback, a completed rubric and a numerical grade through Moodle within 10 working days of submission.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically examine key concepts and unifying themes in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence
- CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate central actors and issues (causes of terrorism and strategic responses to terrorism) in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence

Assessment Length

1200

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Research Essay

Assessment Overview

3000 word research essay.

You will receive written feedback and a grade within 10 working days of your facilitation.

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Critically examine key concepts and unifying themes in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence
- CLO2 : Appraise key theoretical approaches to the study of insurgency, terrorism and political violence'
- CLO3 : Analyse and evaluate central actors and issues (causes of terrorism and strategic responses to terrorism) in the study of insurgency, terrorism, and political violence

Assessment Length

3000

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

General Assessment Information

Grading Basis

Standard

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 27 May - 2 June	Lecture	The Politics of Naming and Labeling Violence
Week 2 : 3 June - 9 June	Lecture	Causes: Macro-Level and Micro-Level Explanations
Week 3 : 10 June - 16 June	Lecture	Categories and Varieties of Violence
Week 4 : 17 June - 23 June	Lecture	Gender, Women, and Political Violence
Week 5 : 24 June - 30 June	Lecture	Strategies, Tactics, and Technology Use
Week 6 : 1 July - 7 July	Lecture	Religion and Political Violence
Week 7 : 8 July - 14 July	Lecture	Case-Studies
Week 8 : 15 July - 21 July	Lecture	Critical Approaches to Political Violence, but Especially Terrorism Studies
Week 9 : 22 July - 28 July	Lecture	How Does Insurgency/Terrorism End?
Week 10 : 29 July - 4 August	Lecture	Intelligence and High Value Targeting (Guest Lecture: Lt Col Paul Lushenko, US Army Rangers)

Attendance Requirements

In this course you are expected to attend at least 80% of lectures and tutorials. If you attend less than 80% of lectures and tutorials, you may be asked by the Course Convener to complete a make-up task. Failure to attend 80% of classes or failure to complete make-up task may result in refusal of final assessment (i.e., you may receive a mark of zero for the Major Essay).

Please note that lecture recordings are not available for this postgraduate course. Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and contact the Course Convener to make alternative arrangements for classes missed.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

N/A

Recommended Resources

N/A

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Srinjoy Bose		Morven Brown, Room 131		Check Moodle Page for Course	Yes	Yes

Other Useful Information

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas

or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.

- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Use of AI for assessments

As AI applications continue to develop, and technology rapidly progresses around us, we remain committed to our values around academic integrity at UNSW. Where the use of AI tools, such as ChatGPT, has been permitted by your course convener, they must be properly credited and your submissions must be substantially your own work.

In cases where the use of AI has been prohibited, please respect this and be aware that where unauthorised use is detected, penalties will apply.

[Use of AI for assessments | UNSW Current Students](#)

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here.](#)

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

Location: Room 159, Morven Brown Building (C20), Kensington campus

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (except public holidays)

Telephone: +61 2 9385 1807

Email: soss@unsw.edu.au

Web: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/our-schools/social-sciences>