



## UNSW Course Outline

# GENL1063 Terror and Religion - 2024

Published on the 23 May 2024

## General Course Information

**Course Code :** GENL1063

**Year :** 2024

**Term :** Term 2

**Teaching Period :** T2

**Is a multi-term course? :** No

**Faculty :** Faculty of Law and Justice

**Academic Unit :** School of Law, Society and Criminology

**Delivery Mode :** Online

**Delivery Format :** Standard

**Delivery Location :** Kensington

**Campus :** Sydney

**Study Level :** Undergraduate

**Units of Credit :** 6

### Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

## Course Details & Outcomes

### Course Description

The aim of Terror and Religion is to explore the historic and contemporary links between terror and religion, and to help students understand the complexity of religious violence in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, especially in relation to terrorism and the so-called “war against terror”.

The course addresses the re-emergence of religious nationalism and the threats it presents to modern states.

The course investigates legal and other definitions of terrorism and the development of modern doctrines of terror. It examines topics such as religious motivation, and the justification and legitimisation of the use of violence in a number of major religious belief systems. It identifies the differences between mainstream and extremist teachings on the use of violence in these religions. It analyses significant acts of religiously motivated violence, and explores background issues such as secularisation, modernism and globalisation. It also looks at more personal issues, such as the nature of religious conviction and its influence on behaviour.

The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, incorporating insights from history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, studies in religion, politics and the law.

## **Main Topics**

- Historic and contemporary examples of violence in religions such as Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, Buddhism and new religious movements;
- The evolution of modern doctrines of terror and their influence on religiously motivated violence;
- Similarities and differences between religious and other forms of terrorism;
- Interpretation of religious teachings on violence by extremist thinkers in a number of religions and their significance for contemporary terrorism;
- Analytical tools for understanding contemporary religious violence, including an understanding of personal, contextual and environmental factors;
- Ideology: what it is; how it works; some examples;
- The influence of local and global politics and secularisation on the spread of religiously motivated violence;
- Alternative forms of governance suggested by religious extremists, including the transnational entities such as a caliphate or theocracy;
- The threat that contemporary terrorism poses to democracies; and
- Recent developments in terrorism studies, including legal and policing counter-terrorism policies.

## **Course Aims**

The course aims to ensure that students become familiar with the complexity of the issues involved in contemporary religious violence. Students will be shown how contemporary religious violence has its roots in the history of religion and how the modern doctrines of terror have evolved. They will learn how religion acts as a powerful motivation for attitudes and behaviour and how religious extremists have reinterpreted the mainstream teachings of their religion to justify

the use of violence. They will learn how to analyse contemporary acts of religiously motivated terror in a number of religions. They will become familiar with current approaches to counter terrorism.

## **Relationship to Other Courses**

None

## Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : A familiarity with historic and contemporary religious terror, its background, motivations, methods and results (GA1)
CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
CLO3 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (Gas 1, 2 and 3)
CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of contemporary religiously motivated terror (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
CLO5 : A greater awareness of the role of religious beliefs and commitments in the conduct of religiously motivated terror
CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
CLO7 : Development of interpersonal and communication skills as well as capacities for self-management

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : A familiarity with historic and contemporary religious terror, its background, motivations, methods and results (GA1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> <li>• Class Participation</li> </ul>
CLO2 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> </ul>
CLO3 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (Gas 1, 2 and 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> </ul>
CLO4 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of contemporary religiously motivated terror (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Participation</li> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> </ul>
CLO5 : A greater awareness of the role of religious beliefs and commitments in the conduct of religiously motivated terror	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Participation</li> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> </ul>
CLO6 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Participation</li> <li>• Assignment (500-800 words)</li> <li>• Essay (1500-1800 words)</li> </ul>
CLO7 : Development of interpersonal and communication skills as well as capacities for self-management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Class Participation</li> </ul>

## Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System | Microsoft Teams

## Additional Course Information

The approach to teaching emphasised by UNSW Law has been adapted to meet the requirements of this course which is fully online and asynchronous.

## Assessments

### Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Assignment (500-800 words)	30%	
Essay (1500-1800 words)	50%	
Class Participation	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: Not Applicable

### Assessment Details

#### Assignment (500-800 words)

##### Assessment Overview

The short assignment is a directed research task. Each student will be asked to prepare one short, written assignment (500-800 words) on an area under investigation in the course. Students can plan ahead by choosing a theme from the Course Schedule which interests them. However, the questions they have to answer will only be made available one or two classes before it is due. In this way, all students have roughly the same amount of time to research and write their specific assignment. The short assignment must be completed and submitted by the date the student's chosen theme is covered in class.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

##### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : A familiarity with historic and contemporary religious terror, its background, motivations, methods and results (GA1)
- CL02 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
- CL03 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (Gas 1, 2 and 3)
- CL04 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of contemporary religiously motivated terror (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CL05 : A greater awareness of the role of religious beliefs and commitments in the conduct of religiously motivated terror
- CL06 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)

### Assessment Length

500-800 words

## **Essay (1500-1800 words)**

### Assessment Overview

Each student must complete a 1500-1800 word research essay. Essays should show considerable evidence of independent research. Essays require students to critically analyse a specific issue related to the course material, evaluate different approaches to it and present, in written form, an argument which addresses outcomes. These can take the student's own analysis into consideration.

The essay topics will be given early in the course.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

### Course Learning Outcomes

- CL01 : A familiarity with historic and contemporary religious terror, its background, motivations, methods and results (GA1)
- CL02 : The enhancement of students' research skills (GAs 1 and 2)
- CL03 : The ability to use more refined analytical tools in this area of study (Gas 1, 2 and 3)
- CL04 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of contemporary religiously motivated terror (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CL05 : A greater awareness of the role of religious beliefs and commitments in the conduct of religiously motivated terror
- CL06 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)

### Assessment Length

1500-1800 words

## **Class Participation**

### Assessment Overview

Your class participation (CP) mark will be a combination of your attendance and general participation in class.

Please note that the Faculty has a Law Class Attendance Requirements to which students must adhere.

Students are expected to complete the set reading before class and to participate in classroom

discussion, small group work and debates. Students are assessed on their preparation for class, their knowledge of the weekly topics and their interaction with other students. Presentations are voluntary and are assessed separately.

Assessment criteria and rubrics are on Moodle.

### **Course Learning Outcomes**

- CL01 : A familiarity with historic and contemporary religious terror, its background, motivations, methods and results (GA1)
- CL04 : The ability to draw on knowledge from a number of related disciplines to understand the complexity of contemporary religiously motivated terror (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CL05 : A greater awareness of the role of religious beliefs and commitments in the conduct of religiously motivated terror
- CL06 : An enhanced understanding of the complexity of the world in which the students live and work (Gas 1, 2, 3 and 5)
- CL07 : Development of interpersonal and communication skills as well as capacities for self-management

### **Assessment Length**

Throughout the course

## **General Assessment Information**

### **Grading Basis**

Standard

### **Requirements to pass course**

To pass the course, students must complete all course requirements within the allotted time and by the due dates. This includes the readings, lectures, quizzes, compulsory short exercises, the short assignment, and essay. Marks are deducted for late completion. There is no exam within this course.

Your final mark and grade depend on how well you perform in these tasks.

Due dates for all assessment tasks are available in the Assessment Timetable in the 'Assessment Hub' section of the Moodle course page. Information, instructions, and requirements for these tasks are also outlined in the 'Assessment Hub'. The assignment and essay topics will be made available early in the course giving you time to complete them satisfactorily by their due dates.

# Course Schedule

## Attendance Requirements

Please see information about attendance requirements in **Law & Justice Assessment Procedure and Student Information** located in the Other Useful Information tab in the Academic Information field.

Please be advised there will be no classes on public holidays. If your class falls on a public holiday, alternative arrangements will be made by the course convenor to make up the missed class.

## General Schedule Information

This course is fully online and asynchronous. However, it runs to a strict timetable. Each unit, and the classes therein, must be completed within the allotted time to ensure you are prepared for the compulsory exercises and assessment tasks. The course material for each unit/class will be opened progressively throughout the course.

Students should aim to spend around 4 hours on each unit. This time should be spent working through the sequenced readings, lecture materials, and quizzes within each class. Please note that you must allow extra time to undertake your own research, and complete your written exercises, assignment, and essay.

# Course Resources

## Prescribed Resources

Listed on Moodle.

## Recommended Resources

Listed on Moodle.

## Additional Costs

None.

## Course Evaluation and Development

Comment of previous student feedback and how it changed aspects of the course is available on moodle.



Students are provided with written feedback on all written tasks.

Students are encouraged to book a consultation for individual feedback.

Class feedback is provided on Moodle forums.

## Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	Melanie Schwartz					No	No
Head lecturer	John Squires				Online and by arrangement.	Yes	Yes

## Other Useful Information

### Academic Information

Upon your enrolment at UNSW, you share responsibility with us for maintaining a safe, harmonious and tolerant University environment.

You are required to:

- Comply with the University's conditions of enrolment.
- Act responsibly, ethically, safely and with integrity.
- Observe standards of equity and respect in dealing with every member of the UNSW community.
- Engage in lawful behaviour.
- Use and care for University resources in a responsible and appropriate manner.
- Maintain the University's reputation and good standing.

For more information, visit the [UNSW Student Code of Conduct Website](#).

### UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy

It is essential that all students undertaking this course read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#). This document includes information on Class Attendance, Late Work, Word Limits, Marking, Special Consideration, Workload, and Academic Misconduct & Plagiarism. More information can also be found at [Assessment & Exam Information](#).

Information regarding Course Outlines are subject to change and students are advised to check updates. If there is a discrepancy between the information posted here and the handbook or the UNSW Law & Justice website, please contact [Student Services via The Nucleus Hub](#) for advice. UNSW Law & Justice reserves the right to discontinue or vary such courses or staff allocations at any time. If your course is not here, please visit [Handbook](#) for information.

## Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

As a student at UNSW you are expected to display [academic integrity](#) in your work and interactions. Where a student breaches the [UNSW Student Code](#) with respect to academic integrity, the University may take disciplinary action under the Student Misconduct Procedure. To assure academic integrity, you may be required to demonstrate reasoning, research and the process of constructing work submitted for assessment.

To assist you in understanding what academic integrity means, and how to ensure that you do comply with the UNSW Student Code, it is strongly recommended that you complete the [Working with Academic Integrity](#) module before submitting your first assessment task. It is a free, online self-paced Moodle module that should take about one hour to complete.

## Submission of Assessment Tasks

Before submitting assessment items all students must read and abide by the [UNSW Law & Justice Assessment Policy & Student Information](#).

### Special consideration

Special consideration is primarily intended to provide you with an extra opportunity to demonstrate the level of performance of which you are capable. To apply, and for further information, see Special Consideration on the UNSW [Current Students](#) page.

### Feedback

UNSW Law & Justice appreciates the need for students to have feedback on their progress prior to the last date for withdrawal without failure. All courses will therefore provide feedback to students prior to this date, as well as throughout the course. However, students should note that feedback does not take the form only of formal grades and written comments on written assessments. Rather, formative feedback, which helps students to self-assess, to identify misunderstandings, and to identify areas requiring further work, will occur during class and

possibly online. For example, where a teacher asks the class a question, all students should think about how they might answer. Even though not all students will necessarily be able to respond orally, everyone can reflect on their tentative answer in light of the teacher's response and subsequent class discussion. If you are struggling to understand what is being asked in class, or if your tentative answers prove incorrect and subsequent discussion does not clear things up, then you should continue to ask questions (of yourself, your peers or your teacher). Similarly, you can get a sense of your ability in a course through peer feedback during group work, your teacher's responses to your in-class contributions, and your own response to in-class problems and examples (whether or not you are called on to relay your answer to the class) and also your online activities and responses by others to those activities. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the specific feedback used in this course.

## Faculty-specific Information

### Additional support for students

- Student support: <https://www.student.unsw.edu.au/support>
- Academic Skills and Support: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/academic-skills>
- Student Wellbeing, Health and Safety: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/wellbeing>
- Equitable Learning Services: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/els>
- UNSW IT Service Centre: <https://www.myit.unsw.edu.au>

### Course improvement

Student feedback is very important to continual course improvement. This is demonstrated within the Faculty of Law & Justice by the implementation of the UNSW online student survey myExperience, which allows students to evaluate their learning experiences in an anonymous way. myExperience survey reports are produced from each survey. They are released to staff after all student assessment results are finalised and released to students. Course convenors will use the feedback to make ongoing improvements to the course. Students enrolled in this course may check their Moodle course page for details on the actions taken in response to evaluation feedback in Student Survey.

## School Contact Information

Please contact [Nucleus Student Hub](#) for all enquiries. The Nucleus acts as a central communications hub for UNSW and will distribute your enquiry to the best person to respond.