

POS 470 – Terrorism
Fall 2006

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Course Objectives

As a result of successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- knowledge of the legal and political controversies surrounding the definition of terrorism,
- knowledge of the major explanations of the origins of terrorism,
- the ability analyze the part mass media play in how terrorism as a political phenomenon is dealt with by the public policy process in the U.S. and in other nations,
- identify the range, variety and changing status of groups internationally that have been labeled terrorist organizations,
- explain legal and political issues clearly distinguishing individual opinion, scholarly knowledge, and ideological orientations,
- analyze how the public policymaking process influences the United States' response to the phenomenon of terrorism and particular types of terrorism,
- explain the contributions risk assessment perspectives make to public policy discussions,
- explain how institutional relations among the constituent units of the U.S. government influence the development of counter-terrorism policy, and,
- identify partisan and ideological agendas at work in debates in the area.

Required Reading

Chua, Amy. 2004. *The World on Fire: How Exporting Free Market Democracy Breeds Ethnic Hatred and Global Instability*. Anchor Books: ISBN 0-385-72186-2. (paperback)

Clarke, Lee. 2005. Worst Cases: *Inquiries into Terror, Calamity and Imagination*. University of Chicago Press: ISBN 0226108597. (hardcover)

Course Approach

Our weekly online class sessions will consist of a combination of audio lectures with printed outlines and use of the Discussion Board for discussions and debates. Most of the lectures are lectures I have prepared and recorded. However, some audio recordings of presentations by noted individuals with expertise on our topic. The assignment schedule will direct you to the site where you can listen to the audio. All students will be asked to post contributions to a Blackboard discussion forum once every two weeks. In these postings, you have the obligation to demonstrate your grasp of both the reading and lecture material covered in class to that point. These required postings will be graded. In addition, you are expected to react regularly to the postings of your classmates. These reaction postings will be the basis for your participation grade. This course will work well only if you read the assigned readings and listen to the lectures on schedule.

Course Grades

Your grade for the course will be based on the number of points you accumulate from the following sources:

Discussion Board required postings (5)	100 possible
Organization case study	50 possible
Midterm exam	100 possible
Future essay	25 possible
Class participation	25 possible
<u>Final Exam</u>	<u>100 possible</u>
Total points	400 possible

Final grades will be awarded based on this scale:

93-100% = A	80-82% = B-	67-69% = D+
90-92% = A-	77-79% = C+	60-66% = D
87-89% = B+	73-78% = C	59% or less = U
83-86% = B	70-72% = C-	

Lectures & Reading Assignments

The assignment schedule lists new readings for the beginning of each class week (except exam & paper weeks). Most reading assignments are about 50-75 pages a week. Some weeks, the reading is a little longer because of the pagination of chapters in a particular text.

A new set of lectures will be posted each week (except exam & paper weeks) by noon on Monday. A lecture outline will be posted with the audio file for the lectures I record. I recommend that you print the lecture outlines so you can use them to structure the notes you take while listening to the lectures. Please make sure you have done all the reading for each week by the time you log on and listen to the lectures. The lectures are created assuming you know the material that appears in the assigned readings. Individual lectures I record are 18-20 minutes long. Lectures from other sources are about 1 hour in length.

You might think of questions while you are doing your reading. I have created a Discussion Board Forum for questions on the reading so each week you can post your questions there. I will check daily and respond to your questions as soon as possible. You can also email me if you aren't comfortable posting your question.

Each lecture is followed by a question or a topic you are expected to address on a BlackBoard Discussion Board Forum. You are required to make sure you respond a forum question once every two weeks; you will do five responses in all. The class is divided into two groups – an “A Group” and a “B Group”. The “A Group” members must post responses on weeks identified as “A” weeks on the syllabus (look under “writing assignments”). The “B Group” members must post on weeks identified as “B” groups. These posts will be graded – each post can earn up to 20 points.

Participation

In addition to the required posts, you may earn class participation credit by responding to your classmates posts in substantive, interesting, and constructive ways. Participation will be graded based on frequency and quality of posts. So you can be an active participant in discussions, it is extremely important that you read assigned materials and listen to the lectures before posting your comments. Participation postings must be made during the week for which the material is assigned. For example, if you want to comment on something posted or assigned during the first week of class, your posting must be in place by the end of that week (midnight Sunday) for it to count toward your participation grade. You can't wait until later and go back and add comments.

Exams

There are two exams during the semester – a midterm and a final. Each exam will contain essay questions designed to get you to integrate the reading and lecture material in well-organized essays. Undergraduate exams should be between 6-8 pages, typed, double-spaced. Graduate student exams should be between 8-10 pages, typed, double-spaced.

All written work must be in standard grammatical English. If your work does not meet this requirement, it will not be graded until revised. The revised work will be treated as late.

The exams questions will be posted under “Assignments” by noon Monday of the week the exam is scheduled. Your answers must be emailed to me by the time indicated on the assignment schedule. When I receive the email with your exam, I will reply to you letting you know I have it and that I can open the attachment. If you do not receive that reply within 24 hours contact me right away because I didn’t get the exam.

I encourage you to discuss exam answers and course material frequently. However, when you get to the point of writing your exam answers, you must do individual work. Anyone caught using another student’s work or plagiarizing from another source on an exam will be penalized to the fullest extent possible under university regulations.

Accommodations

Reasonable accommodations are available for students who have a documented disability. Please notify the instructor during the first week of class of any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodations to be unavailable. All accommodations must be approved through the Office of Disability Services in the Student Life Building, Room 11, 217-206-6666.