BOR 3320: The History of Terrorism

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Course Overview

Course Description
Students study the phenomena of terrorism, counter terrorism and the associated violence from a historical perspective with a focus on terrorism impacting America. Students examine the social context of terrorism as it relates to the actions of various terrorist groups, how terrorism appears to be a war fought on a different level by a set of different rules, and the emergence of leaderless terrorism (a loose network of groups with common goals apparently acting in isolation toward similar ends). Students conclude the course with discussions on fighting terrorism in the United States, including the potential problems of loss of civil liberties and other obstacles to counter terrorism. (Credit may not be earned for this course and Criminal Justice 3320.)

Course Pre-Requisites
While there are no pre-requisites required, the course materials, assignments, learning objectives and expectations in this upper level undergraduate course assume that the student has completed all lower level general education coursework. Such coursework is necessary to develop research, writing, and critical thinking skills. Students who have not fulfilled all general education requirements will be at a great disadvantage and should strongly consider completing those requirements prior to registering for this course.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings

The following textbook is required for this course. Other readings are assigned each week and are provided to you via a link in the course materials. Additionally, where possible, videos are utilized to enhance student learning.


Suggested text:


Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objective One: Identify basic causal effects relating to terrorism, both domestic and international.

Objective Two: Develop an understanding of the processes through which terrorist groups recruit new members into the organization.

Objective Three: Apply information learned to understanding contemporary terrorist groups.

Objective Four: Enhance critical thinking and critical writing about the causes of terrorism.
Students have a right to know what instructors are going to expect that they learn from a course of instruction and how their learning will be measured. This course establishes several learning outcomes that are measured subjectively. When you finish this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the causes of domestic and international terrorism.
2. Describe how contemporary terrorist groups recruit new members into the organization.
3. Discuss the use of modern technology by current terrorist organizations.

**Course Organization**

**Lesson 1: Defining Terrorism** - This lesson introduces the student to the different types and definitions of terrorism in the world today, as well as the characteristics related to the typical terrorist act.

**Lesson 2: The Origins of Contemporary Terrorism** - This lesson introduces the student to the terrorist campaigns which arose following the end of World War II directed at colonial nations, and what led to their creation.

**Lesson 3: The Internationalism of Terrorism** - This week’s lesson introduces the student to the Internationalism of Terrorism. The research paper topic is due on Sunday, November 12 of this week.

**Lesson 4: Religion and Terrorism** - This lesson examines the relationship between religion and terrorism, and how religion is used by some terrorist organizations to motivate, and justify the actions of, their followers. The midterm exam must be taken by Sunday, November 19 of this week.

**Lesson 5: Suicide Terrorism** - This week’s lesson will introduce the student to suicide terrorism, and the reasons certain people make the decision to kill themselves to further the organization’s mission.

**Lesson 6: Media, Terrorism and Public Opinion** - This lesson describes the importance of technology in the spread of international terrorism. The research paper is due by Sunday, December 3 of this week.

**Lesson 7: New Media and the Shaping of Public Opinion** - This week’s lesson describes how terrorist groups have utilized new technology to shape global public opinion.

**Lesson 8: The Modern Terrorist Mind-Set** - This final lesson of the course describes the psychological mind-set of the typical terrorist, including what motivates him, or her. The final exam must be taken by Friday, December 15 of this week.
Assessment of Learning
Knowledge of course objectives and learning outcomes will be assessed through:

Weekly Discussion Questions
Weekly discussion questions allow the student to demonstrate comprehension of lesson materials by preparing a response to a discussion question(s) posed by the instructor. The student response is assembled from knowledge gained through course materials and independent research. All students should follow the “General Rules for Discussion Questions Posts” below. Failing to follow these rules and guidelines may result in score deductions. Formal grading of weekly discussion questions will be completed using the Discussion Question Grading Rubric.

General Rules for Discussion Question Posts:
• All students MUST participate. Failing to participate may result in a failing grade for the course. Students must post a 250 word or more response to the instructor’s weekly question by 11:59 p.m. CST on Thursday of each week and must respond to a minimum of two other students' post by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday of each week.

• Engage in an honest and forthright discussion, backing your position with proper references. There are no "correct" answers in the discussion area.

• Conduct critical analysis of other students’ posts. Just saying that is a great post does not count. Explain your opinion of the other student’s position.

• Stating a position on an issue without providing a reference to source materials to back up your position is "simply your opinion." Such opinion statements are not appropriate in an academic setting.

• Avoid repeating the assigned readings in your own words. Use assigned readings as one of your resources, not as the single source for your post.

• Avoid plagiarism - paraphrasing a source document is plagiarism if you do not give the author due credit.

Mid Term Exam
All mid-term exam questions come from the required book and readings for the course. The mid-term exam is open book and you will have a maximum time of 50 minutes to complete the exam. The mid-term exam covers those parts of the book assigned in weeks 1, 2, 3, and 4. The exam must be taken by no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday, November 19 of Week 4.

Research Paper
A research paper on a topic relating to current or historical domestic or international terrorism is due at the end of Week 6. The instructor must approve the research topic in advance. Students must submit their topic to the assignment drop box or by email by 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday of Week 3. Once the topic has been approved, students may begin the research and writing process. The research paper assignment is due no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on Sunday, December 3 of Week 6. Student performance on the research paper will be evaluated using the Research Paper Grading Rubric.
Your opinion will not be a determining factor in your grade. Your grade is determined by how well you support your argument utilizing the materials discussed in the course, along with independent research and reference materials that you locate on your own. DO NOT simply repeat the course materials in your research paper. While you may use course resources for your research paper, you must provide reference to a minimum of 6 resources that are independent of the course materials.

The paper must be approximately 2500 words in length. It must have a title page that includes the title, course name and number, instructor's name, author's name, and date. Use standard 1-inch margins on all sides, 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, and standard double-spacing. An abstract is NOT required. Cite your references in EVERY instance and include a properly formatted reference list and cover page with every assignment.

APA (American Psychological Association) style is the preferred format for this course. You may also use the Chicago style, if you prefer. To access the APA writing guidelines, go to this link: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/. To access the Chicago Style guide, go to: http://www.chicagomanualstyle.org.

Every writing assignment should be submitted as a Microsoft Word or PDF document. If you do not have Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat, then copy the text you have written directly into the assignment section of Blackboard during the appropriate week. Do NOT submit writing assignments in Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, or some e-mail format. They will not be accepted.

Outline for the Research Paper:

Introduction - The first section of any research paper should be the introduction. The introduction describes the general issues that the paper will address. Within the introduction you must state a theory, thesis or topic for the paper. The introduction provides the reader with an understanding of the basic subject of your paper and the main points that you will make about your chosen topic. The introduction should express the broad connections that tie together the more specific points you will make and observations that you will document later in the paper. The introduction should provide the reader with a sense of what they will learn about your topic through reading your paper.

Body - The sections and paragraphs within the body of your paper should always tie back to your main topic. Do not continually re-state your main topic, but ensure that the reader knows how the sub-topic in each section or paragraph develops, supports or challenges the main topic of your paper. To maintain continuity in your argument, make sure that you create effective transitions between each section and paragraph. An easy way to accomplish this is to make sure that the first lines of each new section or paragraph reflect back on the previous section or paragraph and that all are in logical order.
Conclusion - Your conclusion section should reflect back on what you have written, summarize your findings, identify any weaknesses in your argument, and point the way for you and/or the reader to complete further assessment on the topic.

Final Exam
A multiple choice final exam will be taken by each student no later than 11:59 p.m. CST on Friday, December 15 of Week 8. All final exam questions come from the required book and readings for the course and no other source. The final exam is open book and you will have a maximum time of 50 minutes to complete the exam. Final exam questions come from the required readings found in Lessons 5, 6, 7, and 8 ONLY (the final is not cumulative).

Grading Policy
This course employs a midterm exam, one writing assignment, a final exam, and weekly discussions to measure student learning. Each assignment category is worth 100 points. Each week’s discussion board will be graded on the student’s original post and their responses to other students’ posts. Two weekly responses are the minimum. *Accomplishing only the minimum will earn you a minimum grade (70%). Responding to more of other students’ posts will increase your grade.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment Categories</th>
<th>Percent of</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Sunday, November 19, Week 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Sunday December 3, Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Friday, December 15, Week 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in the Discussion*</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
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Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %
B = 80 – 89 %
C = 70 – 79 %
D = 60 – 69 %
F = 59 % and below.

Rubrics
Discussion forums and writing assignments will be graded using a standardized rubric. It is recommended that you be familiar with these grading criteria and keep them in mind as you complete the writing assignments. There are two rubrics. Click the link to download the PDF document:
Communication

Participation
In this class, everyone brings something to the table. Your ideas and thoughts do count, not only to me, but the entire class. Feel free to ask questions either via e-mail or the discussion board. Check the discussion board regularly. Many student questions are applicable to the class as a whole, as are the responses. You may be surprised how many of your classmates have the same questions and concerns as you. I may simply post your particular question on the discussion board and allow your classmates to provide the answer through their own posts.

To some, this may be their first online class and naturally, it could seem somewhat intimidating. As a class, we are together to help each other with this learning process and share our collective knowledge on how best to communicate; how to resolve technical issues that may arise (if we have the expertise), and to assist each other to find answers to our questions (except for the midterm and final tests). We will learn and work as a team.

Courtesy and Respect
Courtesy and respect are essential ingredients to this course. We respect each other's opinions and respect their point of view at all times while in our class sessions. The use of profanity & harassment of any form is strictly prohibited (Zero Tolerance), as are those remarks concerning one's ethnicity, life style, race (ethnicity), religion, etc., violations of these rules will result in immediate dismissal from the course.

Netiquette
The on-line setting of our course promotes the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate. Classroom based discussions between instructors and students and among students has traditionally been guided by the instructor. Discussions via the Internet, however, can occasionally devolve into insults and improper comments before the instructor has a chance to intervene.

Such activity and the failure to use proper etiquette and manners ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE in an academic setting and such inappropriate conduct IS NOT TOLERATED. Basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" are required and must prevail. Our on-line classroom is a place to enjoy the excitement of learning and does not include room for personal attacks on others or student attempts to demean or restrict the discussion of others. Note about the use of humor: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially- satire can easily be lost or taken seriously. Avoid the use of humor and/or satire in our academic setting.

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor
See the Instructor Information section for contact information.
University Policies

Academic Integrity
Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university Academic Honor Code and the ASU Student Handbook.

Accommodations for Disability
The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various types of disabilities.

Attendance
Course attendance in an on-line setting is measured by your participation in weekly discussion questions and completion of assignments on time and in a proper manner. During the course, students can maintain contact with the instructor and fellow students in several ways, including discussion posts, course mail, email, and on-line chat or by phone.

Religious Holy Days
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.